

Abstracts UW20-UW30

Professor Z and Student Xena in PoliSci UW20

A Bryn Mawr student in a 200-level Political Science course, Xena, posted two separate papers on Blackboard for her class assignments. An anonymous note was put in Professor Z's mailbox stating that the assignments had a number of copied lines from an article online. In the process of reviewing the papers, Professor Z found that there were discrepancies with the citations and plagiarism. Professor Z confronted Xena and she stated that when she cut and pasted her paper from word to Blackboard, all the footnotes and citations were lost. Professor Z then ask Xena to show him the original with the citations, but Xena was unable to find the original and told Professor Z that she would contact the Honor Board.

In her first presentation to the Honor Board, Xena stated that the quotations and footnotes did not transfer properly from Microsoft Word to Blackboard; however, the Boards further investigation of a disk containing the "original" document found that the quotations did crossover. The first meeting with Xena was not resolved and following the Board's investigation, Xena was asked to further explain a second statement that was sent to the Board. The student's second presentation stated that she was guilty of plagiarism and was sorry for not being upfront about her infraction. *The Honor Board resolved* that Xena was to write a 3-5 page essay on how she felt about the Honor Code as a freshman; how she learned about it; what she understands about it; now after this incident how she would explain it to the incoming freshman; and what is the importance of the Honor Code to the community? She also was to write a letter of apology to Professor Z and have a follow-up with the Board.

Professor Poindexter and Students Susie and Kim in Chemistry UW21

Professor Poindexter suspected Susie and Kim of cheating by collaborating on their 100-level Chemistry final exam. Professor Poindexter found the same incorrect answers for several questions, describing them as "rare" errors. Both students denied any wrongdoing, explaining that they studied for the final exam together and took the exam in the same classroom with other students. Susie also contended that Professor Poindexter did not confront her in a reasonable time frame. She said that Professor Poindexter went directly to the Honor Board without notifying Susie and Kim first about their alleged infraction.

The Honor Board resolved that there was not enough evidence to conclude that Susie and Kim had cheated during the final exam.

Professor Luke and Student Diana in CSem UW22

Diane, a freshman, was having a hard trouble putting her ideas into words in her C-Sem. So for one of the assigned papers, she cut-and-pasted a paper from a website, and edited it to be short enough before turning it in. The professor did not notice anything at the time. At the end of the semester, Diane got the flu, and received an extension on her final C-Sem paper. She missed the first extended deadline, and Professor Luke sent an email saying that if Diane did not get a paper in the next few days, her professor would have to record the paper grade as a 0.0. In desperation, Diane downloaded a term paper from awesomepapers.com, and turned it in as her own. The professor noticed some statistics that were not cited in that final paper, and so he searched them on the Internet, assuming Diane had just forgotten to cite the source. In doing so, he pulled up the awesomepapers.com site, and the entire paper as Diane had turned it in. The professor went back and checked other papers Diane had turned in that semester, and found the first plagiarized paper online as well.

Diane initially denied the charges, and later confessed to the Honor Board. *The Honor Board resolved* that Diane was guilty of plagiarism and that she receive a 0.0 the C-Sem. For the entire following semester, Diane was required to bring drafts of each paper she wrote to the writing center, and to have a report sent from the writing center to her Dean. She was also required to begin and stay in counseling.

Professor Craig and Student Jenny UW23

Papers in Jenny's course were posted on the Internet. As a senior, Jenny did not care much about this particular course, and did some extraordinarily sloppy work. The course was required for Jenny to graduate, though it was not a part of her major. The following semester, Jenny's professor received an email from a newspaper columnist, the author of an article that looked suspiciously like one of Jenny's webpapers.

When this was brought to Jenny's attention by the professor, Jenny looked at all of her webpapers, agreed that she must have lifted quite a bit of that article for her paper, and brought it to

the Honor Board's and Professor Craig's attention that a second paper was also poorly cited a fact unnoticed by Professor Craig beforehand.

The Honor Board resolved that because Jenny was so forthright in her statement, and was willing to work to reconcile the problem, that she would fail the two papers, but that she could receive a 2.0 in the course and thus, graduate if she rewrote the papers to her professor's satisfaction.

Professor Michael and Student Billie Jean UW24

For a required course in her major, Billie Jean, a junior, used a lot of material from a journal article on her assigned topic without citing it. Professor Michael noticed the level of specialized understanding and analysis was unusual for an undergraduate, and a Google source pulled up the journal article.

Upon confrontation, Billie Jean said she had made a very detailed (but not thoroughly cited) outline for her paper before she wrote it, but did not intentionally plagiarize. She did not have the outline anymore. Billie Jean did admit to using the journal article's analysis as her own because she was not comfortable with her own skills and did not think she could do it by herself.

The Honor Board resolved that Billie Jean was guilty of plagiarism, and mandated a failure in the course and that Billie Jean visit Gail Hemmeter in the Writing Center to discuss citation. The Honor Board also strongly recommended that Billie Jean take the course again.

Professor Frist and Student Jocelyn in English UW 25

Jocelyn, a junior enrolled in Professor Frist's intermediate English course (required for the major) needed a peer review of the student's work. One assignment was a 1200 to 1700 word paper. The first draft was to be given to two classmates for review. The final paper was due two weeks later to Professor Frist.

When Professor Frist received Jocelyn's final paper, he felt that it was not her work because of the style and the level of writing. He "Googled" certain sections and found the paper Jocelyn had submitted as her own for sale on two internet websites. Professor Frist went back to her rough draft and did another internet search. He found that paper for sale as well. Professor Frist asked Jocelyn to meet with him. She admitted she had bought both papers and submitted them as her own work. The Dean's Office purchased the second paper for evidence in the hearing. Jocelyn said that she was under a lot of pressure, personal and academic (she was taking five courses).

She had two writing assignments due on the same day as Professor Frist's course and she did not originally intend to purchase the papers; she went to the internet for inspiration. She apologized to Professor Frist and the Honor Board.

The Honor Board resolved that Jocelyn receive a 0.0 in the course and recommend edthat she spend her next semester away from Bryn Mawr in order to cope with her personal stresses, that she regularly go to the Writing Center to become comfortable with peer review of her writing, and meet with her Dean in order to more appropriately handle her stress.

Professor Brown and Student Clarissa in ESem UW26

Clarissa was a Bryn Mawr College freshman in a College Seminar course taught by Professor Brown. Professor Brown assigned the class to write an essay on a topic of the student's choice regarding the current book they were reading in the class. All of the students in the class were required to turn in drafts of the paper and meet with Professor Brown to review the drafts. Upon reading Clarissa's draft, Professor Brown noticed that this particular draft was much more refined than previous drafts submitted by Clarissa and Clarissa used expressions not discussed in class. Professor Brown then typed in specific phrases from the paper into Google and discovered that most of Clarissa's paper had been taken from a website. When Professor Brown met with Clarissa he confronted Clarissa and showed Clarissa her own paper and the striking similarities to the paper on the internet. Clarissa admitted to Professor Brown that she used the website and mistakenly followed the paper on the internet too closely.

The case was brought to the Honor Board for plagiarism, where Clarissa also admitted that she was too intimidated to ask her professor for help when she needed help with the assignment and turned to the internet.

The Honor Board resolved that Clarissa would fail the paper and also recommended that Clarissa seek tutoring from the Writing Center continuing into the next year to build her writing skills and confidence when speaking with professors.

Professor Smith and Postbac Dave in Biochemistry UW27

Dave was a postbac student at Bryn Mawr taking a Biochemistry course. When grading Dave's Biochemistry exam, Professor Smith noticed that Dave's answers in the last two sections of the exam seemed rather odd. The terminology of the answers was not similar to the terminology

taught in the course and the answers seemed advanced for Dave's level and the level of the class. Professor Smith then consulted with another professor in the department, who agreed that Dave's answers seemed odd. Professor Smith then Googled Dave's answers to the exam and discovered an exact match to the answers on the exam. Professor Smith cited that there was not an attempt by Dave to put the terms in his own words or cite the material.

Dave and Professor Brown met and Dave confessed to Professor Brown that he did take his answers directly from the website and that he was having personal problems at home. Professor Brown asked Dave that he turn himself into the Honor Board.

Dave admitted to the Honor Board that he plagiarized and explained that he ran out of time on the exam and meant to edit the last two sections before turning them in. He also cited that he should have left a note on the exam explaining he ran out of time before he could cite and turn the answer into his own words.

The Honor Board resolved that Dave receive a 0.0 on the exam.

Professor Page and Student Ellen in General Studies UW27

A Bryn Mawr student in a 200 level General Studies course, Ellen handed in her final paper for her class. In the process of grading the paper, Professor Page noticed that sections of the final paper seemed very messy and decided to check the citations and found that there were discrepancies. Professor Page confronted Ellen and asked that she contact the Honor Board because Professor Page thought this would be the best way to assume this lesson would not be forgotten.

In her presentation to the Honor Board, Ellen stated that she did not mean to plagiarize and that she had taken notes in a separate notebook, forgot to put the sources and at times forgot if she had paraphrased. Ellen said that she tried to find all the right sources and cite all that she could find. Professor Page stated that Ellen had taken large portions of plagiarized material from several sources and smaller portions were copied verbatim from books. Professor Page also stated that most of the plagiarized phrases were referenced in the paper, but some of the references were incorrect and others were missing.

The Honor Board resolved that Ellen was guilty of plagiarism. Ellen was to receive a 0.0 for the course.

Professor Q and Student Chiquita in General Studies UW28

In a 200-level General Studies class, Chiquita was found guilty of plagiarizing in a major paper. She claimed to have simply forgotten to go back and cite a paragraph that she had taken from a website. Chiquita stated that she was stressed and did not have much time to proof read the paper because it was due the day after May Day. A senior, Chiquita was determined to fully enjoy her last May Day. The teacher of the General Studies class, Professor Q believed that Chiquita knew what she was doing. Professor Q had confronted Chiquita earlier in the semester for a similar problem with using proper citations and suggested that she seek help from the Writing Center or other available resources. Professor Q thought that as a senior and a second-time offender, Chiquita should know better.

The Honor Board agreed with Professor Q. *The Honor Board resolved* that Chiquita receive a 0.0 in the course.

Professor Spice and Student Posh in Classics UW29

A student in a 200 level Classic Studies course, Posh, handed in her a paper for her class. In the process of grading the paper, Professor Spice noticed that sections of the paper seemed written in a strange writing style and the professor researched the student's topic. The professor found a paper almost identical to the students and confronted the student. Professor Spice asked Posh to contact the Head of the Honor Board.

In her presentation to the Honor Board, Posh stated that she was overwhelmed with work and that she did indeed plagiarize her paper. Posh was sorry for her actions.

Professor Spice stated that there were doubts prior to this paper about Posh plagiarizing, but was unable to find any evidence. Professor Spice also brought to light that Posh had an extension on this paper.

The Honor Board resolved that Posh was guilty of plagiarism and she would receive a 0.0 for the course. Posh was also required to schedule a meeting with the Writing Center and attend.

Professor Fox and Student Megan in a Science Course UW30

A junior, Megan, was confronted by Professor Fox about possible plagiarism on a paper for a 200-level science course, and was brought before the Honor Board. Her paper contained entire paragraphs of paraphrased or directly quoted work that was improperly cited and occasional phrases that should have been quoted but were not cited at all.

Megan did not attempt to deny that her paper contained plagiarism, but stated that she had not understood proper citation methods when writing the paper. She also stated that, since being confronted by her professor, she had already taken steps to improve her citation skills.

Although the citation used was grossly incorrect, Megan had attempted to cite most of the borrowed work and had used a class reading — which Professor Fox would obviously recognize — as one of her sources, so the Honor Board felt that there had truly been no intent to pass off the work as her own.

Because there had been no intent to deceive and because Megan had already taken steps to improve her citation skills, *the Honor Board resolved* that Megan would receive a 0.0 on the paper, which was only 10% of her grade, and that she would have to turn in fully cited rough drafts of all of her papers for the rest of the semester. The Honor Board also made suggestions regarding her paper writing process, but demanded no further action.