

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 18-6, Fall 2017
4/10/18

Members Present:

Stefano Romano (presiding), Amy Lin (clerk), Maheen Khizar, Rohit Chouhan, Sean Olsen, Haihao Liu

Ombuds: Kenton Whitmire

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of copying an online source 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
- Point breakdown clarification
- Random student samples
- Student A's solution
- Online source
- Course syllabus
- Assignment description

Plea:

Student A pled "in violation."

Testimony:

Student A claims that it was late at night and there were no TAs to assist her, so she texted a friend from a different university who had taken a similar course. The friend explained to her how to do the problem. She did not look at the online source.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because her solution directly matched the online solution. Even if she did not consult the source, collaboration with her friend from another university still violates the Honor Code policy as described on the course syllabus.

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. Since her solution matched the online source, there was no reason to believe that she 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 only one question of the assignment was in violation, some Council members believed that the penalty should be decreased. Other Council members who did not want to mitigate stated that the question was still worth a significant portion of the assignment.

Council members agreed were no aggravating circumstances.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a 2 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: 2

1 letter grade reduction: 4

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.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 60 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Lin

Clerk