

September 18, 2006

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students:

The Honor and Discipline Committee reports to the College each year about the nature of the cases it has heard, the judgments it has made, and the penalties it has determined. This report covers the meetings of the Committee that reviewed cases that occurred during the 2005-2006 school year. Following this report is a report on disciplinary activity in the Dean's Office.

Report of the Honor Committee

The Committee heard eight cases during the 2005-2006 school year.

1. A sophomore was accused of copying from another student during a take-home exam. Upon hearing the evidence, the Committee concluded that copying did not occur, and found the student innocent of any Honor Code infraction.
2. A junior was accused of violating the Honor Code during a take-home exam, a charge that the student steadfastly denied. The facts of the case, and the material in question, were unusually complex and were subject to multiple interpretations. The Committee's deliberation of the case was difficult and lengthy, and resulted in a majority of the Committee finding the student guilty, but the required three-quarters majority was not reached. Therefore, a determination of guilt or innocence was not made and the case was dismissed.
3. A sophomore was accused of copying another student's work and presenting it as their own. The student admitted to the charge and took full responsibility for their actions. The student discussed with the Committee various aspects of their personal life that contributed to this poor decision. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course. Given the student's personal circumstances, the Committee did not impose a disciplinary sanction.
4. A sophomore was accused of inappropriately using material obtained from the Internet to answer questions from a take-home exam. The student presented evidence that demonstrated their level of understanding of the material was sufficient as to allow the level of sophistication that concerned the Professor. The Committee found the student innocent of an Honor Code violation.
5. A first-year student was accused of copying from another student's exam. The student admitted to the charge, and took full responsibility for their actions. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course and a Letter of Warning.
6. Two first-year students were accused of inappropriate collaboration in a take-home exam. Upon hearing the evidence, it became clear that student A had obtained student B's exam without their knowledge, and attempted to alter the work so that it appeared unique. The Committee was

disturbed by many aspects of the case: stealing another's work, the nature of the attempted deception, and the indifferent manner demonstrated by student A. The Committee found student A guilty and imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation for the remainder of their time at Williams. It is important to note that a term of Disciplinary Suspension was considered. The Committee found student B innocent of any Honor Code infraction.

7. A student at the Center of Development Economics was accused of plagiarism in a research paper. Upon examining the evidence, the Committee found the student was guilty of an Honor Code violation. The Committee imposed the sanction of failure in the course.
8. **A senior was accused of improperly citing materials in a research paper. Upon examining the evidence, the Committee found that proper attribution was present in the paper, but the form and structure of that attribution was improper and very confusing. The Committee concluded that while the student was not attempting to deceive the professor or purposefully violate the Honor Code, a violation did occur and the student was found guilty. Given the nature of the evidence, and the student's straightforward and sincere testimony, the Committee imposed failure in the assignment.**

Report of the Discipline Committee

The Discipline Committee consists of all members of the Honor Committee plus four additional members of the faculty. All members of the Committee vote. The Discipline Committee heard no appeals during the 2005-2006 year.



Respectfully submitted

2005-2006 Honor-Discipline Committee:

Professor Jay Thoman, Faculty Chair '05-06
Andrew Eyre '06, Student Chair
Nancy A. Roseman, Dean of the College

Dean's Office Action

During the 2005-2006 school year the following disciplinary actions were taken by the Dean's Office:

1. Three sophomores were suspended for selling drugs on campus.
2. Two juniors were placed on disciplinary probation for fighting.
3. One first-year student was placed on disciplinary probation until graduation for vandalism to College property.

The Security Department conducts initial discussions with students about underage drinking and marijuana smoking; these discussions are not a part of the students' disciplinary record. For the 2005-2006 school year there were 65 such discussions. In especially problematic cases, or in the case of repeated warnings, the student is referred to the Dean's Office.