

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 61, Spring 2016
October 25, 2016

Members Present:

Katie Jensen (presiding), Sofia Yi (clerk), Ike Arjmand, Alex Metcalf, Haihao Liu, Andy Lu

Ombuds: Matt Nobles

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarizing of term paper for a lower level philosophy course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student A's term paper
- Three websites
- Syllabus

Plea:

Student A pled "In Violation."

Testimony:

The student stated that he examined his essay and noticed that the professor highlighted the parts of the paper where he used outside sources but forgot to cite it. He said that he understands that it is necessary to cite anything he did not write himself and, though his mistake was unintentional, he committed an act of plagiarism. Therefore, the student understands that he is in violation. The student states that he tried to make sure anything he used was included in his works cited to give credit to the original author, but forgot for some of the sources he used. The student concluded that he made a mistake and understands he must cite anything from an outside source, and takes full responsibility for his error.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the student did not use his own words and failed to cite all of the sources he used. Therefore, the student committed plagiarism and violated the Honor Code.

Vote #1: 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 the violation. Council members saw no reason otherwise.

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

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The Council saw no mitigating or aggravating factors.

Vote #3: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A?

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: 6

F in the course: 0

3 letter grade reduction: 0

2 letter grade reduction: 0

1 letter grade reduction: 0

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 “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that he receive an F in the course and 1 semester of suspension. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to his record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 30 min

Respectfully submitted,

Sofia Yi

Clerk