*To The Wesleyan Community:*

*Here is a summary of the cases heard by the Honor Board during the 2015 - 2016 academic year. Each summary includes the allegation(s), the Board’s findings and the sanction(s) assigned to the individual(s).*

*As stated in the current Student Handbook, “The Honor System depends upon the willingness of all members of the University to adhere to the standards of academic behavior articulated in the Honor Code. Every student must understand and accept this responsibility as a condition of enrollment. This substantial responsibility is an important aspect of a Wesleyan education.”*

*This information is supplied by the Board to increase understanding of the Honor Code, and to promote an awareness of the Board’s role in the Wesleyan community.*

*If you have any question about the Honor Code, please do not hesitate to contact the members of the Honor Board who are listed below.*

*Thank You,*

*The Honor Board:*

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**Fall 2015**

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 1 and Subsection 5 of the Honor Code. *(1 - The attempt to give or obtain assistance in a formal academic exercise without due acknowledgement. This includes but is not limited to: cheating during an exam; helping another student cheat or plagiarize; completing a final project for someone and/or asking someone to complete a project for you. 5 - Deception concerning adherence to the conditions set by the instructor for a formal academic exercise.)* During a quiz, a professor found an index card containing answers related to the quiz in a calculator cover on a student’s desk. Based on the evidence, the board concluded that it was more likely than not that the student had access to the answers on the index card during the exam, so the student was found in violation of the Honor Code. For a sanction, the student received a failing grade for the class. Additionally, because it was the student’s second Honor Code violation, they were suspended from the university for one semester.

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 1 and Subsection 2 of the Honor Code. *(1 - the attempt to give or obtain assistance in a formal academic exercise without due acknowledgement.)* *(2 - Plagiarism - the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, images, data or research as one’s own. Plagiarism is more than lifting a text word-for-word, even from sources in the public domain. Paraphrasing or using any content or terms coined by others without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.)*  A student failed to acknowledge getting editorial help from two other students on a paper for the class and also failed to acknowledge copying the structure of a final project from an outside source. The student admitted to receiving editing assistance on the paper and to copying the project structure from an outside source, so they were found in violation of the Honor Code. As a sanction, they received a step-down demotion for the paper (for example, if they were getting a B+, their grade would be lowered to a B), and a zero for the final project. They were also required to write an essay outlining their plan to develop a better understanding of how to properly use citations and how this relates to the Honor Code.

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 2 of the Honor Code. *(Plagiarism - the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, images, data or research as one’s own. Plagiarism is more than lifting a text word-for-word, even from sources in the public domain. Paraphrasing or using any content or terms coined by others without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.)* A professor reported that a student’s final paper contained extensive text that was taken word-for-word, without due acknowledgement, from published book chapters and articles. The student was found in violation of the Honor Code and as a sanction, received an “F” for the course. Since this was also the student’s second Honor Code violation, they were suspended from the university for one semester.

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 1 *o*f the Honor Code*. (The attempt to give or obtain assistance in a formal academic exercise without due acknowledgement. This includes but is not limited to: cheating during an exam; helping another student cheat or plagiarize; completing a final project for someone and/or asking someone to complete a project for you.)* A professor reported that a student, who obtained permission to take a make-up exam, accessed the course Moodle site which contained the exam solutions. By the student’s own account that they were aware of the professor’s instructions not to examine the solutions online, they were found in violation of the Honor Code. As a sanction they received a zero for the exam.

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsections 2 and 4 *o*f the Honor Code. (2 - *Plagiarism - the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, images, data or research as one’s own. Plagiarism is more than lifting a text word-for-word, even from sources in the public domain. Paraphrasing or using any content or terms coined by others without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism. 4 – Willful falsification of data, information, or citations in any formal academic exercise.)* A professor reported that six of a student’s eight written assignments for the course were plagiarized virtually word-for-word from websites and another outside source. Additionally, on several assignments involving the review of live events, facts about the events had been fabricated. By the student’s own admission to plagiarizing and changing facts, they were found in violation of the Honor Code. As a sanction, they received an “F” for the course, and were suspended for the semester.

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 2 of the Honor Code. (*Plagiarism - the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, images, data or research as one’s own. Plagiarism is more than lifting a text word-for-word, even from sources in the public domain. Paraphrasing or using any content or terms coined by others without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.)* A professor reported that a student submitted a final report that was similar in content to another report turned in for the course several years ago. When the report was run through “Turnitin,” an originality checking service, the report was discovered to be 79% similar in content to the former report. After reviewing the evidence, and by the student’s own admission to plagiarizing a friend’s paper, the student was found in violation of the Honor Code. As a sanction, the student received an “F” for the course.

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 1 of the Honor Code *(The attempt to give or obtain assistance in a formal academic exercise without due acknowledgement. This includes but is not limited to: cheating during an exam; helping another student cheat or plagiarize; completing a final project for someone and/or asking someone to complete a project for you.) A professor reported observing a student looking at another student’s paper during an exam, and later noting that both students had one incorrect answer that was the same. After reviewing the evidence presented, the board could not determine that it was more likely than not that the student copied their classmate’s exam. Therefore, the student was not found in violation of the Honor Code.*

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 2 of the Honor Code. (*Plagiarism - the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, images, data or research as one’s own. Plagiarism is more than lifting a text word-for-word, even from sources in the public domain. Paraphrasing or using any content or terms coined by others without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.)* A professor reported that a student submitted a report containing sentences taken from two different websites without the proper citations. After reviewing the evidence provided, and by the student’s admission to plagiarizing, the student was found in violation of the Honor Code. As a sanction, they received a zero for the paper.

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 1 of the Honor Code *(The attempt to give or obtain assistance in a formal academic exercise without due acknowledgement. This includes but is not limited to: cheating during an exam; helping another student cheat or plagiarize; completing a final project for someone and/or asking someone to complete a project for you.)* A professor reported that their records showed that a student accessed the class Moodle website during a “closed book” exam, violating the parameters of the exam. After reviewing the evidence ITS provided, and because the board felt that there were inconsistencies in the student’s explanation, it was concluded that it was more likely than not that the student accessed the Moodle site during the exam. The student was found in violation of the Honor Code, and as a sanction, they received a zero for the exam. This was also the student’s second violation of the Honor Code, so they were additionally suspended for a semester.

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 2 of the Honor Code. (*Plagiarism - the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, images, data or research as one’s own. Plagiarism is more than lifting a text word-for-word, even from sources in the public domain. Paraphrasing or using any content or terms coined by others without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.)* A professor reported that a student’s final exam contained large amounts of material copied from outside sources. After reviewing the evidence presented, and by the student’s own admission of plagiarizing the materials, the board found the student in violation of the Honor Code. Due to the extensiveness and intentionality of the plagiarism, the student received an “F” for the class.

**Spring 2016**

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 4 and 5 of the Honor Code *(4 - The willful falsification of data, information, or citations in any formal academic exercise; furthermore, deception concerning adherence to the conditions set by the instructor for a formal academic exercise. 5 – Deception concerning adherence to the conditions set by the instructor for a formal academic exercise.)*. A professor reported that when a student submitted an exam for re-grading it was discovered that answers on the exam had been altered from the original exam. Based on the evidence presented, the board concluded that it was more likely than not that the student willfully altered their answers, so the student was found in violation of the Honor Code. As a sanction, the students received a half grade step demotion on their final grade in the course (for example, if they were getting a B+, their grade would be lowered to a B).

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 4 and 5 of the Honor Code *(4 - The willful falsification of data, information, or citations in any formal academic exercise; furthermore, deception concerning adherence to the conditions set by the instructor for a formal academic exercise. 5 – Deception concerning adherence to the conditions set by the instructor for a formal academic exercise.)*. A professor reported that a student submitted an exam for re-grading. It was discovered that the answers on the examination were altered. Based on the evidence presented and the arguments articulated throughout the hearing, the board concluded that it was more likely than not that the student willfully altered their answers, so the student was found in violation of the Honor Code. As a sanction, the student received a half grade step demotion on their final grade in the course (for example, if they were getting a B+, their grade would be lowered to a B).

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 1 of the Honor Code Subsection 1 *o*f the Honor Code*. (The attempt to give or obtain assistance in a formal academic exercise without due acknowledgement. This includes but is not limited to: cheating during an exam; helping another student cheat or plagiarize; completing a final project for someone and/or asking someone to complete a project for you.)* A professor reported that two students’ class assignments were strikingly identical. During the hearing, both students admitted to having collaborated with one another without proper acknowledgement. The Board found the students in violation of the Honor Code and as a sanction, each student received a half step grade demotion on the final course grade (for example, if they were getting a B+, their grade would be lowered to a B).

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 2 of the Honor Code. (*Plagiarism - the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, images, data or research as one’s own. Plagiarism is more than lifting a text word-for-word, even from sources in the public domain. Paraphrasing or using any content or terms coined by others without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.)* A professor reported that a substantial amount of text in a student’s final assignment was copied directly from a web page without citations. During the hearing, the student admitted to having plagiarized the text. However, it was also noted that the professor’s unclear instructions made it difficult for the student to understand the expectations for the assignment. Nevertheless, the Board found the students in violation of the Honor Code. As a sanction, the students received a grade demotion on the assignment in question (for example, if they were getting a B, their grade would be lowered to a C).

The Honor Board was asked to review a possible violation of Subsection 2 of the Honor Code. (*Plagiarism - the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, images, data or research as one’s own. Plagiarism is more than lifting a text word-for-word, even from sources in the public domain. Paraphrasing or using any content or terms coined by others without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.)* A professor reported that a student submitted an assignment that was copied directly from the internet. During the hearing, the student admitted to having plagiarized on the assignment. Therefore, the Board found the student in violation of the Honor Code. As a sanction, the students received a zero on the assignment in question.