

Abstracts UW01-UW03

Student Susie in Economics UW01

Susie was taking a 300-level Economics class. One assignment for the class was a take-home midterm that had to be returned to the Professor's office at a given time, but that in case she was not there, to make a copy of the exam and slide the original under her door.

When the exams were due, Linda, who was also in Professor Barnum's econ class, stopped by the office to return the midterm. Professor Barnum was not there, and Linda who was in a rush to get to her next class, did not have the time to make a photocopy of the exam. As she was leaving the office, she met Susie. Linda told Susie that Professor Barnum was not in her office. Susie said that she had a few errands to run and did not want to photocopy her exam and she said that she would stop by the office late to turn in the exam. At this point, Linda asked Susie if she could turn in her exam for her when she turned in her own exam. Susie agreed to do so and left to run her errands. Susie later returned to Professor Barnum's office and returned both exams. Professor Barnum recalls that she did not think it was anything out of the ordinary at all that Susie had returned both of the exams and did not remember this until she began grading the midterms. According to Professor Barnum, she did not notice the similarities between the two exams until she came to a question at the end of the exam. She had checked Linda's exam first, and found that Linda had made a very strange mistake that she had never encountered before. After checking several other exams, she began checking Susie's exam. It was near the end of Susie's exam that she notices the same mistake that she had noticed earlier in Linda's exam. She then went through all the questions, comparing both exams. She noticed that Susie had made the same mistakes that Linda had, and the language in the answers was almost identical in many instances. She said that she noticed how Linda's answers were integrated in Susie's answers. In most questions, Susie started her answer in one way and then included sentences that were identical or strikingly similar to Linda's answers. In a few answers, the shift in the direction of the answers was very abrupt and almost contradicting. Professor Barnum also noticed that Susie's exam papers looked like the original answers had been erased. In her statement, as well as during the hearing, Susie maintained that she had not looked at, nor copied, any of Linda's answers. She claimed that she had turned in both exams to Professor Barnum after running her errands without

taking a look at Linda's exam. Professor Barnum believed that the similarities in the two exams were too striking to be a coincidence. She proposed that Susie receive a 0.0 on the test, but be allowed to continue in the course. Her reason for wanting Susie to be able to continue in the course was that since Susie had no way of knowing that Linda was going to ask her to turn in her exam for her, her actions were clearly unplanned.

The Honor Board resolved that there was not sufficient evidence to determine Susie's guilt or innocence. Therefore, it was decided that she would take a new midterm under proctored conditions.

Student Penelope in 2 Classes UW02

Penelope, a senior Bryn Mawr student, was taking two General Studies program courses here at Bryn Mawr. While they were two different courses, the course material was very similar, Penelope often felt as though she was taking two of the same class and therefore wrote one paper for both classes, handing in a copy to each professor. At the same time that Penelope was handing in the papers, an Abstract from a prior case was released that said handing in one paper for two classes without permission from both professors was against the Honor Code. Penelope quickly realized her mistake and contacted the involved professors immediately, explaining that she did not realize her mistake. Both professors stated that Penelope's contribution to the classes was very important. While both professors realized that Penelope should have known that getting double credit for work done only once is a violation of the Honor code, they realize that her speedy action in admitting her infraction was a sign of her honesty and academic integrity.

The Honor Board resolved that the student had not realized that her act was against the Honor Code and that remorse was certain. Penelope must write a new paper for one professor and the original paper will be accepted for the other course. There will be no grade penalty on either paper, or in the class, for the infraction.

Students Mary Queen of Scots and Prince William in CompSci UW03

A Haverford student, Prince William was taking a 100-level Computer Science course here at Bryn Mawr. While taking this course, William copied work done by a Bryn Mawr student in the

class. The professor of the class brought each student, one at a time, into her office to discuss the evident plagiarism. The Bryn Mawr student, Mary Queen of Scots denied copying the program- the professor believed her because the work handed in was consistent with Mary's previous projects. Another statement made by the professor was on the class attendance and participation of the two students; she shows that William had frequently missed class and not taken advantage of the TA sessions, where Mary has not missed class and regularly attends the help sessions. The statement from William is short and to the point; he admits to partially plagiarizing the program, although he does not admit that he was harming another student by taking her work.

The Honor Board resolved that in fact William was in violation of Bryn Mawr's Honor Code.

Therefore, he will receive a grade of 0.0 in the class and is suspended from taking classes at Bryn Mawr for one full year – the Haverford Registrar's office was to be notified of the grade and his class suspension.