

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 5, Fall 2018
3/5/19

Members Present:

Matt Nobles (presiding), Siddharth Gorantla (clerk), Hannah Dryer, Grace Coleman, Rohit Chouhan, Allie Rozich

Ombuds: Oeishi Banerjee

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarism on a discussion response for a lower level BIOC course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Alleged source of plagiarism
- Assignment instructions

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student A described the resources he used to write-up the responses. He used the textbook source as a guide. Citations were not necessary for the assignment and therefore were not provided. Specific similar phrases from the alleged source and the student's work were due to textbook and Khan Academy resources.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the phrasing of Student A's submission was identical to that of the plagiarism source, and the flow of the response was very similar as well. Specifically, one paragraph was verbatim, and the rest were very similar in logic and explanation.

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. Since the submission directly plagiarized the alleged source, there was no reason to not believe that a violation had occurred.

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. Council members found no mitigating or aggravating factors.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a 1 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: 0

1 letter grade reduction: 6

Letter of Reprimand 0

Abstentions: 0

Decision:

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

Time of testimony and deliberations: 45 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Siddharth Gorantla
Clerk