

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 15, Fall 2015
April 14, 2016

Members Present:

Alex Metcalf (procedural), Reece Rosenthal (clerk), Ellen Diemart, Hector Chaires, Allie Salter, Sara Meadow, Ike Arjmand, Haihao Liu, Sofia Yi, Joanna Kim,

Ombuds: Natalie Danckers

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarizing for a Lower level Philosophy course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Essay Topics
- Student Essay (and comments)
- Prof and TA Statement
- Syllabus
- Student Transcript
- Two Sources Articles

Plea:

Student A pled "Not In Violation"

Testimony:

Student claimed that, while the two sources may seem similar, he had never engaged in any plagiarism. The student discussed inconsistencies in the professor and TA statement in regard to what specifically was taught. In addition, the accused student commented that the similarities between the current class and a previous class were quite similar; hence why the notes would be similar. The student showed his notes; in addition, the student submitted a folder of sources that contain similar looking sentences, arguing the point that these are common topics that will be written about.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the source and the essay sentence structure were similar beyond a degree to which the similarities could be attributed to chance.

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. The council saw no reason otherwise

Vote 2: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student A is “In Violation?”

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. Some councilmembers thought it necessary to mitigate for amount of assignment in violation, due to the fact that only a small number of lines were in question.

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: 9

2 letter grade reduction: 0

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 A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that he receive a three letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to his record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 45 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Reece Rosenthal
Clerk