

From champs to chumps: the public face of leadership

Yusra Sarhan
TECHNEWS WRITER

What comes to mind when you think about ethics? This is one of the questions that was addressed during the most recent Leadership Academy Seminar From Champs to Chumps: The Public Face of Leadership along with other questions that were aimed at helping the Illinois Tech community members grow into ethical leaders. The objectives of this seminar included: discussing the topic of ethical plurality, exploring how ethical values inform our leadership strategies, experiencing an interactive decision model for resolution of dilemmas, and practicing effective communication strategies for ethical leadership.

In the beginning of the seminar, we learned more about ourselves by analyzing

the results of the Ethical Lens Inventory Questionnaire which required every student to answer questions that were used to determine what type of ethical leader he/she is. Although it was interesting to interact with all the various types of leaders, it was even more interesting to use what we learned to participate in an interactive decision model that was centered around the Apple vs. FBI court case.

In short, the Apple vs. FBI court case is an ongoing court case that highlights constitutional rights and ethical values. The FBI claims that it is necessary to obtain a warrant to search through the subject's iPhone because they believe that this will help them find more information about a mass shooting. Apple, however, refuses to validate this claim because there is not enough evidence that shows that the benefits will outweigh the burdens of authorizing this warrant. Our job

was to get in teams of four and decide whether the phone will be opened or not.

Regardless, through this activity we were given the chance to analyze the pros and cons of the ethical dilemma that we were faced with. However, it's important to remember that this was a simulated example of an ethical dilemma that was dealt with in a safe environment. This luxury cannot always be afforded when we deal with ethical dilemmas in our daily lives. Nonetheless, something that helps me make my ethical decisions is to consider all the different communities I represent.

You represent several communities. If you were to stop and think about how your decisions affected those communities, you would probably think twice before finalizing a few of those decisions, wouldn't you? Essentially, this is what a leader does. A leader

represents several communities and stands for his/her communities and their respective causes. Which communities do you represent? Were you able to choose all the communities that you represent? Perhaps not.

Before closing, I want to remind you that ethics is not a black and white subject; it is gray; so is life. As we move through our journey of life, we realize that matters are not just 'right' or 'wrong'. Our moral compass begins to sway in different directions because matters become more intricate and multi-dimensional. However, this is natural because this is a part of growing up. Don't forget to always ask yourself, as you travel through this intricate journey of life, what you stand for. This will define who you are.



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CAMPUS

President, Provost Forum brings core student concerns to forefront

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Gerald Doyle, Vice Provost for Student Access, Success and Diversity Initiatives, was called on to shed some light on the collaboration with the Career Services offices, which he oversees. Doyle compared the 1.2 million dollar block grant the university received about eight years ago when President Obama came into office, to the estimated 600,000 dollar grant that is anticipated for the upcoming fiscal year. An initiative taken on by Doyle to make up for lost funds is approaching deans of colleges and chairs of departments to match the federal funding the university is receiving in order to focus on the best possible internship and job opportunities provided to students. Provost Bronet added closing comments to the student's question by interpreting the question differently and saying, "It's very possible that we, in this room, might now understand [the problem] or will understand it, but how do we communicate to the people that are meeting with you every day? And I think we'll take that on, so thank you for the question."

The sixth demand delivered to President Cramb by the Undocumented Students and Allies was restated by the next student, who also used a quote from the weekly Presidential Update email from the previous day, tying them together to say that hiring someone to work closely with undocumented students and other minorities is a necessity for our campus, and aligns

perfectly with President's Cramb's vision for our school as a community that encourages kindness and sensitivity towards one another. Asked for his response to the issue, President Cramb said that we do, in fact, have people working on different issues faced by students and that we have never been in a position where we do not have people working on any issues that we may have. He sympathized with students who have had demeaning words directed at them by faculty and staff and talked about working with the diversity and inclusion committee to sensitize people to what they're doing and saying because people oftentimes do not understand the gravity of their words. President Cramb responded to another demand raised by USA, saying that he will never be able to outlaw specific words, but is willing and determined to work with people to have sensitivity training for faculty and staff to make our community a more thoughtful, kind and helpful one. Additionally, the Provost brought up a statement drafted by Joseph Orgel, President of the university senate that highlights the university's mission to be inclusive and respectful to all students, irrespective of race, gender, country of origin, immigration status or any other such determining factor.

Following a large section of the forum that highlighted the immense struggles faced continually by undocumented students on our campus, a question was raised about the undeniable focus on Eastern European and

American scholars in science and engineering classes, largely overlooking the contributions of scholars in the Arab world or in Asia and what can be done to fix this disparity because, "on a diverse campus, students should know that science belongs to the whole world and not just one region." Provost Bronet was the first to answer this question, saying that she would be delighted to have a group of students be invited to the university faculty senate to start the discussion on how to tackle this issue, having seen monopolized and male dominated points of view in her own academic experience and knowing that change can and is happening in this realm, slowly, around the country.

With the end of the hour fast approaching, Wadhvani set the limit on one last question before closing remarks. Revisiting the demands raised by the Undocumented Students and Allies, the student restated the last demand about outlawing dehumanizing vocabulary and urged President Cramb to read the words of his faculty and staff in addressing some undocumented students and the community, as displayed on the banners in the back of the room. Repeating a sentiment he expressed earlier, President Cramb said that the issue was not to put certain words in the handbook as being off-limits, but rather to utilize the appropriate channels to report instances of harassment as and when they occur in order to handle them appropriately and try to prevent them from recurring. Provost Bronet added that they do not take

these issues lightly and called on Katie Stetz, Vice Provost for Student Life and Dean of Student Affairs to talk about how the Office of Student Affairs would handle these situations. Dean Stetz explained that the Office of Student Affairs, under which the code of conduct falls, takes cases of harassment and discrimination seriously, adding, "We're here to support you and what your needs are and we listen to complaints and handle them very seriously."

The hour-long event concluded with remarks by Wadhvani, who encouraged all students to talk to the President and Provost as well as other faculty and staff in the room if they had any questions. He also proposed an alternate route for students who may have had classes or other commitments: with the President and Provost's agreement, he offered to accept submissions for additional questions through SGA and then relay their feedback to the students. With that, he thanked all students for attending and asking questions, as well as faculty and staff for answering them. As pointed out by Provost Bronet earlier in the forum, the underlying spirit of the students in the room and in our community who speak out about and stand united for causes they believe in is noteworthy and one hopes that that determination and open discussions like these with the right people at the right time will lead to significant positive developments on our campus.