

November 2007

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 stemmed from incidents that occurred during the Spring 2007 semester. Following this report is a report on disciplinary activity in the Dean's Office.

Report of the Honor Committee

The Committee heard 14 cases:

1. A junior was accused of plagiarizing ideas without attribution. The student presented evidence that they had arrived at their thesis independent of any outside source. The Committee found the student not guilty of an Honor Code violation.
2. A junior was accused of plagiarizing from the Internet site, SparkNotes, for a paper. The student admitted to the inappropriate use of the material. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the paper and a Letter of Warning.
3. A senior was accused of plagiarizing material from the Internet. The student described a hurried writing process that resulted in improper punctuation and sloppy writing, but maintained that there was not a purposeful attempt to deceive the professor. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the paper and disciplinary probation for one semester.
4. A sophomore was accused of plagiarizing from the Internet. The student used ideas contained in the site and represented them as their own. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation until the end of junior year.
5. A first-year student was accused of plagiarizing material from the Internet in a writing assignment that explicitly prohibited the use of the Internet. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation until the end of sophomore year.
6. A first-year student was accused of copying another student's work in a homework assignment and representing it as their own. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation until the end of sophomore year.
7. A senior, who appeared before the committee before, was accused of plagiarizing material from the Internet for a paper. The student was found guilty and was suspended for one year.
8. A junior was accused of plagiarizing a film concept without proper attribution. The student argued that they purposefully modeled their work after something they admired. The Committee concluded that this was a violation of the Honor Code and imposed failure in the course and a Letter of Warning.
9. A first-year was accused of plagiarizing material from SparkNotes for a paper. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation for one year.
10. A first-year was accused of consulting class notes during a closed-book exam. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation for one year.
11. A senior was accused of plagiarizing and consulting a prohibited source during a self-scheduled exam. The student admitted to consulting the source, claiming that they did so to help them

understand the material more fully, but that they did not realize they were plagiarizing. The Committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course.

12. A sophomore was accused of copying a professor's solutions to a problem set. The committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation for two years.
13. A first-year student was accused of using passages verbatim and without proper attribution from sources on the Internet. The student maintained that she did not fully understand how to cite outside works in a paper, but that she thought her citation system for doing so was sufficient. The committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation until the end of the semester.
14. A first-year student was accused of using passages verbatim and without proper attribution from sources on the Internet. The committee found the student guilty and imposed failure in the course and Disciplinary Probation for one year.

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 one appeal during the Spring 2007 semester.

1. The committee heard the appeal of a first-year student who had been suspended through the fall semester of 2007 and Winter Study 2008 because of behavior that put other students and college property at risk. The committee upheld the suspension.



Respectfully submitted by the 2006-2007 Honor-Discipline Committee:

Professor Duane Bailey, Faculty Chair

Sarah Ginsburg '07, Student Chair

Nancy A. Roseman, Former Dean of the College and Karen Merrill, Dean of the College

Dean's Office Action

- For the Spring 2007 Semester, there were five disciplinary actions taken by the Dean's office; two first-year students and one sophomore were placed on disciplinary probation, one first-year student was suspended, and one sophomore was expelled.

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 2007 semester there were 28 such discussions. In especially problematic cases, or in the case of repeated warnings, the student is referred to the Dean's Office.