

Ethics Across The Curriculum

Prepared for the New Faculty
Orientation

October 31, 2008

Who Are We and What are We Doing Here?

- We are the Ethics Across the Curriculum Committee.
 - Technically a subcommittee of the Faculty Senate.
 - Responsible for the Ethics Statement for the faculty.
 - Charged with developing and improving the teaching of ethics in all disciplines.
 - Ultimately we are here to assist you in tackling ethical issues in the classroom.
- We are not the ethics police for the college.
 - We have no jurisdiction over (nor interest in) the ethical behavior of the faculty.

Brief Background

- Dr. Maura O'Neill applied for a FIPSE grant to institute a program for training faculty in the teaching of ethics.
- We received the grant in partnership with the Society For Ethics Across the Curriculum
 - “The purpose of the Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum is to stimulate scholarship on ethics and the teaching of ethics in all academic disciplines and to afford an opportunity for the exchange of research”.
- We are the pioneering community college member of the SEAC.

Some Resources



Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum

<http://www.rit.edu/~692awww/seac/>

Ethics Updates @ the University of San Diego

<http://ethics.sandiego.edu/>

The Kenan Institute for Ethics @ Duke University

http://kenan.ethics.duke.edu/prog_by_topic.asp

The Center for the Study of Ethics @ Utah Valley State College

<http://www.uvsc.edu/ethics/eac.html>

Professional Ethics

- Specific ethical duties or guidelines relative to a given profession and/or institution.
- We as college faculty and members of Chaffey college have specific ethical obligations.
 - Our contract lists roles/duties that must be fulfilled (e.g. see 18.2.3. for Professional Service Requirements).
 - Our newly drafted Faculty Ethics Statement lists general guidelines for faculty conduct.
- In the FES, we have chosen a virtue-based rather than a duty-based approach.

Some Case Studies

- Plagiarism or Cross-Cultural Misunderstanding?
- Grading curves: A Case of Academic Freedom or Unjust Grading Practice?
- The Case of the Delinquent Email Responder...
- Can we Openly Advocate For a Political Candidate or Ballot Measure/Proposition?

Some Tips

- BE PREPARED.
- Utilize relevant case studies.
- Familiarize yourself with basic moral theories.
- Take role as moderator, not moral authority.
- Encourage group problem solving.
- Help students to develop moral arguments.
- Attempt to do justice to differing viewpoints.