

**Abstract of the Honor Council**  
**Case 42-1, Spring 2017**  
**11 Oct. 2017**

**Members Present:**

Reece Rosenthal (presiding), Ike Arjmand (clerk), Grace Coleman, Sofia Yi, Grant Wilkinson, James Suffoletta

**Ombuds:** Carey Wang

**Letter of Accusation:**

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of cheating on an 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
- Student A's exam
- Sample exams from other students
- The exam solution
- The course syllabus
- A clarification from the professor

**Plea:**

Student A pled "Not in Violation."

**Testimony:**

The student stated that if one were to look at the solution key to the exam, there is a missing section of calculations in the exam solutions that the student showed in her own calculations. The student stated that because such a large amount of the exam was interpolation, and the interpolation steps were not included in the answer key, her work differed from the key. The student added that places where the final answers differed from the work preceding them could be a result of misreading the calculator steps along the way.

The student stated also that she had not seen the exam solutions before turning in the exam.

**Verdict Deliberations:**

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation had not occurred.

Some councilmembers believed that there was insufficient evidence to support that a violation had occurred, and that rounding errors could have contributed to the numerical

answers in question. Some considered that the answers given by the student resembled the answer key too closely, such as diagrams drawn exactly the same as those in the answer key. However, councilmembers believed that the sum of the smaller pieces of evidence did not form a preponderance of evidence that the student was in violation.

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 “Not In Violation” of the Honor Code.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 48

Respectfully submitted,

Ike Arjmand

Clerk