

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 65-5, Spring 2016
September 20, 2016

Members Present:

Katie Jensen (presiding), Allen Hu (clerk), Sofia Yi, Joanne Kim, Jake Reinhart, Haihao Liu, Andy Lu (observing)

Ombuds: Natalie Danckers

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of accessing solutions manuals when completing homework assignments for a lower level economics course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student problem sets
- Problem set solutions manuals
- Syllabus
- Professor clarification
- Course PowerPoints

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student A testified that he only used his written notes in order to finish the problem sets.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred due to the similarities between his answers and the problem set solutions. Council members compared the phrasing and formatting of the problem set solutions and the student answers, in order to come to this conclusion.

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

Yes: 6 + 1 observing

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student A committed the violation. Due to the nature of the case, the council was in complete agreement that Student A was "In Violation" as well.

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

Yes: 6 + 1 observing
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. No council members considered any mitigating factors. Council members also did not consider any aggravating factors.

The Council then began to deliberate appropriate penalties. Council members generally considered both 2 and 3 letter grade reductions due to the weight of the assignments found in violation, worth 12% of the overall course grade. Although not bound by precedent, the Council decided in favor of a 2 letter grade reduction due to decisions made in similar cases.

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:	0
F in the course:	0
3 letter grade reduction:	0
2 letter grade reduction:	6 + 1 observing
1 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 a 2 letter grade reduction in the course. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to his record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 40 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
 Allen Hu
 Clerk