

**Abstract of the Honor Council**  
**Case 17, Fall 2015**  
**November 12, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Reese Rosenthal (presiding), Stefano Romano (clerk), Emily Wu, Haihao Liu, Kevin Zhang, Ryan Carlson, Allen Hu, Peter Rizzi, Angel Garces

**Ombuds:** Aaron Shaw

**Letter of Accusation:**

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarism for a lower level biochemistry course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

**Evidence Submitted:**

- Letter of Accusation
- Discussion session instructions
- Course syllabus
- Literature paper instructions
- Related online scholarly articles
- Professor clarification
- Student A's literary paper
- Student A's written summary
- Handbook for discussion groups

**Plea:**

Student A pled "not in violation."

**Testimony:**

Student A stated that the assignments in question took place a long time ago, and that he was not able to remember all of the details pertaining to the assignments. The student also stated that only a small portion of the assignments in question had similarities to the scholarly articles cited in the letter of accusation.

**Verdict Deliberations:**

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because wording in portions of the assignments in question drew significantly from online scholarly articles.

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 found no reason to believe that Student A did not commit the violation.

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. Council members discussed mitigating for the weight of the assignments in the course. Council members did not find any aggravating circumstances. Given the weight of the assignments in question, council members found that a one letter grade reduction would be appropriate.

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: 0  
 1 letter grade reduction: 9  
 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 1 letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to his record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 20 minutes

Respectfully submitted,  
 Stefano Romano  
 Clerk