

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 45-14, Fall 2014
November 17th, 2015

Members Present:

Emilia Duno (presiding), Claire Bonnyman (clerk), Destiney Randolph, Reece Rosenthal, Elliot Baerman, Meghana Pannala, Allie Salter, Isaac Schultz, Bradley Hamilton

Ombuds: Lawrence Cimino

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and Student B of unauthorized collaboration in a lower level COMP course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student B's written statement
- Course Syllabus

Plea:

Student A pled "in violation."

Student B pled "in violation."

Testimony:

Student A told the Council that he did indeed send code to Student B after Student B asked for help from Student A. He says he did not expect Student A to copy his code or use it but he realizes that his actions go against the Honor Code Policy of the course. Student A closed by saying that he realized that what he did was wrong.

Student B mentioned that he was going through a hard time when the violation occurred, which he discussed during his written statement. He admitted that he broke the Honor Code and knew that it was wrong. He then discussed what the assignment entailed. He closed by saying that he would never do the same thing again and that this assignment was an exception to how he did in the rest of the course.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because of the student's testimony and the provided evidence.

Vote: 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. A preponderance of the evidence and the student's testimony supports that Student A played a role in the violation.

Vote: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student A is "In Violation?"

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student B committed the violation. Council members agreed that Student B also played a role in the violation because of the reasons listed for Student A.

Vote: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student B is "In Violation?"

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

The Council discussed whether Student A and Student B should receive the same penalty. Since Student B asked for Student A's code and involved another student in the Honor Council's processes, some Council members thought that they should receive different punishments. Other Council members considered the section of the syllabus that states that sending or receiving code is banned, which made Council members say that they should receive the same punishment.

Vote: Should Student A and Student B receive the same penalty?

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Council members then discussed mitigating circumstances. Council members decided to not mitigate for anything. Though the students were forthcoming throughout the accusation, cooperation was not significant enough to mitigate for it.

Council members then discussed what the appropriate penalty should be. Some Council members considered that the assignment in question is worth 10% of the class and thought that a 1 or 2 letter grade reduction would be appropriate. Others considered a 2/3 letter grade reduction because plagiarism is not being considered, breaking the Honor Code Policy in the class is being considered and they feel that a 2/3 letter grade reduction would be appropriate. Other Council members supported a 1 letter grade reduction for the same reasons as the Council members who supported a 2/3 letter grade reduction but these Council members felt that a 2/3 letter grade reduction would be too lenient. The Council settled on a 1 letter grade reduction because the Honor Code was broken and a 1 letter grade reduction would be appropriate for their actions.

Vote: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A and Student B?

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:	9
2/3 letter grade reduction	0
1/3 letter grade reduction	0
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A and Student B “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that they receive a 1 letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to their records.

Time of testimony and deliberations: one hour

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Bonnyman
Clerk