

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 20, Fall 2012
January 27, 2013

Members Present:

Trey Burns (presiding), Mitch Massey (clerk), Sam Kwiatkowski, Adriana Bracho, Michael Jin, Nick Uhm, David Kim, Ibrahim Akbar, Abhinav Tiwari

Ombuds: Jacquelyn Pass

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and Student B of unauthorized collaboration on multiple quizzes for a lower level Engineering course.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's Written Statement
- Student B's Written Statement
- Course Syllabus

Plea:

Student A pled "In Violation."

Student B pled "In Violation."

Testimony:

Student A stated that she and B collaborated on two online quizzes; as they were assigned, Student B would complete them; after receiving immediate feedback on the answers she would then help Student A with her quiz.

Student B stated that the quizzes were difficult and that she had heard of similar collaborations. Student B said she assisted Student A twice by giving her correct answers on quizzes and explaining the material. She stated that she only ever collaborated with Student A.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members agreed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that violation occurred because both students readily admitted to collaboration on the quizzes, which was explicitly prohibited by the course Honor Code.

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

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student A committed a violation. Members agreed that Student A's testimony showed that she committed a violation because she admitted to getting help from Student B on the quizzes.

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

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student B committed the violation. Members agreed that Student B's testimony showed that she committed a violation because she admitted to helping Student A on the quizzes.

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

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances for in the case. Council members stated that the high degree of cooperation shown by both students warranted significant mitigation. Members also stated that they would mitigate for the weight of the quizzes in question, as they did not comprise a significant portion of the overall course grade.

Members saw no reason to aggravate the penalties in this case.

Vote: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A?

3 letter grade reduction: 0

2 letter grade reduction: 0

1 letter grade reduction: 0

2/3 letter grade reduction: 0

1/3 letter grade reduction: 9

Letter of Reprimand: 0

Abstentions: 0

Vote: What is the appropriate penalty for Student B?

3 letter grade reduction: 0

2 letter grade reduction: 0

1 letter grade reduction: 0

2/3 letter grade reduction: 0

1/3 letter grade reduction: 9

Letter of Reprimand: 0

Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that she receive a one-third letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to her record.

The Honor Council also finds Student B “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that she receive a one-third letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to her record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 40 Minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Massey
Clerk