

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 25, Spring 2018
4/23/18

Members Present:

Matt Nobles (presiding), Amy Lin (clerk), Sofia Yi, Isabelle Bunten, Sam Holloway, Rohit Chouhan

Ombuds: Laura Li

Letter of Accusation:

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

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student B's written statement
- Student A's notes
- Course syllabus
- Student B's Quizlet
- Student A's witness statement
- Student A's collaboration messages screenshots
- Quiz solutions
- Accused quizzes
- Class-provided listening list

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Student B pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student A sat next to Student B on the day of the quiz but sat facing away from Student B. He studied with his personal notes and the class-provided listening list. He did not study with any other students prior to the quiz because he had a busy week. The majority of his studying occurred right before the quiz outside the classroom, but this studying occurred alone. His answers were crossed out because he used a pen on the quiz instead of a pencil and eraser. He provided notes that he used to study, which matched one of his incorrect answers on the quiz. His notes were incomplete and did not include all works because he thought that he already knew specific pieces and chose to only include the pieces that were difficult for him to memorize. He provided a screenshot of messages between himself and Student B, showing that Student B had not studied at all for the quiz and that it was impossible for them to have studied before the quiz together. He attached a second screenshot showing that Student B had previously asked for aid on an assignment in a separate class, but he had never responded to this request.

Student B used online video clips of the pieces to study for the quiz, along with the class-provided listening list and the Quizlet. He did not study with Student A except for a short cram session outside the classroom with other students right before the quiz. He does admit looking at Student A's quiz, but he did not intend to copy answers; he only wanted to compare their answers before turning in the quiz. He did not change any answers after seeing Student A's quiz. At that point, he had already completed the quiz, so he turned it in after comparison within a few minutes. The majority of his incorrect answers were vocal pieces, since he relied on his previous knowledge of vocal pieces rather than studying for these pieces using the study guide. Their answers were similar due to the fact that they are good friends and study in a very similar fashion.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the quizzes were identical, even in their incorrect answers.

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. Some Council members believed that Student A committed the violation because he had originally written down answers that were different from Student B but then crossed out these answers to match the correct answers of Student B. Other Council members believed that Student A did not commit the violation because he realized the answers were incorrect and changed the answers to the right answers, which were then copied by Student B.

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

Yes: 1

No: 5

Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student B committed the violation. Council members believed that Student B committed the violation because he admitted to looking at the other student's quiz.

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. Council members agreed that mitigation would be appropriate due to substantial disclosure from Student B that helped the Honor Council reach its decision.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a 2 letter grade reduction.

Vote #4: 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:	0
3 letter grade reduction:	0
2 letter grade reduction:	0
1 letter grade reduction:	6
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student B “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that he receive a 1 letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour 40 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lin
Clerk