

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 28, Spring 2017
March 6, 2017

Members Present:

Katie Jensen (presiding), Stefano Romano (clerk), Ike Arjmand, Ryan Carlson, Sofia Yi, Alex Metcalf

Ombuds: Natalie Danckers

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a self-accusation from Student A regarding plagiarism for an upper level COMP 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 code
- Assignment instructions
- Selection of code from online website

Plea:

Student A pled "In Violation."

Testimony:

Student A opened by stating that she referenced code from an online repository as she was completing her homework assignment, and ultimately used that code in her submission. She stated that 70-80% of the code was taken from the online source, and that the online source was created by an anonymous student in the class. Student A stated that she did not copy and paste from the online source, but that she heavily borrowed from the online source. Student A closed by stating that she committed a violation of the Honor Code, and she hopes that the Council will give her the appropriate penalty.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred due to Student A's testimony, and the code is almost verbatim to that found online.

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 circumstances. Because the student self-accused, and gave substantial disclosure helping the Honor Council reach its decision, the Council decided to mitigate. The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a 2 letter grade reduction. Because of this, the Council mitigated to a 1 letter grade reduction.

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 she receive a 1 letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to her record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 20 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Stefano Romano

Clerk