

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 8, Fall 2018
1/16/19

Members Present:

Matt Nobles (presiding), Sofia Yi (clerk), Talia Kramer, Matey Yanakiev, Eunice Aissi, Caroline Brehm

Ombuds: Sam Morimoto

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of using unauthorized aid on the final exam for a lower level CHEM course.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Additional Honor Code information
- Witness statement
- Student A's phone records
- Exam 1, 2, and 3 answer keys from Fall 2018
- Exam 1, 2, 3, and final exam answer keys from Fall 2016
- Student A's final exam
- IT clarification of Student A's Canvas downloads
- Course syllabus
- Student A's Canvas access report

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student A stated that she had downloaded all of the answer key files before the exam with the intent of possibly looking at them during the exam, but she decided not to use the files. She did not step out of the room during the exam. She had called her mother on her phone after she finished the exam, which was almost an hour before she submitted the exam. She did not look at the answer key for any of the problems, which is why she answered them incorrectly. She only downloaded the final exam keys after she finished the exam in order to gauge how well she did. Student A concluded by reiterating that the answers on her exam are unlike those on the answer key, and that she would have been able to respond more accurately if she had used unauthorized aid.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence did not support that a violation occurred because there was significant disagreement regarding what constituted a violation, and a substantial quantity of conflicting evidence. While the evidence demonstrated that the student downloaded the answer keys at the time stated in the Letter

of Accusation, the Council discussed when the student left the exam room and what constituted a violation. Since the student's phone time stamps are substantially earlier than the one listed in the Letter of Accusation, and she could have left the exam room by the time the answer key files were accessed, a preponderance of the evidence did not support that she was taking the exam during the time the files were accessed.

Vote #1: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that a violation occurred?

Yes: 3

No: 3

Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A "Not In Violation" of the Honor Code.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hr 30 min

Respectfully submitted,

Sofia Yi

Clerk