

Abstract of the Honor Council

Case #37, Spring 2021

September 7, 2021

Members Present:

Kaitlyn Crowley (presiding), Caroline Brehm (clerk), Andrew Barber, Rodolfo Gutierrez-Garcia, Max Slotnik, and Jamal Tijani

Ombuds: Thelo Lewis

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of receiving unauthorized aid on a homework assignment for an upper level MECH course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student A's Homework 8 submission
- Student A's Homework 9 submission
- Chegg screenshots
- Class homework solutions
- Course syllabus

Plea:

Student A pled "In violation."

Testimony:

Student A stated that the Letter of Accusation was correct and that he did copy homework answers from Chegg. He explained that he tried to complete the homework assignments on his own, but he did not know how to proceed on a couple of questions and chose to copy the online answers. Student A closed by reiterating that his actions were 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 work was identical to the Chegg solutions. Additionally, since the student admitted to violating the Honor Code, the Council concluded that a violation had occurred.

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 the violation, Council members found no reason that Student A would not be in violation.

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 assignment, is a two-letter grade reduction. Council members opened by discussing any mitigating or aggravating circumstances. The Council found no mitigating circumstances.

Council members were informed that Student A had a prior violation, and that violation was heinous. The Honor Council decided to aggravate based on the prior violation. Because the current violation was on a homework assignment in a course that was different from the original course, the Council decided to aggravate to a three-letter grade reduction.

Vote #3: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A?

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: 6

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 a three-letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 24 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Brehm
Clerk