

Working Group Update: Faculty Code of Ethics

Thomas McAndrew
Filippo Casati
Mike Spear

Background

- R&P 2.2.11.1 simply states:
“The Faculty Code of Ethics (FCoE can be found on the Faculty Senate website.)”
- 8-page document
 - Discussion of values
 - Rights and responsibilities of the faculty
 - Procedures for enforcing infractions of the code of ethics ← Our charge was to work on this
- Thankfully, Lehigh hasn’t had to investigate any infractions or levy any sanctions

Expanded Scope

- It's hard to put a straightjacket on a squid!
 - Current FCoE attempts to address too many aspects of faculty ethics
 - It's confusing
 - The main goals get lost
 - Improving enforcement policies will be difficult when parts of the document are vague or inconsistent
- Investigation procedures probably ineffective
- Sanctions (after three strikes) may not be enforceable
 - Mandatory training
 - Removal from committee service
 - Removal from leadership positions
 - Suspension without pay



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Prompt provided by Michael Spear
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Current Status

- Proposal to radically simplify the FCoE
 - Part 1 → Bedrock: Connect CoE to Principles of our Ethical Community (along with Title IX, RCR, and discipline-specific codes)
 - Part 2 → Pragmatics: Brief intuition / heuristics for what is meant by “ethical behavior”
 - Part 3 → Enforcement: Default policy + right for colleges to augment / expand

Next Steps

- Next week: meet with Alexandra Dunn (University Liaison for Faculty Compliance Matters)
- Complete draft to FSEC by 1 Feb
- First reading, second reading, vote, ...