

**Abstract of the Honor Council**  
**Case 46, Spring 2016**  
**4/24/16**

**Members Present:**

Katie Jensen (presiding), Natalie Swanson (clerk), Sofia Yi, Joanne Kim, Emily Wu, Ike Arjmand

**Ombuds:** Matt Nobles

**Letter of Accusation:**

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of using unauthorized aid on an exam for a lower level math course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

**Evidence Submitted:**

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Syllabus
- Student A's Exam

**Plea:**

Student A pled "in violation."

**Testimony:**

Student A stated that she did use her calculator during the examination but did not realize that it was a violation. Another nearby student also had her calculator out next to her. Student A noted that she did not receive significant aid by using the calculator.

**Verdict Deliberations:**

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the exam explicitly stated calculators were not permissible. Given her written statement, a violation did occur.

Vote #1: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that a violation occurred?

Yes: 6  
 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 A is "In Violation?"

Yes: 6  
 No: 0  
 Abstentions: 0

**Penalty Deliberations:**

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. They mitigated for cooperation given that her admission allowed council members to come to a verdict in a case that they might otherwise have dropped. Some disagreed, thinking that they could have come to the same conclusion with more witness testimony.

In penalty deliberations, all council member penalties ranged from a 3 letter grade reduction to a 1 letter grade reduction. Often, they started at an F in the course given that the midterm was 27% for Student A's grade, but heavily mitigated for cooperation to arrive at their penalty.

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:	6
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 she receive a 2 letter grade reduction. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to her record.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 20 minutes

Respectfully submitted,  
Natalie Swanson  
Clerk