

**Abstract of the Honor Council**  
**Case 52-b, Spring 2015**  
**4/21/16**

**Members Present:**

Katie Jenson (presiding), Natalie Swanson (clerk), Sofia Yi, Matt Roorda, Dessy Akinfenwa, Ike Arjmand, Owais Syed, Angel Garces, Jake Reinhart

**Ombuds:** Kenton Whitmire (Colin Losey observing)

**Letter of Accusation:**

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student B of copying a lab report for a lower level Chemistry course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

**Evidence Submitted:**

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student B's written statement
- Attendance Sheet
- Email Exchange between Student A and Student B
- Syllabus
- Student A Report
- Student B Report
- Report Comparison

**Plea:**

Student B pled "In violation."

**Testimony:**

Student B stated that she did not attend the lab and did use another student's data. She said that the analysis was completed by herself. She failed to contact the professor. Student A lent Student B her data for comparison, and Student B took Student A's data without Student B's knowledge.

Student B concluded by saying that she had overlooked the syllabus' honor code statement and the professor's recommendations, and subsequently made a lapse in judgment by taking another student's work.

**Verdict Deliberations:**

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because evidence and testimony clearly supported that a violation had occurred.

Vote #1: 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 the violation.

Vote #2: 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. Council members saw no reason to mitigate or aggravate.

Council members determined that the assignment was worth approximately 4% of the overall course grade, and based on that percentage opted unanimously for a two letter grade reduction due to the egregious nature of the violation. Student B gained an unfair advantage over her classmates in a way that directly violated the honor code policy of the class.

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: 0

2 letter grade reduction: 9

1 letter grade reduction: 0

2/3 letter grade reduction: 0

1/3 letter grade reduction: 0

Letter of Reprimand: 0

Abstentions: 0

**Decision:**

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

Time of testimony and deliberations: 45 minutes

Respectfully submitted,  
Natalie Swanson  
Clerk