

Ethics Assignment

Case 3

Tian Qiu

As a college faculty member, I would follow the syllabus and give grades according to the syllabus and rubrics. If it says that students would receive zeros if they cheat on the project, I would give them zeros, even if the project counts for a significant portion of the final grade. Next, I will see how serious the cheating case is (how similar the students' projects are), and I may report it to the dean if they completely don't have their own parts. Also, when my boss is available for contact, I will contact him as soon as possible and tell him about this case.

From my personal views, I consider academic plagiarism as absolutely intolerable. First, it is unfair to those students who do not cheat. We all know that in a lot college courses, grades are given according to the students' percentiles in the class. For example, the top 30% of students may get an A. If one of our students plagiarized to get in the top 30%, then another student in the class who was supposed to get A would get kicked out of the A range. Therefore, it is everyone's duty to create and embrace a fair academic atmosphere. Second, plagiarism is unethical as it passes off other's work as your own. It is a form of knowledge stealing. The original author of the work would be offended by the lack of credit/reference. Besides, for the healthy development of our department, even though giving bad grades may temporarily restrict our laboratory space and salaries, our department would grow better in the long term as we keep a high reputation of zero-tolerance of cheating. Students will be able to learn the real stuff especially when they do it by themselves.

From a professional standpoint, in the IEEE code of conduct, the third point states that engineers need "To be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data." To follow the code of conduct and be honest, I decided to give the

students appropriate grades without being too “generous.” It is good to give generous grades to those students who behave well, but when it comes to the violation of academic integrity, being kind would just be harmful to both the students and the department. Also, there is a conflict of interest because my chair asks me to be generous to allow the department keep a decent amount of students. Therefore, according to the code, I disclose the conflict to my chair as soon as I can contact him/her. In the NSPE code of conduct, it points out that “Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others.” Those students who copied the project from others violate this code because they have not given credit to the original author. They are supposed to take the responsibility of respecting others’ work and receive punishment if they plagiarize. Conducting myself ethically is also a key element of the fundamentals of the NSPE. If faculty cannot point out students’ unethical behaviors, students will never be able to learn.