

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 11-1, Spring 2024
02/12/2024

Members Present:

James Cheng (presiding), Kabir Borle (clerk), Pedro Magarao Ribeiro, Helena Song, Gerald Lu, Naidhrav Ananth Iyer

Ombuds: Nevaeh Hicks

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of accessing Canvas during a test 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
- Notes that were taken by the student
- Course problem sets
- Students exam 1, 2 and 3
- Correspondence between the OIT and honor council
- OIT canvas access report

Plea:

Student A pled "Not In Violation."

Testimony:

Student A began their testimony by explaining that their Canvas activity logs, which appeared to show unauthorized activity during their exam, could be attributed to having Canvas open on multiple devices at their off-campus residence before the exam started. They suggested that intermittent Wi-Fi connectivity issues might have caused these devices to inadvertently ping Canvas during the exam time. Student A also argued that Canvas logs should not be considered conclusive evidence of misconduct, referencing the Office of Information Technology's (OIT) stance on the potential inaccuracies of Canvas' activity logs. Student A further noted their consistent participation in exam reviews and the similarity of their exam performance to past results. Student A ended by reiterating the OIT's stance about the reliability of Canvas logs, emphasized that they did not possess any unauthorized devices during the exam, and affirmed their personal completion of the exam based on their lecture attendance and study efforts.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that the evidence presented was not conclusive of a violation occurring. Council members talked about how Canvas logs are often inaccurate, and how the Office of Information and Technology's access logs reporting the students' connectivity to Canvas suggested that a computer was accessing canvas, and not the student's phone. The council deemed it unlikely that the student would be accessing a computer during their test, and thus most of the council decided to vote "Not in Violation". A small number voted to abstain due to not being completely confident evidence presented had reached the preponderance standard.

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

Yes: 0
No: 4
Abstentions: 2

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,
Kabir Borle
Clerk