

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 19, Fall 2015
April 5, 2016

Members Present:

Alex Metcalf (presiding), Katie Jensen (clerk), Ellen Diemert, Hector Chaires, Angel Garces, Sofia Yi, Kevin Zhang, Ike Arjmand, Joanne Kim

Ombuds: Sophie Schnietz

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of altering multiple exams in order to receive regrade points for an upper level BIOC course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Course syllabus
- Exam 3
- Exam 4
- Professor clarifications
- Exam 4 regrade request
- TA grading instructions

Plea:

Student A pled "In Violation."

Testimony:

Student A admitted to going back and changing his answers on Exam 3 and Exam 4 before submitting the exams for regrades.

Student A said that the suspicion of changing Exam 1 was due to TA error.

Student A acknowledged that he had read the honor code and knew he was committing an Honor Code violation.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the student pled "In Violation" and acknowledged that he violated the Honor Code.

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.

Student A committed the violation by changing the tests before submitting them for regrades.

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. No mitigating factors were considered.

The Council considered the violation to be especially damaging to the academic environment at Rice by violating the trust professors place in students when allowing regrades.

Additionally, the violation encompassed a significant portion of the class, and the exams in question had a heavy contribution to the course grade.

Vote #3: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A?

F in the course and 3 semesters of suspension:	1
F in the course and 2 semesters of suspension:	8
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:	0
2/3 letter grade reduction	0
1/3 letter grade reduction	0
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

Council members deliberated between two and three semesters of suspension, but ultimately decided that a penalty of two semesters of suspension best served to reflect the severity of the violation.

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that he receive an F in the course and 2 semesters of suspension. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to his record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 25 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Jensen
Clerk