Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 32, Spring 2015
March 24, 2015

Members Present:
Hurst Williamson (presiding), Julia Liu (clerk), Destiney Randolf, Sarah Frazier, Maria Montalvo, Isaac Schultz, Michael Jin, Mario Aragon, Helen Sharpless

Ombuds: Natalie Danckers

Letter of Accusation:
The Honor Council received a letter accusing Students A, B, C, D, E, and F of using unauthorized aid during an exam for a lower level science course.

Evidence Submitted:
- Blank Exam
- course syllabus
- Explanation of excel spreadsheet
- Letter of accusation
- Student A exam
- Question answer
- Student B exam
- Student F exam
- Student C exam
- Screen shot 2015-03-15
- Student D exam
- Session
- Student E exam
- Student written statements
- TA statements 2
- TA Statements
- answer key
- Witness statement for Student D
- Witness statements for Student E

Plea:
Student A pled “not in violation.”
Student B pled “in violation.”
Student C pled “not in violation.”
Student D pled “not in violation.”
Student E pled “in violation.”
Student F pled “not in violation.”
Testimony:

Student A says she accessed owlspace from her computer after the examination was completed. Student A brought in evidence indicating that she used her computer 10 minutes after she said she left the examination room.

Student B states that she impulsively decided to access owlspace during a bathroom break to check an answer against an answer key but only looked at the document fleetingly before disengaging from his phone. She states that she didn’t see the document long enough to have cheated. She pointed out the differences between her answers on a couple of questions and the answer key.

Student C provided and presented evidence to the council regarding how her answers differed from the answers given in the key. She also presented evidence regarding the technical discrepancies between her records and IT records of her access to owlspace. She stated that someone could have access her owlspace from her computer in her dorm room during the exam as an alternative explanation.

Student D states that she was outside of the exam room when she accessed owlspace and looked at the answer key after she had turned in the exam. She provided evidence indicating she was conversing with a friend via text before the time she was indicated to have accessed owlspace.

Student E states that she left the testing room to go to the bathroom and accessed owlspace. Student E says she scrolled in the document but didn’t use the information to aid her on the exam.

Student F had her phone on her during the exam and states that she did not take any bathroom breaks. Student F left the exam before accessing owlspace to look at the answer key.

Verdict Deliberations:
Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because unauthorized materials were accessed during the taking of the exam. The intent to violate the honor code was present.

Straw Poll #1: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that a violation occurred?
Yes: 9
No: 0
Abstentions: 0
Council members do not find Student A in violation because the time discrepancies found
between the time the exam ended and the time he used his computer provide evidence
that he did not access the materials during the exam.

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

Student B pled in violation.

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

The council finds Student C in violation because the unauthorized documents were
accessed during the exam according to technical specifications provided by IT.

Straw Poll #6: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student C is “In
Violation?”
Yes: 9
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

The council does not find Student D in violation because the preponderance of the
evidence points to the fact that owlspace was accessed after the exam was completed and
turned in.

Straw Poll #7: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student D is “In
Violation?”
Yes: 0
No: 9
Abstentions: 0

Student E pled in violation for using unauthorized materials.

Straw Poll #8: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student E is “In
Violation?”
Student F was found not in violation by the council because she completed the exam prior to accessing the answer key materials.

Straw Poll #9: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student F is “In Violation?”
Yes: 0
No: 9
Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:
Council members opened by discussing mitigating and aggravating circumstances and did not find them to apply to the student in question. A violation occurred on the exam and unauthorized materials were accessed. The council agreed that a one letter grade reduction was appropriate for Student B.

Straw Poll #10: What is the appropriate penalty for 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

Council members opened by discussing mitigating and aggravating circumstances and did not find them to apply to the student in question. A violation occurred on the exam and unauthorized materials were accessed. The council agreed that a one letter grade reduction was appropriate for Student C.

Straw Poll #11: What is the appropriate penalty for Student C?
F in the course and 3 semesters of suspension: 0
Council members opened by discussing mitigating and aggravating circumstances and did not find them to apply to the student in question. A violation occurred on the exam and unauthorized materials were accessed. The council agreed that a one letter grade reduction was appropriate for Student E.

Straw Poll #12: What is the appropriate penalty for Student E?
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 Students B, C, and E “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that they receive a one letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to their records.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 2.5 hours

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Liu
Clerk