Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 47, Spring 2014
April 15, 2014

Members Present:
Hurst Williamson (presiding), Komal Agarwal (clerk), Destiney Randolph, Helen Sharpless, Michael Jin, Shantan Cheemerla, Katie Jensen, Mario Aragon, Mitch Massey, Nicholas Shaver (observing), Owais Syed (observing)

Ombuds: Ira Shrivastava

Letter of Accusation:
The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarism for a lower level psychology course.

Evidence Submitted:
- Letter of Accusation
- Student A’s written statement
- Course Syllabus
- Student A’s HW 7 Question #1
- HW 7 Assignment Sheet
- Online Source

Plea:
Student A pled “in violation.”

Testimony:
In his opening statement, Student A said that he took notes with his laptop and used Google and Wikipedia to find definitions. He copied and pasted answers to his notes and used the notes on the homework. The student stated that it was common for him to use sections from Wikipedia in his notes. It was not the student’s intention for Wikipedia entries to become a part of his homework, and he would never do anything to jeopardize his future.

Verdict Deliberations:
Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred, because there are verbatim phrases from Wikipedia in her homework.

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. All members mitigated for weight of the assignment. Some mitigated for amount of assignment in question and cooperation. With consideration of the mitigating factors, especially with regards to the weight of the assignment, the Council members believed that a letter of reprimand was appropriate.

Straw Poll #3: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A?
F in the course and 3 semesters of suspension: 0
F in the course and 2 semesters of suspension: 0
F in the course and 1 semester of suspension: 0
F in the course: 0
3 letter grade reduction: 0
2 letter grade reduction: 0
1 letter grade reduction: 0
Letter of Reprimand: 9
Abstentions: 0

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

Time of testimony and deliberations: 30 min.

Respectfully submitted,
Komal Agarwal
Clerk