Joan confronted Marvin for a possible violation of the academic Honor Code. An inquiry was convened to address the situation.

After the chairperson read the relevant sections of the Code, Joan explained why she had confronted Marvin. During an Astronomy exam, Joan had noticed out of the corner of her eye, Marvin looking around the room. She tried to get his attention to signal her concern, and then returned to her exam. When she noticed Marvin's head up again, she turned and saw that his eyes were focused on the exam of a third student in front of them. Marvin appeared to quickly turn away when he realized that Joan was looking at him.

Joan thought she had seen Marvin look up and at the third students exam again before the end of the test period. She was concerned that Marvin had "lifted" information from this other student's paper and indeed occurred. Marvin now related what he believed had happened. He explained that during exams, his eyes tend to wander as he thinks through his answers. He could only specifically remember looking at Joan once. Marvin contended that he had focused briefly on the other student's paper, but not intentionally and had taken no information from it. He claimed he had absent-mindedly focused on a star chart just long enough to recognize what it was. When this student began to write, he realized what he was doing and returned to his work. At this point, Marvin had been on the page following the chart. The distance between him and the third student, Marvin stated, would have prevented him from seeing any of the star chart but did allow him to recognize the page as just that.

After Marvin and Joan left the room, the jury discussed whether or not a violation had occurred. Most of the jurors were not convinced that a violation had occurred based on Marvin and Joan's testimonies. While Marvin's conduct during the exam, specifically that he allowed his eyes to wander, was questionable, he claimed he had not cheated in any way. The distance between himself and the exam on which he happened to focus would have made it quite difficult for him to read any actual answers. The jury briefly discussed the possibility of looking at the exams of Marvin and the other student. A juror who had taken the class felt that because the question involved simply rewriting information that had been memorized, looking over the exams would be inconclusive. At this point most of the jury felt it unnecessary to do so. The jury soon reached consensus that no violation could be determined. The jury did recommend to Marvin that he be more aware of his conduct during exams. When his eyes wandered, it caused other students to question his intentions. This negligent action, the jury decided, would remain worthy of confrontation in the future.