

**Abstract of the Honor Council**  
**Case #20, Fall 2017**  
**April 17, 2018**

**Members Present:**

Matt Nobles (presiding), Grant Wilkinson (clerk), Bella Bunten, Riya Mehta, Saniya Gayake, Henry Ulrich

**Ombuds:** Clay Siminski

**Letter of Accusation:**

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and Student B of collaborating on two exams for an upper level MECH course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

**Evidence Submitted:**

- Letter of Accusation – Notification
- Letter of Accusation – Grader Addition
- Student A's written statement
- Student B's written statement
- Syllabus
- Student A Exam 2
- Student B Exam 2
- Student A Exam 3
- Student B Exam 3
- Student A Homework 10
- Student B Homework 10
- Course notes available on Canvas
- Course Textbook
- Exam 1, 2, and 3 Solutions
- Homework 1-10 Prompt
- Homework 1-10 Solutions
- Sample Student Solutions for Exam 2, Exam 3, and Homework 10

**Plea:**

Student A pled "In Violation."

Student B pled "In Violation."

**Testimony:**

Student A stated that she violated the Honor Code on exam 2 but not on exam 3. On exam 2, they did the exam separately then went over one another's exams in order to correct problems. For exam 3, they studied together but took the exam separately.

On the syntactical similarities between the two exams 3, problem 3, part b, the student answers, Student A stated that the method used was the generally accepted method that

was taught in the class. She stated that working together on the homework at the level they two students did was not an Honor Code violation, as she understood it.

Student B stated that she violated the Honor Code on exam 2 but did not violate the Honor code on exam 3. On exam 2, she stated that she took the exam on her own, felt that she did badly on it, and then discussed with Student A the entirety of exam 2.

Student B stated that she and Student A studied together in preparation for exam 3 and collaborated on the homework assignments. The student stated that the professor had said that they could work together on homework problems. They similarities in exam 3 are explained because they simply followed the equation notation that was used in the course. The student stated that there is a possibility that the grader was already biased when they graded the accused student's exam 3.

In her closing statement, Student A reiterated that she violated the Honor Code but did not commit a violation on exam 3.

In her closing statement, Student B restated that she violated the Honor Code for exam 2 but did not do so for exam 3.

### **Verdict Deliberations:**

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred on exam 2 because the answers are virtually identical, including errors and significant digits. Additionally, the student testimony corroborates this.

The council believed that there was not a preponderance of the evidence that supported that a violation on exam 3 due to the differences present in the two exams.

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 or Student B committed the violation.

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

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

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. No mitigating or aggravating factors were seen.

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

Vote #4: 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

Vote #5: What is the appropriate penalty for Student 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:	6
3 letter grade reduction:	0
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 Student B “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that both receive an F in the course.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour and 20 minutes

Respectfully submitted,  
Grant Wilkinson  
Clerk