

Abstract of the Honor Council

Case 54, Summer 2021

January 30th, 2022

Members Present:

Kaitlyn Crowley (presiding), Angela Liu (clerk), Rodolfo Gutierrez, Kamal Tijani, Leah Johnson, and Simon Yellen

Ombuds: Eliot Behr

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of using unauthorized aides on a lower-level MATH course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of accusation
- Course syllabus
- Student A written statement
- Professor's detailed letter of accusation
- Student A exam 2
- Student A final exam
- Copy of exam 2
- Exam 2 solutions
- Copy of final exam
- Problem set 5
- Folder of random samples (x10)
- Student A opening statement
- Student A work for exams (x2)
- Testimony (email correspondence) from two other students about Student A's whereabouts during the course and exam (x5)

Plea:

Student A pled "Not in Violation."

Testimony:

Student A explained that during this course, she did not attend class often due to having work obligations, and thus learned and studied on her own by watching videos and referring to notes. She stated that she took the exam like any other student with pen and paper, and without any use of unauthorized aid. Student A pointed out how she documents her work when solving the exam problems on a separate sheet of paper before writing her final answer on the paper used for

submission. While not all the work she had was submitted as her final exam submission, she stated how she does have the work for how she reached her answers. She proceeded to counter the professor's accusations made in their detailed letter of accusation.

Where the professor accused the student of using Wolfram Alpha for her lack of work, Student A explained that she used an equation that was covered during the unit to help simplify the steps that might typically be necessary otherwise. The professor also accused the student for use of a calculator for another problem, and Student A explained that it was simply an error that she overlooked and carried throughout the problem. For questions where there was not enough work shown, she pointed out her handwritten computations for a problem that seemed unreasonably large to solve to show how her calculations were reasonable.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation did not occur. While Student A did not submit all her work for the exam, the Council did not consider that a violation, and saw that the work that was submitted as evidence supported the student's statements made during her testimony. Although the student's work was different from that shown in the random samples, the Council did not see a preponderance of evidence to support that she had used unauthorized aid to formulate her responses.

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

Yes: 0
No: 6
Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A "Not In Violation" of the Honor Code.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour and 10 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Liu
Clerk