

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 62, Spring 2016
June 11, 2016

Members Present:

Katie Jensen (presiding), Reece Rosenthal (clerk), Dessy Akinfenwa, Allie Salter, Sara Meadow, Angel Garces

Ombuds: Kenton Whitmire

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of hiring external help for a graduate level economics course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Syllabus
- Snapshots of For-Hire Page/Uploaded Assignment
- Professor Clarification
- Assignment Details

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student A stated that there was no evidence connecting them to cheating. Student A stated that while they did study on the internet, she never interacted with anything that gave full disclosure on the internet. She stated that online tutors never gave her the answers.

Student A stated that group work was allowed; the professor did not say that group work was limited to classmates. Student A stated that there were no emails sent and that they never found anyone to help them.

Student A stated that there were no answers on the page. She got no help from freelancer. She stated that the fact that the page says "cancelled" showed that the posting was finished and unsuccessful.

She and a friend spoke about the assignment's website location. She emailed the TA and received assistance. The student stated that she received help from a friend, which was allowed.

Student A concluded by reiterating that she only received help from her friend, not online sources. The student indicated that there was no connection between the answers they provided and cheating.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the evidence was not sufficient to link the student's assignment with the contracted website, and that in addition the student stated that they cancelled the assignment before receiving help.

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

Yes: 3

No: 3

Abstentions: 0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A "Not In Violation" of the Honor Code.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Reece Rosenthal

Clerk