

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 19, Fall 2016
April 9, 2017

Members Present:

Katie Jensen (presiding), Ike Arjmand (clerk), Ricky Robinson, Jake Reinhart, Hector Chaires, Sean Olsen

Ombuds: Matt Nobles

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A, Student B, and Student C of plagiarizing each others' problem sets for a lower level ECON course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Overall weight clarification from the professor
- Student A's written statement
- Student B's written statement
- Student C's written statement
- The course syllabus
- Each accused student's homework assignment
- Sample assignments from other students
- An email correspondence between Student C and a TA in the course

Plea:

Student A pled "Not in Violation."

Student B pled "Not in Violation."

Student C pled "Not in Violation."

Testimony:

Student A stated that he did not clearly remember all details, but that he and the other two students had discussed the homework assignment conceptually and worked on it together the night before it was due. He printed multiple copies of his assignment and turned one of them in, then emailed a TA to ask for help with the assignment (keeping what he thought to be two copies of his homework assignment to use during discussion with the TA). He also printed Student C's homework because Student C was unable to print it himself. He stated that while they had discussed how to solve the problems, he had written all code himself and arrived at his answers independently.

Student B said that he was unsure why the answers were the same and that he had done his own work. He also said that he had left before the others when they were working together because he finished the assignment early. He then said that he sent his assignment to three other students in the course, including Student A. He added that he is sure that Student A completed the assignment on his own. He said that he sent the code

with the understanding that Student A would look at it conceptually and not take it directly.

Student C stated that he discussed the homework conceptually with Student A and Student B the night before it was due, but went home and completed the assignment by himself. Student C said that he then asked Student A to print his homework for him, as he did not have time to print his homework before class the next day. Student A, however, had printed out multiple copies of his own homework, and accidentally gave Student C a copy of his (Student A's homework) rather than Student C's homework. Student C, however, signed his name and submitted the homework of Student A as his own. He said that otherwise he and Student A had completed their own assignments independently.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation had occurred because the assignments were identical, Student B testified that he had shared his assignment with others, and Student C testified that the assignment he had turned in was not his own.

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. The Council believed that a violation had occurred because the homework assignments were identical.

Vote #2: 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 the violation. The Council believed that a violation had occurred because the homework assignments were identical and because Student B had sent others his assignment, giving unauthorized aid per the course Honor Code policy.

Vote #3: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student B is "In Violation?"

Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether Student C committed the violation. The Council believed that he had, because the assignment he submitted was not his own.

Vote #4: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student C is "In Violation?"

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances and did not find any, nor did it find any aggravating circumstances. The Council believed that all three students should receive the same penalty.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a one letter grade reduction.

Vote #5: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A, Student B, and Student C?

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:	6
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A, Student B, and Student C “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that they each receive a one letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour

Respectfully submitted,
 Ike Arjmand
 Clerk