

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 4-2, Fall 2018
2/1/19

Members Present:

Matt Nobles (presiding), Sean Olsen (clerk), Talia Kramer, Matey Yanakiev, Hannah Dryer, Riya Mehta

Ombuds: Pierson Lund

Letter of Accusation:

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

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student A's code
- Random student sample code
- Project description
- Professor clarification
- Source code

Plea:

Student A pled "in violation."

Testimony:

Student A stated that she had met with a former student in the course to discuss the project, and she looked at the former student's computer screen to view the code. While her intent was to understand what the former student was doing in the code, there was not much room for variation in the code. She pointed out that the professor never specified the degree of allowed collaboration on an unpledged project. However, she still believed that she received too much assistance and was in violation of the Honor Code.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because Student A's code and the source code are extremely similar, and the student testimony reflects that unauthorized aid was received.

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 student admitted to copying a former student's code, there was no reason to not believe that 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. Council members found no mitigating or aggravating circumstances.

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 she receive a 1 letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 25 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Olsen

Clerk