Summary: Professor Watson noticed an “improbable similarity” between three students’ final quizzes and also between their final exams. He asked all three about the similarities, but no explanation was given. A few days later, Franciscus brought himself to Honor Council, claiming he had copied in two instances. At the inquiry, the jury determined there had been an academic violation of the Honor Code and came up with a four-part resolution:

1) The jury strongly suggests that Franciscus meet with a professional counselor to address his personal problems cited in the trial’s circumstantial portion. This support element will continue until Franciscus feels he can write a letter to Honor Council reflecting an understanding of his actions.
2) Franciscus should meet twice monthly for the duration of the semester with two members of the jury and, if he chooses, a support person/friend. This educational element will culminate in a letter to be presented in person to his professor in order to reconcile their breach of trust.
3) Franciscus must make an effort to get involved with community activities.
4) Franciscus should fail the course.

I. FACT-FINDING

At the inquiry, Franciscus said he had cheated on the last quiz and the final exam in his Latin class. A friend had given him the quiz to hand in, and although Franciscus had already written his own quiz, he copied the answers from the other’s quiz. During finals week, Franciscus was again entrusted with a final exam to hand in. He again looked at the other person’s exam, erased his own exam which he had already completed, and copied their words.

The jury came to consensus that there was a violation of the Honor Code, because Franciscus cheated on his Latin final quiz and final exam.

II. CIRCUMSTANTIAL

Franciscus returned and explained the circumstances surrounding the problem. Near the end of the term, his friend gave him a quiz to hand in. Franciscus looked at the quiz and thought that she had said it better than he had, so he erased his completed work and copied her words onto his own quiz. A few days later, during finals week, another friend gave him his final exam to turn in since he was leaving early. Again, Franciscus had finished his own exam but upon looking at the other exam, copied nearly exactly what he had written.
He knew what he was doing at the time he did it, but December had been "a blur" of pressure; he had no explanation for his actions. At the time, he had personal problems which were upsetting him, including the pressure from his parents to do well. He was not sure he belonged at this college, and he lacked confidence in his intellectual abilities. Although these did not excuse his actions, he felt they were factors. Over the break, he realized what he had done, and though he did not understand why he did it, he meant to bring himself to Professor Watson when the new semester began.

However, when he returned he found a note in his mailbox from Professor Watson. In a direct meeting with Professor Watson, Franciscus could not bring himself to explain that he had cheated. He felt later that he was "digging himself into a deeper hole", so he brought himself first to Honor Council, and then spoke to the professor. He asserted, "I know it will never happen again". He felt he had a strong personal code of honor, that this cheating had been "out of character", a manifestation of his personal problems and the pressure of finals week.

After Franciscus left, the jury examined copies of the quizzes and exams of the three students.

III. RESOLUTION

Tentative: 1. The jury considered separating Franciscus from the college, in order to give him time to reflect on his actions away from the pressure at college and to allow him to work out his personal problems. However, the jury felt that in this case, Franciscus was better able to face his problems with the support system of the college. The jury felt that his personal and academic problems would be best addressed in two ways. The jury strongly urged Franciscus that he meet with a professional counselor specifically focusing on the "personal problems" cited in the circumstantial portion. This support element will continue until Franciscus feels he can write a letter to Honor Council reflecting an understanding of his actions. Realizing the confidential nature of professional counselling, the jury did not feel it necessary to suggest a precise topic or the duration of this counselling.

2. To address Franciscus' actions toward his classmates and his professor, he should meet twice monthly for the duration of the semester with two members of the jury, and if he chooses, a support person/friend. This educational element will culminate in a letter to be presented in a meeting with Professor Watson, explaining his actions in an effort to repair the breach of trust between them. If the letter is submitted before the end of the semester, the decision to continue the meetings with the
jury members will be left to the discretion of those involved.

3. The jury felt Franciscus did not fully see himself as a part of the community. Toward this end, Franciscus must make an effort to get involved with community activities (for example, 8th dimension; to be further discussed with the support group mentioned in 2).

4. Franciscus felt that he had done honest work until the last quiz and final. Nevertheless, he felt he should fail the course. After considerable debate, and primarily based on his conviction, the jury agreed that he should fail (0.7) the entire course.

**FINAL:** Since Franciscus had a positive reaction to the resolution, the tentative resolution became the final resolution.