

W. Christopher
Schwartz
Chair

Halee Smith
Vice Chair



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

School of Law
Honor Council

Garrett Reinhart
Parliamentarian

Mary Stewart
DeLong
Secretary

To: Faculty & Students of the University of South Carolina School of Law
From: W. Christopher Schwartz, Chair of the Honor Council
Date: March 1, 2023
Re: Honor Code Violations & Sanctions for Academic Year 2022-2023

The following is a summary of the Honor Code violation cases adjudicated during the 2022-2023 Academic Year: *

Student X admitted to violating the professor's instructions regarding student communication during a mid-term examination. The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs determined that this conduct constituted a potential violation, pursuant to Section C.3.2 of the Honor Code and Disciplinary Procedures. The violation proceeded to a Sanctions Hearing. H.C. § C.8.4.c. The Hearing Panel heard evidence presented by the Investigator and Student X. Upon conclusion of the Sanctions Hearing, the Hearing Panel considered mitigating evidence including Student X's voluntary submission of a Letter of Admission, their cooperation during the Investigation, their expressions of remorse and contrition during the Hearing Panel, and the appearance that Student X's actions did not constitute a "substantial portion of the grade" in this course. H.C. § C.8.4.b.1.ii.A & B; H.C. § C.9.2.b. Considering the evidence and mitigating factors, the Hearing Panel concluded that Student X would be sanctioned under Honor Code Subsection 9.1.d with a letter of reprimand, which shall be maintained in the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity and the School of Law Registrar's Office.

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THESE DETERMINATIONS ARE FOR PUBLIC REFERENCE ONLY AND HOLD NO PRECEDENTIAL VALUE

*The above summary does not include pending investigations or hearings nor does it include those resulting in a dismissal or a finding of no violation.

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Students Y and Z were involved in an intertwined Honor Code investigation. While sharing the same facts, the Students' disposition differs due to their conduct herein described:

Both Students Y and Z were enrolled in the same course. In the course syllabus, specific instructions restrict students from sharing hard or electronic versions of written work (including preliminary outlines) with others in the course. Feeling that they were falling behind in the course, Student Z requested electronic access to Student Y's project outline. Student Z then copied Student Y's introduction and facts section, while adding their own analysis to the remainder of the project. When Student Y noticed unusual activity on the document they had shared, they revoked Student Z's electronic access. When notified by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs that their actions constituted potential violations, pursuant to Section C.3.2, Student Y proceeded to a Violation Hearing and Student Z admitted to violating the Honor Code.

The Hearing Panel heard evidence presented by the Investigator and Student Y, and upon conclusion of evidence determined that Student Y had violated § B.2.2 by "giving . . . unauthorized assistance in the completion of any academic coursework. . . ." Student Y then proceeded to a Sanctions Hearing where the Hearing Panel considered mitigating and aggravating evidence. § C.8.4.b.1. The Hearing Panel considered mitigating evidence including, (1) the fact that the impact of the assistance given did not constitute a "substantial portion of the grade," (2) the fact that Student Y revoked Student Z's access when they became suspicious, and (3) Student Y's candor and cooperation during the investigation, and their apology and expression of contrition before the Hearing Panel. § C.8.4.b.1.(A)–(C); § C.9.2.b. Considering the evidence and mitigating factors, the Hearing Panel concluded that Student Y would be sanctioned under Honor Code Subsection 9.1.e with an oral reprimand in the presence of the Hearing Panel, a record of which shall be maintained in the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity and the School of Law Registrar's Office.

Student Z's Letter of Admission admitted and apologized for violating H.C. § C.2.2. Student Z's case proceeded directly to a Sanctions Hearing. § C.5.3. During the Sanctions Hearing, the Hearing Panel considered mitigating and aggravating factors, including (1) Student Z's voluntary written Letter of Admission, (2) their cooperation during the investigation, (3) their expression of contrition and apology in front of the Hearing Panel, and (4) the fact that this Violation did not impact "a substantial portion of the grade." § C.8.4.b.1.(A)–(C); § C.9.2.b. Considering the evidence and mitigating factors, the Hearing Panel concluded that Student Z would be sanctioned under Honor Code Subsection 9.1.d with a letter of reprimand, which shall be maintained in the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity and the School of Law Registrar's Office.

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