

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 45, Spring 2012
September 21, 2013

Members Present:

Adriana Bracho (presiding), Michael Jin (clerk), Brooke Evans, Mitch Massey, Julia Liu, Shantan Cheemerla, Shep Patterson, John Cavallo, Seth Lauer

Ombuds: Divya Baht

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and Student B of unauthorized collaboration on a final exam for an upper level Management course.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's Written Statement
- Student B's Written Statement
- Course Syllabus
- Student A's Exam
- Student B's Exam
- Expert Deposition 1
- Expert Deposition 2
- Student Templates

Plea:

Student A pled "Not in violation"

Student B pled "Not in violation"

Testimony:

Student A stated that collaboration emphasized in class. He used templates for problems, which were critical to class but he did not keep them. He worked in collaboration with student B and others over the semester and shared his templates with student B. Since the class was open book and notes, he believed there was no reason to collaborate on the test.

Student A believed the similarities on Question 1 because of template for NPV, WACC. Since they created and shared templates, Student A believed that was how he and Student B arrived at the same answers. However, he also stated that answers should be similar even without templates. With similar or identical inputs, the templates should yield similar or identical outputs. He couldn't remember the specific ways problems are solved, 3~4 months ago. During the class, he most often collaborated with Student B. He also talked with others about using which template for which type of problem. He believed there was no way for other students to access personal exam.

He concluded by saying that the professor gave answer to problem 3 on part II of exam and working under conditions that produce similar answers.

Student B began by saying he always studied together with Student A, therefore they made the same mistakes made due to same misunderstanding of concepts. Student B used a Blackshouls template given by professor and arrived at the answer to Question 3 using slides provided by the professor.

To complete his exam, Student B used material from previous MBA and the internet. He matched templates with questions and explained his thought process behind his answers for net percentage values and other questions. He and Student A had previously done similar conceptual problems for the class.

In closing, Student B stated he believed there would be similarities across all exams, especially since the professor provided exam study material.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence did not support that a violation occurred. Although the expert was convinced that a violation occurred, council members believed that studying together could have led the students to systematically misunderstand concepts. Problem 5 shows that different conclusions were drawn from same numbers, therefore members believed that independent thought must have been present.

Vote: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that a violation occurred?

Yes: 2

No: 7

Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A and B “Not In Violation” of the Honor Code.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Jin
Clerk