

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 1-8, Fall 2018
4/11/19

Members Present:

Virginia Xie (presiding), Sam Holloway (clerk), Reece Rosenthal, Angela Liu, Saniya Gayake, Matt Nobles, Syed Shams (observing), Sanat Mehta (observing)

Ombuds: Hector Chaires, Laura Li (observing)

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Students A and B of unauthorized collaboration on a pledged project for a lower level CAAM course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Professor clarification
- Assignment description
- Lecture slides
- Student A's code
- Student B's code
- Professor-supplied project code
- Randomly selected sample code

Plea:

Student A pled "in violation."

Student B pled "in violation."

Testimony:

Student A explained that after collaborating with Student B on this project, Student B dropped the class, and Student A worked by himself on all subsequent projects because he realized he was wrong to collaborate with Student B previously. Student A said he did not access any other unauthorized resources besides his collaboration with Student B while completing this project, and he explained that he and Student B never copied and pasted any code; they only worked side-by-side to complete the project. Student A explained that he and Student B both helped each other, and that help did not flow more in one direction than in the other.

Student B explained that he and Student A are in the same residential college and that they worked together on this project. Student B said he and Student A did not copy and paste any code from each other, and that he did not use any resources other than resources provided by TAs and the professor as well as his collaboration with Student A. Student B also said that help did not flow more in one direction than the other, saying that both he and Student A are to blame for the pair's collaboration. Student B said he and Student A did look at each other's computer screens while completing this project.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the students admitted to committing a violation, and because the two students' code and commentary were visually and substantively the same.

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. The Council saw no reason why Student A did not commit a violation.

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

Yes: 6
 No: 0
 Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student B committed the violation. The Council saw no reason why Student B did not commit a violation.

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. The Council saw no reason to mitigate its penalty decision. The Council then discussed potential aggravating circumstances, and it also saw no reason to aggravate the penalty decision.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a 2 letter grade reduction. The Council saw no reason to deviate from this penalty, and also saw no reason why Students A and B should not receive the same penalty.

Vote #4: What is the appropriate penalty for Students A and 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: 6
 1 letter grade reduction: 0
 Letter of Reprimand: 0
 Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Students A and B “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that they receive a 2 letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 25 minutes.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Holloway
Clerk