

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 20, Spring 2023
02/20/2023

Members Present:

Pedro Ribeiro (presiding), Kamal Tijani (clerk), Dean Toumajian, Abrar Mamun, Izzi Reynolds, William Wang

Ombuds: Henry Cassidy

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of 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
- Syllabus
- Student A's Test answers
- Student B's Test Answers

Plea:

Student A pled "In Violation."

Testimony:

The student gave no opening statement, but after questioning, admitted to having collaborated with Student B on a large majority of the exam.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the Student admitted to the violation.

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. Due to the Student's own admission, the Council believed that the Student did commit the violation.

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

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. Members considered whether the student’s openness about the accusation was sufficient to be considered substantial disclosure. However, in accordance to Council norm, Council members found that the disclosure did not count as “substantial” because it did not bring in any new information to the Council.

The assignment weight fell on the boarder of an F in the Course and an F and 1 semester suspension. Council members discussed this penalty distinction and ultimately decided to use an F in the Course as the baseline penalty.

Council members then discussed aggravating factors. The student had a prior violation, so the Council deliberated on how much to aggravate. Council members’ opinion were split between F in the course and 1 semester suspension (F+1) or F in the course and 2 semester suspension (F+2). The opinion of the F + 1 camp hinged on the cooperation of the students and the difference of aggravating between letter grades and semesters of suspension. While the cooperation was not sufficient for mitigation, Council members pondered whether it could serve as a reason for a lower level of aggravation (which is not strictly speaking mitigating the penalty).

The F + 2 camp argued that it has been Council precedent to aggravate 2 penalties levels, and there was no reason to break from custom.

Ultimately, Council members believed that a 1 semester of suspension was sufficient to convey the seriousness of the violation.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is an F course.

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:	1
F in the course and 1 semester of suspension:	5
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 they receive an F in the course and 1 semester suspension.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Kamal Tijani
Clerk