

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 7-2, Fall 2017
January 11th, 2018

Members Present:

Reece Rosenthal (presiding), Peter Rizzi (clerk), Sam Holloway, Ricky Robinson, Ryan Carlson, Amy Lin

Ombuds: Matt Nobles

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and B of sharing code on an assignment for a lower level COMP course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Student B pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student responded to professor's individual claims about parts of the code that was similar and gave explanations for why they looked similar. One important claim was that the most glaring similarity (get.KV function) was told to her as a hint by Student B in a non-violation manner. The student also said that other similarities in code was a lot of arbitrary code like initializing empty data structures. The student explained the timeline in which he submitted the project, and that the final submission took place from the library.

Testimony:

The student explained that the main similarity between their code was given by a hint he told him at a volunteer event, a hint that was allowed under collaboration. He went on to explain how his commit history is systematized week-to-week and that their similarity in time submission is purely coincidental. The student explained how, while there is some room for flexibility on the project, there is not a ton of room for huge differences between code, as the professor often provides a sort-of "fill-in-the-blank" code.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence did not support that a violation occurred. The Council members' consensus was that the evidence submitted was not substantial enough to justify a preponderance of evidence.

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

Yes: 0

No: 6

Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A and B “Not In Violation” of the Honor Code.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 55 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Rizzi

Clerk