Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 30, Fall 2015
February 25, 2015

Members Present:
Hurst Williamson (presiding), Sam Kwiatkowski (clerk), Nick Conard, Alex Metcalf, Clark Zha, Kristin Sweeney, Lynn Fahey, Sarah Frazier, Emilia Duno

Ombuds: Natalie Danckers

Letter of Accusation:
The Honor Council received a letter accusing Students A, B and C of a violation of exam procedures in a lower level COMP course.

Evidence Submitted:
- Letter of Accusation
- Student A’s written statement
- Student B’s written statement
- Student C’s written statement
- Course Syllabus
- Student A’s assignment
- Student B’s assignment
- Student C’s assignment
- Multiple anonymous student assignment submissions
- Assignment prompt in question
- Assignment tutorial

Plea:
Student A pled “In Violation.”
Student B pled “In Violation.”
Student C pled “In Violation.”

Testimony:
Student A admitted to committing a violation with the other accused students on the assignment in question. She said they were working together but got stuck on a segment. They asked a former student for the corresponding assignment from a previous semester, switched names, and turned it in. Student B and Student C also admitted to committing the violation described by Student A.

Verdict Deliberations:
Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation did occur. This was supported by the testimony given by the students that they committed the violation.

Vote #1: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that a violation occurred?
Yes: 9
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

Vote #2: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student A is “In Violation?”
Yes: 9
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

Vote #3: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student B is “In Violation?”
Yes: 9
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

Vote #4: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student C is “In Violation?”
Yes: 9
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members agreed that all three students should receive the same penalty.

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. Mitigating factors discussed include the weight of the assignment since the weight was very small compared to the entire course grade.

No aggravating factors

Vote #5: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A, Student B, and Student C?
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
Two-thirds agreement was reached at 1 letter grade reduction. Members initially voting for 1/3 letter grade felt 1 letter grade reduction was too steep considering the nature of the violation, and also since the students’ transcripts will be marked.

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

Time of testimony and deliberations: 28 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Kwiatkowski
Clerk