

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 9, Fall 2016
January 18, 2017

Members Present:

Katie Jensen (presiding), Stefano Romano (clerk), Reece Rosenthal, Ryan Carlson, Ellen Diemert, Allen Hu

Ombuds: Laura Li

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Students A and B of unauthorized aid on an examination for a lower level biochemistry course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A and B's written statement
- Selected sample tests
- Course syllabus
- Student A and B's exams
- Clarification with regard to the exam's weight in the class

Plea:

Student A pled "in violation."

Student B pled "in violation."

Testimony:

Student A stated that the exam was taken partially in-class and had a take-home component as well. Student A stated that he worked on the exam with Student B on the take-home portion, knowing that he was going to drop the class soon.

Student B stated that going into the exam, he decided to drop the class after taking the midterm. Student B went on to state that he did collaborate with Student A on the entire exam.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because both students admitted to committing a violation and the two exams were exceedingly similar as well.

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 Students A and B committed the violation. The Council saw no reason otherwise.

Vote #2: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student A is “In Violation?”

Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

Vote #3: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student B is “In Violation?”

Yes: 6
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

Penalty Deliberations:

Council members opened by discussing mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The Council saw no reason to mitigate or aggravate. Following the Consensus Penalty Structure, with the exam being worth 20%, the Council decided on a penalty of an F in the course.

Vote #4: What is the appropriate penalty for Students A and B?

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: 6
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

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds both Student A and Student B “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that they receive an F in the course. A Prior Violation Flag is also attached to their records.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 30 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Stefano Romano
Clerk