



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MISSISSIPPI

SCHOOL OF LAW HONOR COUNCIL

April 17, 2017

In accordance with Article VII of the Law School Student Body Constitution and Section 6.2 of the Law School Honor Code, and by a vote of 9-0, the Honor Council establishes the following judicial opinion, which is to be treated as judicial precedent:

The Honor Council's judicial authority is not limited to the areas and categories enumerated in §§ 3.2 and 3.3 of the Honor Code. As such, § 3.4 compels the Honor Council to act whenever the principles of honesty and fairness are violated and/or the facilities that support the academic environment are used in a manner that violates the Honor Code.

For example, an act, such as the solicitation of unauthorized assistance on a confidential piece of work, may not fall neatly into any enumerated violation, but such an act remains subject to academic discipline if the student sought or received an unfair advantage. While it is impossible to delineate or cite every possible violation, this scenario illustrates an example of when § 3.4 powers should be invoked.

Additionally, in accordance with the Honor Council's bifurcated process, the Hearing Panel's role in reaching a final verdict is not bound by any action or communication reported or produced by the Investigation Committee when reaching its probable cause determinations.

This is to say that the Hearing Panel is given independent discretion to decide whether or not to charge the accused with all, or any, of the Investigation Committee's probable cause determinations. Accordingly, the Investigation Committee should cite any potential violations in its final report because the Hearing Panel only retains flexibility to work within the original confines of the charges communicated in the notice of probable cause to the student.

Shayna Siley

Honor Council Chair

4/19/2017

Date