Abstract discussion will be held on Wednesday, April 29th, at 7:00PM in Ryan Gym.

Philosophers:
An Honor Council Academic Case
Released Spring 2015

This abstract was not released in accordance to the timeline specified by the Students’ Association Constitution. The confronting party consented to the release of the abstract. The confronted party consented to the release of the abstract. (The addition of this disclaimer began in Spring 2010).

Note: Some information has been lost due to the fact that this abstract was not completed in a timely manner.

Key:
Confronted Party: Aristotle
Confronting Party: Professor Plato
Class: The Republic 101

Summary:
This incident involves [Aristotle], a freshman who brought himself to Honor Council after being confronted by his professor for a potential violation of the Code in his [Republic 101] class. After Honor Council considered statements from both Aristotle and Professor [Plato], Honor Council consented to drop the case.

Statements:
Aristotle explained that while working on a graded assignment for The Republic 101, he copied a few answers verbatim from the back of the textbook and turned them in as his own work. He stated that Professor Plato had spoken to him about the issue. Throughout his statement, Aristotle was very apologetic, and expressed that he was being lazy and would never do something like that again.

In his statement, Professor Plato also said that he had spoken to Aristotle, and that he was confident he had learned his lesson. He expressed that Aristotle was a very good student and actively participated in class. He also brought up that Aristotle had even pointed out a midterm grading mistake in which he had been given full credit for an incorrect answer.

Council Deliberations:
Upon reviewing the statements, Council decided to drop the case. However, they did
request that Aristotle write a letter to the community to be included with the abstract.

For reasons unknown by Honor Council Spring 2015, the abstract for this case was not completed in a timely manner, and the records from Council’s deliberations on the case have been lost. We are deeply troubled by this, and hope that this abstract will serve as a reminder for posterity to make sure that we have systems in place for the timely completion of abstracts. We believe that we have already preempted this from happening again with more thorough record keeping.

Aristotle’s Letter to the Community:
What Was I Thinking

I’m a first year student with a reasonably heavy course load, participating in several extra-curricular activities including athletics and music. I’ve always been good at time management and juggling several balls in the air at once. For some reason, the balls seemed to be crashing down on me one night in the middle of the semester. I was having some medical problems and was exhausted. So in the midst of a late night homework session, I made a very poor decision and copied the answers to an assignment from the back of the book. Although I certainly knew this was a graded assignment, I really didn’t consider that fact at the time. I just wanted to go to sleep.

So what was I thinking? Clearly, I wasn’t thinking at all! As soon as my professor asked to speak with me, I realized what I had done and was terribly ashamed of myself. To make matters worse, this particular professor is probably my favorite this semester and I felt very bad letting [him] down and damaging [his] trust in me.

The only good to come out of this experience is that I know how it feels to make a huge error in judgment and I don’t ever want to feel that way again. I know I will never again take shortcuts to expedite my work or turn in work that isn’t my own.

I sincerely apologize to both my professor, to the Haverford Honor Council, and to the Haverford Community.

Aristotle

Discussion Questions:
1. Is it useful for Honor Council to ask a confronted party for a letter to the community, even when the case is dropped?
2. There is no way to know what Honor Council at the time discussed in deciding to drop this case. If this case happened now, what could the present Council discuss to determine whether the trial goals of education, accountability, and restoration had been met between the professor and the student?