

**Abstract of the Honor Council**  
**Case 29, Spring 2023**  
**April 7, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Andrew Barber (presiding), Jae Kim (clerk), Kamal Tijani, Rodolfo Gutierrez-Garcia, Neha Kohli, Anne Rubsamen, Kabir Borle (observing)

**Ombuds:** Sharlie Wu

**Letter of Accusation:**

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of incorrect citations for an upper-level BIOE course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

**Evidence Submitted:**

- Letter of Accusation
- Course Syllabus
- Student A written statement
- Course Textbook 1 PDF
- Course Textbook 2 PDF
- Student A Homework 1 Submission
- Student A Homework 3 Submission
- Homework 1 Assignment
- Homework 2 Assignment
- Homework 4 Assignment

**Plea:**

Student A pled “Not in Violation.”

**Testimony:**

Student A opened by saying the instructions on the homework assignment were not clear on to what degree the textbook should/could be referenced—Student A mentioned that many of her peers in the class also had difficulty interpreting the assignment guidelines. Student A also brought up that the instructor had not flagged instances in previous homework assignments where she pulled directly from the textbook.

**Verdict Deliberations:**

Although council members agreed that the assignment guidelines were not clear on to what extent the student was allowed to reference the textbook, the council members were not able to reach a unanimous agreement on whether the student’s misinterpretation of the professor’s instructions constituted a violation. The split decision came down to a disagreement in roles of both student and professors, as the members who voted “not

violation occurred” believed that the spirit of the assignment did not require a proper American Medical Association citation per the syllabus. Furthermore, they felt that the better approach to this assignment was for the professor to heavily reduce the grade since the assignment was completed incorrectly.

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

Yes: 4

No: 2 (+1)

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,

Jae Kim

Clerk