

**Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 5-1, Fall 2018
4/11/2018**

Members Present:

Stefano Romano (presiding chair), James Suffoletta (clerk), Haihao Liu, Rohit Chouhan, Henry Ulrich, Riya Mehta

Ombuds: Colin Losey

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and Student B of cheating on various assignments for a lower level COMP course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Supplementary Evidence
- Assignment Descriptions
- Course Syllabus
- Random Code Samples for each assignment
- Full Code Comparisons for Students A and B for all 3 assignments

Plea:

Student A pled “in violation.” Student B pled “in violation.”

Testimony:

Student A said that he did share some code at some points in the projects mentioned in the Letter of Accusation. He mentioned that he could not recall many specific details from the assignments since it has been a significant amount of time since the assignments were due. In addition, since Assignment 3 was in two different parts, he clarified that the parts of Assignment 3 that were mentioned in the Letter of Accusation were from part 1 of the assignment. He said that both he and Student B looked at each other’s screens for the three assignments in the Letter of Accusation.

Student B stated that he and Student A cheated on the three assignments. Student B added that part 2 of Assignment 3 was dropped, and that he did not put any effort into that part of the assignments. He emphasized that he did not cheat on week 2 of the assignment. Student B said that he did not remember exactly how the code was shared on the three assignments. Student B clarified that the code in the Letter of Accusation was from part 1 of Assignment 3, not from part 2 of the assignment.

Student A concluded by saying that he made a huge mistake by cheating on the assignments, and reiterated that he did not cheat on part 2 of Assignment 3.

Student B said that he did cheat on the three assignments, and that he regretted his mistake.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred. Council members believed that the evidence from all three assignments indicated that Student A and Student B cheated on each assignment. Council members also noted that both Student A and B testified that they collaborated on the assignments.

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 believed that giving or receiving code constitutes a violation, and that Student A was therefore “in violation”.

Vote #2: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student A is “In Violation?”

Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student B committed the violation. The Council believed that giving or receiving code constitutes a violation, and that Student B was therefore “in violation”.

Vote #3: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student B is “In Violation?”

Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. The council did not see any mitigating factors.

The council did not see any aggravating factors.

The Council considered whether to consider all four deadlines for the three assignments in the Letter of Accusation or to consider three deadlines since one of the assignments was dropped. The Council noted that, no matter what way to distribute the weight of the assignments, the CPS penalty for this case is a 3 letter grade reduction. The Council saw no reason to deviate from the CPS penalty structure since there was no mitigating or aggravating factors.

Vote #4: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A and B?

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:	6
2 letter grade reduction:	0
1 letter grade reduction:	0
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

The Council noted that Student A and Student B had been found “In Violation” for a previous assignment in the course. Thus, the Council deliberated what penalty to apply for these concurrent violations. The Council did not consider that the assignment could have been dropped. The Council believed that a 3 letter grade reduction was appropriate in total for the entire course since the total weight of the assignments found “In Violation” corresponded to the CPS penalty range for a 3 letter grade reduction.

Vote #5: What is the appropriate combined penalty for Student A and B?

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:	6
2 letter grade reduction:	0
1 letter grade reduction:	0
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A and B “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that they receive a 3 letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 60 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
James Suffoletta
Clerk