

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 21-4, Spring 2018
April 12, 2018

Members Present:

Matt Nobles (presiding), Grant Wilkinson (clerk), Virginia Xie, Sofia Yi, Joanne Kim, Mark Cantu

Ombuds: Laura Li, Oeishi Banerjee (observing)

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarizing a project for an upper level COMP course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Online project solution
- Student samples
- Accused student's project
- Semester clarification
- Syllabus
- Sample user test programs
- Project prompt
- Header files
- Github Readme

Plea:

Student A pled "In Violation."

Testimony:

The student agreed with the accusation for the most part and did use the Github source in doing her lab. She did disagree with the letter of accusation in regards to the accusation's statement that many changes in her code were done in an attempt to conceal a violation of the Honor Code. She was not trying to hide the plagiarism. The student explained why her code was set up in a different order than the Github source.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the code is substantially similar and student testimony supported that a violation occurred.

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.

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.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a two-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: 6

1 letter grade reduction: 0

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 two-letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 40 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Grant Wilkinson
Clerk