

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 6, Spring 2023
13 February 2023

Members Present:

Max Slotnik (presiding), Isabelle Reynolds (clerk), Zach Zelman, Olivia Thom, Adrian Almy, Neha Kohli

Ombuds: Thelo Lewis

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and Student B of unauthorized collaboration for a lower level PSYCH course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Homework Letter of Accusations
- Student A's written statement
- Student B's written statement
- Class Syllabus
- Homework Random Samples
- Student A's Homework Submissions
- Student B's Homework Submissions
- Student A's Homework code
- Student B's Homework code
- Homework submission comparison
- Student Submitted Syllabus with highlighted sections
- Homework Assignment Canvas Screenshot
- Screenshots of the computer program download instructions

Plea:

Student A pled "Not in Violation."

Student B pled "Not in Violation."

Testimony:

Student A claimed that the program needed for the assignments was not available for their iPad and so they collaborated with Student B in order to use the program needed on Student B's computer. They claimed that they had not read the syllabus to know that collaboration was not allowed. Student A essentially said that because they did not know they were committing a violation, they should not be found in violation.

Student B claimed that the students had worked together on the assignments using the same computer to run the code and a separate iPad to write up the assignments together. Student B says that they work in class on assignments using the same program as used for

the homeworks, and in class the assignments were collaborative. Student B reiterated that labs are typically a collaborative class and they did not know that this one was not.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because based on the matriculation pledge, a plea of ignorance is not allowed.

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. Because Student A collaborated with and submitted the same document as Student B, Student A is in violation.

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

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student B committed the violation. Because Student B collaborated with and submitted the same document as Student A, Student B is in violation.

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

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. The Council discussed that a mitigating factor might be necessary as there was an ambiguity between the nature of what collaboration was allowed based on class environment and syllabus.

The CPS penalty for this case for both students, 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:	2
Letter of Reprimand	4
Abstentions:	0

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:	2
Letter of Reprimand	4
Abstentions:	0

Council members then discussed aggravating the penalty for Student B due to a prior violation. It is a harmful environment for students not to learn from prior violations especially of a similar nature, so they are typically aggravated to higher penalties.

Vote #6: What is the appropriate, final, 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:	5
Letter of Reprimand	1
Abstentions:	0

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 1 letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour 45 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Isabelle Reynolds

Clerk