

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 54, Spring 2016
September 27, 2016

Members Present:

Katie Jensen (presiding), Allen Hu (clerk), Jake Reinhart, Stefano Romano, Haihao Liu, Angel Garces

Ombuds: Natalie Danckers, Laura Li (observing)

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Students A, B, C, D, E, and G of giving and receiving unauthorized aid on a final exam and Students A, B, C, D, E, F, and G of giving and receiving unauthorized aid on a homework assignment for a lower level biology 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
- Student C's written statement
- Student D's written statement
- Student E's written statement
- Student F's written statement
- Student G's written statement
- Final Exam of Students A, B, C, D, E, G
- Midterm Exam of Students A, B, C, D, E, F, G
- Class list
- Identification email chain
- Homework assignment of Students A, B, C, D, E, F, G
- Homework assignment analysis/comparison
- Intro slide with course Honor Code
- Professor clarification
- Student E's witness statement
- 17 Sample Final Exams
- Syllabus
- Tutor clarification
- Tutor study guide

Plea:

Student A pled "in violation."

Student B pled “in violation.”

Student C pled “not in violation.”

Student D pled “not in violation.”

Student E pled “not in violation.”

Student F pled “not in violation.”

Student G pled “in violation.”

Testimony:

Student A testified that she looked at Student G’s final exam for answers. She clarified that it was only for questions 1, 2, and 3, and that she completed question 6 on her own. Student A also stated that she worked with Student B on the Homework. She testified that she was unaware of other people copying from Student G. She used a study guide given to all six students by a tutor in order to study for the exam.

Student B testified that she looked at Student G’s final exam for answers. She clarified that it was only for questions 2 and 3, and that she completed questions 1 and 6 on her own. She explained how she independently arrived at her answers for questions 1 and 6. She stated that she worked with Student A on the Homework, although they did not directly copy answers. She testified that she was unaware of other students copying from Student G, and that she also used the study guide given by the tutor.

Student C testified that she did not receive or give unauthorized aid on either the final exam or the homework. She emphasized that she completed these assignments on her own. She sat two seats away from Student D, and some distance away from the others during the final exam. She also clarified that she believes their similar answers for the specified questions were coincidental (due to the use of the study guide provided by the tutor), and that she was unaware of other students copying.

Student D testified that she did not receive or give unauthorized aid on either the final exam or the homework. She corroborated Student C’s testimony on their seating placement. She clarified that she used the study guide provided by the tutor to study for the exam, and that she did leave the testing room during the exam to use the restroom, but she did not run into anyone there.

Student E testified that she did not receive or give unauthorized aid on either the final exam or the homework. She repeated from her written statement that she only used her phone during the final exam to respond to a family emergency. She provided receipts to verify her witness’s statement, and explained why call logs could not be provided. She also clarified her interaction with the professor in the bathroom, stating that she did

converse with the professor (although not about the phone use) and that she was not startled as the professor recalled.

Student F testified that she did not receive or give unauthorized aid on the homework. She clarified that she did not use any study guides or common-source materials to complete the assignment.

Student G testified that she did not receive unauthorized aid on the final exam or the homework. However, she was aware that other students were copying from her final exam; she clarified that it was very obvious that Students A and B were copying off her exam, but she did not report anything, and thus believes that she is in violation.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred, due to the similarities between answers as well as student testimonies.

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

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student A committed a violation. The Council agreed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that Student A was in violation on both the Final Exam and Homework #6, due to her testimony and the similarity of the answers.

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

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student B committed a violation. The Council agreed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that Student B was in violation on both the Final Exam and Homework #6, due to her testimony and the similarity of the answers.

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

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student C committed a violation. The Council agreed that a preponderance of the evidence did not support that Student C committed a violation on the Final Exam, but that she was in violation for Homework #6, due to the similarity of the answers.

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

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student D committed a violation. The Council agreed that a preponderance of the evidence did not support that Student D committed a violation on the Final Exam, but that she was in violation for Homework #6, due to the similarity of the answers.

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

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student E committed a violation. The Council agreed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that Student E was in violation for Homework #6, due to the similarity of the answers. The Council determined that, due to the wording of the course Honor Code policy and testimony provided, Student E did not commit a violation with cell phone use, and the preponderance of the evidence did not support that Student E committed a violation on the Final Exam.

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

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student F committed a violation. The Council agreed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that Student F committed a violation on Homework #6, due to the similarity of the answers.

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

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student G committed a violation. The Council agreed that a preponderance of the evidence did not support that Student G committed a violation on Homework #6, due to the dissimilarity of the answers, but that she was in violation for the Final Exam, due to her testimony.

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

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. The Council decided to mitigate for substantial disclosure for Students A and B, due to their testimonies allowing the Council to reach a decision with the preponderance of the evidence. The Council also agreed to mitigate (slightly more) for substantial disclosure for Student G, due to her testimony preventing the Council from aggravating for involving another student without their knowledge for Students A and B.

The Council proceeded to discuss aggravating circumstances. The Council decided to aggravate for a repeat violation for Students C and F.

The Council then agreed that it was appropriate to group appropriate penalty discussion based on the weight of committed violations and mitigating/aggravating factors. The Council grouped Students D and E, Students A and B, Student G, and Students C and F for penalty deliberation.

The Council discussed the appropriate penalty for Students D and E. The Council decided on a 2 letter grade reduction, due to the guidelines set forth by the Consensus Penalty Structure.

Vote: What is the appropriate penalty for Students D and 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:	6
1 letter grade reduction:	0
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

The Council discussed the appropriate penalty for Students A and B. The Council decided on a 3 letter grade reduction, due to mitigation for substantial disclosure and guidelines set forth by the Consensus Penalty Structure.

Vote: What is the appropriate penalty for Students A and 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:	6
2 letter grade reduction:	0
1 letter grade reduction:	0
Letter of Reprimand	0

Abstentions: 0

The Council discussed the appropriate penalty for Student G. The Council decided on a 2 letter grade reduction, due to mitigation for substantial disclosure and guidelines set forth by the Consensus Penalty Structure.

Vote: What is the appropriate penalty for Student G?

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:	6
1 letter grade reduction:	0
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

The Council discussed the appropriate penalty for Students C and F. The Council decided on an F in the course and 1 semester of suspension, due to aggravation for a previous severe violation and guidelines set forth by the Consensus Penalty Structure.

Vote: What is the appropriate penalty for Students C and F?

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:	5
F in the course:	1
3 letter grade reduction:	0
2 letter grade reduction:	0
1 letter grade reduction:	0
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Students A, B, C, D, E, F, and G “In Violation” of the Honor Code. The Council recommends that Students D, E, and G receive a 2 letter grade reduction. The Council recommends that Students A and B receive a 3 letter grade reduction. The Council recommends that Students C and F receive an F in the course and 1 semester of suspension. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to their records.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 2 hours 15 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Allen Hu
Clerk