

Abstract of the Honor Council

Case 45, Spring 2021

November 5, 2021

Members Present:

Matey Yanakiev (presiding), Caroline Brehm (clerk), Adam Zawierucha, Kyler Foutch, Andrew Barber, Diego Casanova, Paige Sutter (observing), Lynn-Chi Nguyen, (observing), James Cheng (observing), and Bora Gobekli (observing)

Ombuds: Thelo Lewis

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of receiving unauthorized aid on the final exam for a lower level MATH 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's final exam
- Student B's final exam
- Student B's additional statement
- Student submitted evidence
 - Professor communication regarding submission time
 - Student A's extended work
 - MATH department final exam policy

Plea:

Student A pled "Not in Violation."

Testimony:

Student A opened by saying he was not in violation of the Honor Code because he did not receive any unauthorized work on her exam. Student A explained that he did work with Student B on homework and other assignments in the course, so they often discussed their work on exams. The exam was to be taken from 9 AM to 12 PM with a submission period of 12-12:30 PM during which students were not permitted to make edits to their exam. However, a professor error led to students being unable to submit their exams during the submission period. Student A submitted his exam before 12 PM to ensure his submission went through. Since the allotted time to work on the exam had passed, Student A explained how he shared his exam with Student B to

compare answers after 12 PM. Because many students were unable to submit their exams, the professor reopened the submission window at 12:19 PM and had the students resubmit their exams.

Student A then presented a written statement submitted by Student B in which Student B admits to committing an Honor Code violation by copying Student A's work without his knowledge. Student B said he changed her exam after the exam period ended after seeing Student A's work. Student A asserted that he believed he was allowed to share his answers with Student B because department policy was that all students had to take their exam during the allotted time. Student A did not know that Student B would copy his exam answers.

Student A concluded by saying he followed the instructions by not sharing answers until all students had completed the exam, and he couldn't have known Student B would commit an Honor Code violation.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the evidence and testimony showed that Student B copied answers from Student A's exam before Student B submitted his exam.

Vote #1: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that a violation occurred?

Yes: 6+4
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether Student A committed the violation. The Council ultimately determined that Student A was not responsible for the violation because his actions fell within the bounds of under the course Honor Code policy for the exam.

The exam instructions state that "students are not allowed to share answers until all students have taken the exam" followed by "the exam will be taken between 9 AM and 12 PM." Student A sent his exam to Student B during a time period in which it was reasonable to believe all students had taken the exam, and thus sharing answers was not a violation. Council members believed that it would be unreasonable to expect Student A to anticipate that Student B would copy his work during the submission time where editing the exam was strictly prohibited. While Student A could have been more careful with sharing his exam answers, the Honor Council decided that sending his exam answers to Student B after the exam period was over did not constitute a violation.

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

Yes: 0
No: 6+4
Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “Not in Violation” of the Honor Code.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 53 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Brehm
Clerk