

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 39, Spring 2023
April 20 2023

Members Present:

Pedro Ribeiro (presiding), Isabelle Reynolds (clerk), Jay Messina, Naidhruv Ananth Iyer, Kabir Borle, Rodolfo Gutierrez-Garcia, Olivia Thom (observing)

Ombuds: Nevaeh Hicks

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of using Chat GPT for a upper level MUSI course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Course Syllabus
- Student's essay
- Project assignment
- Document Edit History

Plea:

Student A pled "Not in Violation."

Testimony:

The student discussed how they did use Chat GPT to write the assignment. They stated that the campus-wide email discussing the use of AI policies did not get sent out until the day after their assignment was due and therefore they were unaware of how to use AI in their work.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the syllabus honor code did clarify that all written work in the class must be the students own work and any ideas or information from other sources must be cited. Additionally, the amendment to the plagiarism policy was passed in February and the honor council does not accept a plea of ignorance. Because the student did not write the assignment in their own words and admitted to using Chat GPT, the council believes this is a violation of the honor code.

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 committed the violation. Because the student did admit to using Chat GPT the council does believe a violation occurred.

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

Yes: 6 + 1

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. The council did not find any mitigating circumstances.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a 3-letter grade reduction.

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: 0

F in the course and 1 semester of suspension: 0

F in the course: 0

3 letter grade reduction: 6 + 1

2 letter grade reduction: 0

1 letter grade reduction: 0

Letter of Reprimand 0

Abstentions: 0

The CPS severity starts at a baseline of severity level 2.

Due to the student having a prior violation, custom is to aggravate the penalty therefore making the penalty a suspension.

Vote #4: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A?

Expulsion: 0

Suspension: 6 + 1

Reprimand: 0

Warning: 0

Abstentions: 0

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

2 Semester suspension: 0

1 Semester suspension: 6 + 1

Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that they receive a 3 letter grade reduction in the course and a suspension.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour 12 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Isabelle Reynolds
Clerk