

**Abstract of the Honor Council**  
**Case 2, Fall 2022**  
**October 25, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Pedro Ribeiro (presiding), Isabelle Reynolds (clerk), Connor Hughes, McKenzie Jameson, Simon Yellen, James Cheng, Naidhrav Ananth Iyer (observing)

**Ombuds:** Neil Chopra, Phillip Seo (observing), Henry Cassidy (observing)

**Letter of Accusation:**

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and Student B of unauthorized collaboration on an assignment for an upper level BUSI 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
- Homework Directions
- Student A's Homework
- Student B's Homework
- Homework Answer Key
- Random student samples
- Class Syllabus

**Plea:**

Student A pled "Not in Violation."

Student B pled "Not in Violation."

**Testimony:**

Student A claimed that the students worked on the homework separately, writing the problems on their own laptops. They claimed that the code used for the homework was provided by the professor in lab and that the similarities in their homework were due to the same images and values being written into their homework, with the explanations written individually. Student A also discussed that they thought the penalty from taking the alternative resolution was going to be a 2-letter grade reduction; they did not take the alternative resolution, but had they known the actual alternative resolution penalty they might have taken it.

Student B stated that the students worked on the homework together, running the same code and placing the results of the code into their own documents. They then reiterated that since the students submitted their own work, they felt they were not in violation. Student B also discussed that they thought the penalty from taking the alternative

resolution was going to be a 2-letter grade reduction; they did not take the alternative resolution, but had they known the actual alternative resolution penalty they might have taken it.

**Verdict Deliberations:**

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the two homework assignments were so similar that the Council felt it could not have occurred without unauthorized collaboration.

The two homework assignments were formatted the same with only slight differences, including the same graphics, wording, and spacing. This constitutes a violation of the Honor Code based on the class syllabus.

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

Yes: 6 + 1  
 No: 0  
 Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student A and Student B committed the violation. Since both students submitted homework assignments that seemed very similar and based on these students' accounts of their collaboration, the Council felt that both students committed a violation.

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

Yes: 6 + 1  
 No: 0  
 Abstentions: 0

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

Yes: 6 + 1  
 No: 0  
 Abstentions: 0

**Penalty Deliberations:**

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. The Council members debated whether a part of the assignment potentially was not in violation. Some members also felt that because the accused students believed that the alternative resolution penalty was going to be a 2-letter grade reduction that this should be considered. Other members felt that a 1-letter grade reduction was too harsh given the extremely small weight of their assignment.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a 1 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:	0
Letter of Reprimand	4 + 1
Abstentions:	2

Vote #5: What is the appropriate penalty for Student B?

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:	0
Letter of Reprimand	4 + 1
Abstentions:	2

**Decision:**

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that they receive a letter of reprimand.

The Honor Council thus finds Student B “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that they receive a letter of reprimand.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Respectfully submitted,  
Isabelle Reynolds  
Clerk