

**Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 2, Fall 2015
November 1, 2015**

Members Present:

Alex Metcalf (presiding), Destiney Randolph (clerk), Billy Rothwell, Sara Meadow, Isabel Alison, Bradley Hamilton, Natalie Sawnson, Owais Syed, Meghanna Pannala

Ombuds: Katie Jenson

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarism on a game-creation assignment for a Graduate level Computer Science course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Syllabus for COMP 531
- Student code
- Online source code
- Assignment description
- Student assignment

Plea:

Student A pled "In violation."

Testimony:

The student outlined the description of the assignment. According to the student, the professor wanted the class to create a game similar to tic-tac-toe, but with some variations. The student said that she did not fully understand the requirements of the assignment, but still knows that using the code from the online source was against the Honor Code.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the student admitted as much, and the evidence very clearly showed that sections of the student's code was the same as the online source.

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. There was no reason to think otherwise, considering the student's testimony and the evidence.

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 and aggravating circumstances. Members unanimously decided that there were no mitigating or aggravating factors.

Several members made their decision on the logic that the assignment was worth 6% of the class grade, and adding a punitive measure makes it a higher deduction. There was some disagreement over whether the punitive measure should make the overall deduction 1 letter grade or 2. At the conclusion of the discussion, the majority of the Council agreed that a 2 letter grade reduction was most appropriate.

Vote #4: 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: 8

1 letter grade reduction: 1

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 she receive a two letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to her record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 18 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Destiney Randolph
Clerk