

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 21, Spring 2017
February 27, 2017

Members Present:

Katie Jensen (presiding), Stefano Romano (clerk), Grant Wilkinson, Peter Rizzi, Sofia Yi, and Dessy Akinfenwa

Ombuds: Matt Nobles

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarism 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
- Course syllabus
- Student A's assignment
- Assignment reading
- Professor clarification regarding Honor Code for the class

Plea:

Student A pled "In Violation."

Testimony:

Student A started by stating that he forgot to use quotation marks when using phrases from the reading. He then stated that he did not mean to commit an Honor Code violation, but that this was simply an oversight. He also stated that the Honor Code was not explained clearly for the class on this assignment, and this led to the student's confusion on this assignment. Student A then closed by stating that the assignment was only worth a small percentage of the final course grade.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because there were significant similarities between the Student's assignment and the reading.

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 saw no reason why Student A did not commit the violation.

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. Following the Consensus Penalty Structure, the Council found a 1 letter grade reduction in the course to be the most appropriate penalty.

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: 0

1 letter grade reduction: 6

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 1 letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to his record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 25 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Stefano Romano

Clerk