

**Abstract of the Honor Council**  
**Case 11-2, Fall 2023**  
**01/10/2024**

**Members Present:**

Kamal Tijani (presiding), Olivia Thom(clerk), Rachel Kilgard, Caroline Snider, Rodolfo Gutierrez-Garcia, Zach Zelman, Helena Song (observing)

**Ombuds:** Ammar Siddiqi

**Letter of Accusation:**

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of unauthorized access to materials during an exam for a lower-level ECON course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

**Evidence Submitted:**

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Course Syllabus
- Canvas page access report
- Text messages between Accuser and Student During Exam
- Exam Key
- Class Materials with answers (three problem sets)
- Student A's Exam
- Clarifications on how the Exam was administered for Student A

**Plea:**

Student A pled "not in violation."

**Testimony:**

Student A testified that they had a fairly serious health concern the weekend before the exam and communicated to the professor that they could not adequately prepare for the exam. Student A was required to still take the exam later that week even though they were under the impression that the condition was severe enough to postpone after receiving medical care and were still experiencing symptoms. Student A accessed the class materials right before the exam in an attempt to last-minute study, accessing on both a laptop and mobile device and likely not closing out tabs. Student A was instructed by the professor to take the exam in a separate room and text the professor to utilize the restroom when needed. Furthermore, Student A was given individual test questions at a time by the professor. Student A left the room two times with the permission of the professor to use the restroom and testified that they were not in good health when doing so and did not access any materials. Student A emphasized their good performance on the other exams in this course and strict adherence and respect for the Honor Code.

**Verdict Deliberations:**

Council members believed the evidence presented was not sufficient to conclude a fair verdict. The Council preliminarily discussed the irregular testing situation that Student A was subject to. The Council noted that Student A's Canvas access logs did show activity during the restroom breaks, but ultimately declined against the sole reliance of Canvas timestamps as evidence to a violation following procedural precedent. Some Council members felt a violation most likely did occur given the combined stressful situation with the Canvas timestamps. However, this did not meet the preponderance of evidence standard and the Council did not have access to sufficient evidence such as internet logs. Therefore, all council members chose to abstain from a decision due to the sole evidence being that of Canvas timestamps.

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

Yes: 0

No: 0

Abstentions: 6 +1

**Decision:**

The Honor Council thus finds Student A "Not in Violation" of the Honor Code.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour and 18 minutes

Respectfully submitted,  
Olivia Thom  
Clerk