

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 45-16, Spring 2015
October 20, 2015

Members Present:

Alex Metcalf (presiding), Suzanne Wen (clerk), Allen Hu, Billy Rothwell, Destiny Randolph, Isaac Schultz, Maria Montalvo, Nikki Thadani, Sara Meadow

Ombuds: Katie Jensen

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and B of plagiarism on three coding assignments for a lower level COMP course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student B's written statement
- Professor Clarification
- Professor Explanation
- Syllabus
- Assignment description
- Student A's Code
- Student B's Code

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Student B pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student A explained that he did not directly copy the code from Student B but instead they worked together to discuss the problem. Student A stressed that they coded the assignment separately. Student A explains that the similarities in the code can be accounted for by the specific methods needed to do certain processes.

Student B stated that he did not violate the Honor Code and did not copy the code. He explained that any similarities were because he did discuss some of the problems with Student A, and they arrived at a similar approach. Additionally, he used provided code from the professor that was a reference solution provided.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members did not believe that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred. The syllabus allowed verbal collaboration between the students which could account for the similarities in the code.

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

Yes: 0

No: 9

Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student A and Student B committed a violation. Seeing as they determined that a violation did not occur, they could not have.

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

Yes: 0

No: 9

Abstentions: 0

Vote #3: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student B is “In Violation?”

Yes: 0

No: 9

Abstentions: 0

Decision:

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

Time of testimony and deliberations: 40 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Wen

Clerk