

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case #8, Fall 2020
December 7, 2020

Members Present:

Sam Holloway (presiding), Amy Lin (clerk), Adam Zawierucha, Emily Wang, Izzi Reynolds, and William Wang

Ombuds: Jean Choi

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and Student B of collaborating on a pledged assignment for an upper level CHBE course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student B's written statement
- Student A submitted assignment
- Student B submitted assignment
- Student A unsubmitted assignment
- Course syllabus
- Assignment description
- Email screenshots
- Download video
- File screenshots
- Desktop screenshot
- Witness statement

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Student B pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student A said that Student B asked to use her computer because Student B's computer was broken. Student B went over to Student A's house the night before the deadline and did a few problems of the assignment using MATLAB on Student A's computer. Student B emailed the files to herself and then left Student A's house. Student A then worked on the homework alone for the rest of the night. When she went to submit the homework, Student A accidentally submitted Student B's homework instead of the work she had completed during the night. Student A was unaware that Student B had forgotten to delete the files from Student A's computer, and the file names were very similar, so Student A mistakenly uploaded the wrong files. The reason why Student A was unable to thoroughly check that she had uploaded the correct file to Canvas was because she submitted the assignment right at the deadline and did not want to have a late submit.

Student B said that her computer was broken, so she asked to use Student A's computer to work on the assignment. She did a couple of problems on Student A's computer and emailed the work to herself before leaving. She made sure to delete the emails to remove any trace of her work on Student A's computer, but she forgot to delete the files from Student A's desktop. Student B then completed the rest of the assignment on her roommate's computer, and she finally submitted the completed assignment from her own computer. Student B said that she never collaborated with Student A on the assignment.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because Student A ultimately did submit a file that was not her own. According to the course syllabus, for pledged assignments, submissions that are copied from another source are a violation of the Honor Code, and Student A's submission was copied from another source.

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 Student A had submitted Student B's file, Student A did commit a violation of the course's Honor Code.

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. Because Student B had submitted her own file and did not collaborate with Student A or any other sources, Student B did not commit a violation of the course's Honor Code.

Vote #3: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student B is "In Violation?"

Yes: 0

No: 6

Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. Council members discussed how the amount of the assignment demonstrably not in violation, as well as the substantial disclosure and cooperation provided by Student A, were reasons to mitigate the penalty.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a 3 letter grade reduction.

Vote #4: 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: 1 hour 36 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lin
Clerk