

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 42-12, Spring 2017
12/6/17

Members Present:

Alison Rozich (presiding), Ryan Carlson (clerk), Grace Coleman, James Suffoletta, Haihao Liu, Mark Cantu

Ombuds: Sam Morimoto

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of referencing unauthorized materials on a midterm exam for a lower level MECH course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Online Solutions
- Exam Solutions
- Exam Class Samples
- Student A's Exam
- Textbook Questions and Solutions
- Course Syllabus

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student A explained that the exam was given as an open-note exam and that an equation sheet was allowed. The student also stated that she studied practice problems in the book, which ended up being the exact same questions on the test.

The student emphasized that she only used her formula sheet while completing the exam, and that she did not reference any practice problems.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the student's exam had striking similarities to errors made in the answer key. Also, the student did not provide adequate justification in certain sections of her work on the exam.

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 otherwise.

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. The Council ultimately saw no reason to consider any mitigating factors in the case.

The Council also found no aggravating factors.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is an F in the course.

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: 6

3 letter grade reduction: 0

2 letter grade reduction: 0

1 letter grade reduction: 0

Letter of Reprimand 0

Abstentions: 0

Since there were no mitigating or aggravating factors being considered, the Council saw no reason to deviate from the CPS.

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that she receive an F in the course.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Carlson

Clerk