

Abstract of the Honor Council

Case 15, Fall 2019

3/4/20

Members Present:

Virginia Xie (presiding), Amy Lin (clerk), Mark Cantu, Rohit Chouhan, Maheen Khizar, Kyler Foutch

Ombuds: Clay Siminski

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarizing an assignment for a lower level GLHT course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Assignment description
- Course syllabus
- Student final submission
- Student intended submission
- Alleged source
- Email evidence
- Student submitted evidence

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

He claimed that he accidentally submitted the wrong file as the final draft. He began with the alleged source as a starting point, saving it as a rough draft file on his computer. He then created his final draft, which he made from scratch and intended to submit. He sent a photo of this final draft version to a classmate, which contained five bullet points. Then, because the final draft version was too large for a Word document, he removed the last bullet point, so the file submitted to the Council had only four bullet points. He then went to submit the final draft version, but he accidentally uploaded the rough draft to Canvas.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the work that was submitted was plagiarized, regardless of intent.

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. Because he had submitted the file, there was no reason to not believe that he 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 did not find any reason to mitigate.

Some Council members believed that there could be an aggravating factor of deceit of the Council. The student claimed to have taken the submitted photos before the assignment was due, but the material evidence showed that the photos had been taken 2 months later. In addition, the submitted photo of the document was different from the submitted document itself.

The Council members then decided to aggravate the penalty further due to a prior violation.

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: 6

3 letter grade reduction: 0

2 letter grade reduction: 0

1 letter grade reduction: 0

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 an F in the course.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hr 10 min

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lin
Clerk