Reasoning with Ethics

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A Project of The School for Ethical Education | www.ethicsed.org

"Ethics in action creates character."

Use this blog to:

1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.

2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core values.

3. Recognize skills in support of the four components of ethical functioning.

Visit the online Ethics Blog.

Should Ethics or Consequences Prevent Grade Hacking?

A 22 year-old student at the University of Central Florida (UCF) learned that being too clever can get one a criminal arrest. His UCF engineering professor was informed of a grade change on the class record and realized he had not made the change.

Reviewing the new record, the professor recognized a student who had earned an F grade during the semester was now earning a letter grade of B. Campus security was able to determine where the changes were entered and security cameras revealed who made the changes. The student and associate in question now face criminal charges for trespassing and unauthorized access to school records. The criminal charges could lead to jail time.

University of Central Florida student facing criminal charges for changing grade via hacking school computer system.

Ethics are meant to guide our behaviors for the "flourishing" of our own life and the community. Consequences and legal penalties are meant to be guardrails on the highway of life to keep us on the road. In this case, ethics and the apparent serious consequences failed to deter two college students from crossing a line that the UCF administration has elevated to criminal activity.

Here is where a friend might have helped. We ask students to place themselves in the role of the failing student's friend. You are informed of the plan to change the grade and maybe you are solicited for your computer talent. What core ethical values should guide your response? What social skill would it require to truly help your friend?

Regarding the questions in this case, SEE welcomes students to post their response to this archived case on our website at http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case where more information is available for *Reasoning with Ethics.* Here is the video link for this case -- http://www.clickorlando.com/news/ucf-student-hacks-system-to-change-failing-grade-police-say

Contact information
The School for Ethical Education is a not for profit teaching agency in Milford, CT with the mission to advance strategies of placing ethics in action to create character. As a non-sectarian 501(C)3, SEE is supported by fees for service, grants and donations. For more information visit our website at www.ethicsed.org
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