

Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 30, Fall 2019
11/15/2019

Members Present:

Amy Lin (presiding), Saniya Gayake (clerk), Adam Zawierucha, Angela Liu, Sean Olsen, Sree Yeluri

Ombuds: Laura Li

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarizing an online source for a lower level BIOC course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Professor clarification
- Course syllabus
- Assignment description
- Online screenshot

Plea:

Student A pled "in violation."

Testimony:

Student A agreed with the letter of accusation, stating that she did copy the online source for her homework and submitted it as her own work.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the testimony and material evidence indicated that a violation had occurred.

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. The Council found no reason to not believe that 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. No mitigating or aggravating factors were identified at this time.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is a 1 letter grade reduction.

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
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

The Council originally found that a 1 letter grade reduction was appropriate as per the Consensus Penalty Structure. However, it was then revealed that the student had previously been found in violation of the Rice Honor Code, so the Council decided to aggravate to a 2 letter grade reduction.

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that she receive a 2 letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 18 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Saniya Gayake
Clerk