

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case #38, Spring 2021
June 13, 2021

Members Present:

Izzie Karohl (presiding), Sriya Kakarla (clerk), Kamal Tijani, Max Slotnik, Rodolfo Gutierrez-Garcia, and Spencer Darwall

Ombuds: Eliot Behr

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarizing another student's term paper for a lower level MUSI course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Course Syllabus
- Student A's written statement
- Student A's draft submission
- Student A's final submission
- Student B's submission
- Research Paper Guidelines

Plea:

Student A pled "In Violation."

Testimony:

Student A stated that she takes full responsibility for her actions and attributes her actions to her course load, stress, and health conditions. Student A reported that she received the essay from Student B from a folder of notes that were shared with her. She claimed she did not know the essay was in that folder. Student A said that about 50% of the paper was her own work.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because large portions of the paper and images were the exact same between the papers, and Student A's admission to violating the Honor Code.

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 believed Student A committed the violation because she admitted to doing so along with the paper similarities.

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

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignments, is an F in the course and 1 semester of suspension. Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. Council members found no mitigating factors.

The Council then discussed whether or not Student A plagiarizing the paper without Student B’s knowledge was grounds for aggravation at a hearing. Council members noted Honor Council members at the Investigative Meeting deemed that this constituted aggravation and therefore withheld the Alternative Resolution. However, Council members decided this aggravating factor was not strong enough to aggravate the penalty at the hearing, ultimately concluding that an F and 1 semester of suspension was an appropriate penalty for the offense.

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: 6

F in the course: 0

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 she receives an F in the course.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 30 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Sriya Kakarla

Clerk