

Abstract of the Honor Council**Case #47-23, Spring 2020****June 25, 2020****Members Present:**

Ricky Robinson (presiding), Caroline Brehm (clerk), Christopher Bi, Sree Yeluri, Isabelle Reynolds, and Clyde Xu

Ombuds: Oeishi Banerjee

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of accessing unauthorized materials during a final exam for a lower level ECON course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student A's Canvas log
- Course syllabus
- Final exam
- Final exam Canvas instructions
- Final exam Canvas page
- Student A's Internet browser history
- Student A's computer's download folder
- Student A's computer's recycling bin
- List of URL's of relevant Canvas pages
- Random sample of students' Canvas logs
- OIT Clarification on Canvas log accuracy
- Professor Clarification of Accusation Letter

Plea:

Student A pled "not in violation."

Testimony:

Student A opened by saying that he did not violate the Honor Code, and he had no reason to cheat. The student said that on the day of the exam, he simply downloaded the exam, took it, then submitted his exam on Canvas. He said he did not access any course materials during the exam. The student then provided the Council with his browser history, which said that Student A did not access any files during the exam period.

Student A then went on to explain that the Canvas logs provided by the professor were inaccurate. To support his explanation, Student A pointed out several time stamps where there were discrepancies between Canvas logs and his computer records. Student A showed that while Canvas says he accessed materials at a certain time, his browser history, downloads folder, and recycling bin showed that he did not access those materials at that time. Student A stated that since Canvas records were not always accurate, he should not be found in violation based on Canvas evidence. He concluded by stating that he did not access unauthorized materials and that the Canvas logs were inaccurate due to Canvas's pattern of making errors.

Verdict Deliberations:

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because the evidence demonstrated that the student accessed unauthorized materials during the exam time. Based on the clarification provided by Rice's Office of Information Technology on the accuracy of Canvas logs, the Council determined that the Canvas log was an accurate record of Student A's activity on Canvas during the exam. The Honor Council members agreed that the evidence provided by Canvas definitively showed that the student accessed course files in the time between when he opened the exam and when he submitted the exam, which constituted a violation.

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 determined that Student A committed a 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. The Council found no mitigating factors. Council members briefly discussed possible aggravating factors. Some members discussed whether or not Student A intended to deceive the Council by providing evidence inconsistent with the Canvas log. Council members ultimately agreed that there was not sufficient proof that Student A attempted to deceive the Council.

The CPS penalty for this case, based on the weight of the assignment, is an F in the course and 2 semesters of suspension.

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

F in the course and 2 semesters of suspension:	6
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
Letter of Reprimand	0
Abstentions:	0

Decision:

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that he receive a F in the course and 2 semesters of suspension.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 1 hour and 5 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Brehm
Clerk