AGNES

Agnes turned herself in to Honor Council for a possible violation of the academic portion of the Honor Code. An inquiry was convened to address the situation.

After the Chairperson explained the relevant portions of the Code, the factual portion began as Agnes recounted the events which had transpired. She had been talking with a friend, Mildred, and mentioned that she had falsified her attendance record for her intramural basketball team so as to receive credit for the quarter. [As physical education is part of the requirement for graduation, a violation with reference to it falls under the academic parameters of the Code.] She was feeling guilty and was considering talking with the instructor. Agnes did not do this and, several weeks later, Mildred confronted her for not reporting herself. Guilt continued to inhibit her, and nothing was done. Agnes then discovered that a trial was being held for Mildred because she had failed to report Agnes' potential infraction to Honor Council. At that point Agnes called the instructor, arranged to have the credit dropped for the course and reported herself to Council. Agnes admitted and the jury concurred that a violation had occurred.

The concerns of the jury that Agnes had knowingly submitted the incorrect attendance data and, then, took over two months to report herself were examined during the circumstantial portion of the trial. Agnes said that she was aware that she was violating the Code but was not thinking clearly. She should have been attending the basketball games and had no acceptable excuse for not doing so. Only because she was feeling guilty did she tell Mildred. Agnes would have told the instructor sooner but felt scared; she did not know what would happen to her; it was less scary to tell Mildred. When asked why she had done was wrong, Agnes said it was because she was violating the Code, she was lying, and it made her uncomfortable. She had since realized that it was also detrimental to the community because it was a breach of honesty: someone thought that she had been doing something which she had not been doing. Living with the guilt made her realize that she could not do it again. Agnes had also thought that such a problem could be resolved with the instructor. It was not until Mildred told her that she became aware that she must also report herself to Honor Council.

In the resolution, the jury sought to address the breach of community trust and was concerned by the fact that, if this were a typical academic class, precedent would imply failure but for physical education, also an academic requirement, all one can receive is credit or not. It was decided that Agnes would not be given credit for the quarter, take another quarter of intramural basketball, volunteer twenty-five hours in a specified community service, and a letter would be included in her file, which would be destroyed when she leaves Haverford, which addresses the fact that she violated the Honor Code in a physical education class.

The nature of this violation necessitated the extreme abstraction contained herein.