

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 37, Spring 2013
September 18, 2013

Members Present:

Adriana Bracho (presiding), Erin Rieger (clerk), Seth Lauer, Clinton Willbanks, John Cavallo, Shep Patterson, Aaroh Parikh, Cesar Udave, Sarah Tooth

Ombuds: Ira Shrivastava

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarism on a paper for a lower level Humanities course.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Course Syllabus
- Essay Instructions
- Essay
- Sources

Plea:

Student A pled "in violation."

Testimony:

Student said that he did not cite three sources in his paper because of time pressure. He recognizes the sources that the professor accused him of plagiarizing. He said that he was not citing as he wrote and did not remember to add citations for the three sources in question.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because of the student's testimony and the clear paraphrasing from the sources.

Straw Poll #1: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that a violation occurred?

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student A committed the violation.

Straw Poll #2: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student A is “In Violation?”

Yes: 9
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances.
 No aggravating or mitigating circumstances.

Citation is careless throughout the paper. About one-third of the assignment is plagiarized from the three sources. Entire paragraphs were taken almost directly from the sources.
 Suspension is off the table.

Vote: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A?

F in the course: 0
 3 letter grade reduction: 9
 2 letter grade reduction: 0
 1 letter grade reduction: 0
 Letter of Reprimand 0
 Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that he receive a three letter grade reduction and a letter of reprimand. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to his record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 31 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
 Erin Rieger
 Clerk