

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 18-4, Fall 2018
3/28/18

Members Present:

Matt Nobles (presiding), Saniya Gayake (clerk), Ricky Robinson, Peter Rizzi, Virginia Xie, Sofia Yi

Ombuds: Kenton Whitmire

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarism on an assignment 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
- Suspected website
- Course syllabus
- Student A's assignment
- Assignment instructions

Plea:

Student A pled "in violation."

Testimony:

Student A started by stating that she did use the website in question for this homework assignment, which was against the course Honor Code policy. Student A then stated that she used no other unauthorized sources on this assignment, and that she did not collaborate with any students in the course on this assignment.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because Student A stated that she plagiarized her assignment. The Council also noted that extreme similarities existed between the student's assignment, and the content of the website in question.

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. All the council members agreed that the student committed a 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. One council member mentioned the amount of assignment that is demonstrably not in violation as a mitigating factor. Other council members argued that enough of the homework was found in violation of the honor code. The council members concluded that no mitigating circumstances were involved.

No aggravating circumstances were mentioned or discussed.

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:	4
1 letter grade reduction:	2
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that she receives a 2 letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 20 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
 Saniya Gayake
 Clerk