

October 2004

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students:

The Honor and Discipline Committee reports to the College twice 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 Spring 2004 semester. Following this report is a report on disciplinary activity in the Dean's Office.

Report of the Honor Committee

The Committee heard five cases during the Spring 2004 semester.

1. A first year student was accused of consulting course material while taking an exam when that had been expressly forbidden. The student was found guilty and the Committee imposed failure in the course and one year of Disciplinary Probation.
2. A first year student was accused of plagiarizing substantial sections of a paper from sources found on the Internet and presenting the work as their own. The student admitted to using the sources without citation and was found guilty by the Committee. The Committee imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation for one year.
3. A junior was accused of improper citation in a laboratory report. The student presented evidence that the materials were referenced, albeit poorly, and that the professor had given the student confusing instructions on how to properly cite scientific material. The student also demonstrated that they had followed the basic structure for citation found in the laboratory manual. The Committee found the student innocent of any Honor Code infraction.
4. A senior was accused of plagiarism. Upon examination of the case, the Committee determined that the student's references were presented in such a way as to lead to confusion about the source materials, but that plagiarism had not occurred and that the student was innocent of any Honor Code infraction.
5. A junior was accused of presenting work that contained materials from another source, without attribution. The student argued that the presentation constituted a work-in-progress, but the Committee concluded that any presentation of another's intellectual product without proper attribution is a violation of the Honor Code. The student was found guilty and as a sanction the Committee imposed failure in the course.

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 Spring 2004 semester.



Respectfully submitted

2004-2005 Honor-Discipline Committee:

Professor Jay Thoman, Faculty Chair
Denise Nunes '05, Student Chair
Nancy A. Roseman, Dean of the College

Dean's Office Action

- For the Spring 2004 Semester, there were no disciplinary actions taken by the Dean's office.

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 Spring 2004 semester there were 86 such discussions. In especially problematic cases, or in the case of repeated warnings, the student is referred to the Dean's Office.