

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 23, Spring 2014
2/16/14

Members Present:

Isabella Lelogeais (presiding), Hurst Williamson (clerk), Seth Lauer, Clinton Willbanks, Brooke Evans, Komal Agarwal, John Cavallo, Shayak Sengupta, Mitch Massey

Ombuds: Jayme Smith

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A and Student B of unauthorized collaboration for an upper level CAAM course.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student B's written statement
- Course Syllabus
- Exam Instructions
- Student A Exam
- Student B Exam
- Expert Deposition
- Professor Deposition
- Witness Depositions

Plea:

Student A pled "Not in Violation."

Student B pled "Not in Violation."

Testimony:

In his opening statement Student A said that he did not copy Student B's exam, and that he completed the exam for the course independently. Student A said that he turned the exam in to the professor's mailbox the Monday after completing it, since Duncan Hall was locked over the weekend. Student A said that he did not remember exactly when he completed the exam, but that it was very early in the finals period. Student A said that he and Student B were in the same O-Week group, but that they had had very little contact since then.

In his opening statement Student B said that if you study material and learn material in a certain way, you are bound to have similar answers. Student B stressed that he did not complete any school work with Student A and that Student B and Student A do not know each other well at all. Student B referred to the witness deposition he had asked for, whereby his friend stated that Student B had asked him to turn in his exam to the professor's mailbox as Student B was headed out of town. Student B did not agree with

the expert deposition that claimed that it was unique that the two students' exams were similar, restating that if you learn the material the same, you will likely get similar answers.

In his closing statement Student A said that he completed the exam on his own and that he did not give or receive any aid to Student B.

In his closing statement Student B said that he did poorly in this course, but did not violate the Honor Code.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members did not believe that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because without a copy of the entire exam, there was no way to verify the professor's beliefs about what happened. The Council discussed if it should postpone the case until the exam could be obtained, but the majority of the Council felt that, given the time gap between the course and the hearing, it would not be productive to have the students walk through a blank exam copy.

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

Yes: 2

No: 7

Abstentions: 0

Decision:

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

The Honor Council thus finds Student B "Not In Violation" of the Honor Code.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 00:50:00

Respectfully submitted,
Hurst Williamson
Clerk