How I’ve Progressed In Ethics

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The progress of my reading, writing, and thinking skills has greatly improved as the course moved forward. The Units 2 and 6, Consensus Reports, are prime examples of my approach coming together as a whole. As I read, write, and discuss the issues with fellow students and my instructor, situations dealing with self and others gradually come more and more into perspective. I have changed the way I even approach certain ideas and situations as a result of this class. I have become more competent and gained a much broader understanding and appreciation of diversity and social situations. The writing and reading assignments truly enhanced my learning. The discussion boards and live seminars were excellent opportunities to openly discuss issues with the instructor and fellow-class members.

In order to illustrate how ExtremeNet’s executives could best respect Allen Lopez’s rights and moral dignity, demonstrate clear-cut ethical principles, and protect employees from any other unethical situations is to make certain the company has a fully functional and effective Human Resource Department that interacts with its employees for the best interest of both the company and its employees.

To demonstrate good ethical principles one must first know the difference between what is right, wrong, good, or bad in human conduct. It is the process of dealing with others in a fair and just manner (Thiroux & Krasemann, 2009).

The discussion board deliberation seem to reveal that some type of disciplinary action should be taken with Mr. Lopez but there is no conclusion on exactly what type, though the majority agree an effective Human Resource Department should have been in place to deal with such situations, and would have more than likely avoided Lopez’s website.

One individual felt that Lopez’s as well as all other employee’s rights and moral dignity, should be respected because of their contributions to the company as workers. She also felt that Lopez should be placed on suspension until the matter is resolved or a decision is made about whether or not he should be kept as an employee or not (Ross, 2009).

Another individual thought it was possibly illegal for a company to retaliate on an employee for whistle blowing by means of termination, and suggested an employee had a right to speak out against what they were not comfortable with in the work place, and that the person could possibly be saving the company by blowing the whistle, but she had no proof of these actions (Mariano, 2009).

Another deliberator felt Lopez would suffer grave consequences for blowing the whistle and suggested that most large companies had rules against speaking out against the work place, even though the company would be demonstrating unethical practices, the employee would be facing major damage. It was also stated that the situation was touchy and would more than likely result in a legal battle if this was to take place (Pickinpaugh, 2009).

When I consider Mr. Lopez, I ask myself, were his moral views consequential or non-consequential? In other words, was he concerned with the consequences of what could take place when building his website of the fictional company that so closely resembles ExtremeNet or not? Judging from his actions, I would say he acted as a consequentialist in a kind of rule utilitarian way. He did what he did without concern for his own consequences but rather in the best interest of the low-level employees, which makes you a bit sympathetic for him and look for a less harsh disciplinary action since his approaching the executives was kind of just brushed off. Though I can understand the company having to do something to avoid this happening again, but I, like Pickinpaugh, feel it is a touchy situation that would become a legal battle if pursued and the company would look guiltier. So I am also uncertain on just what action should be taken. I guess we are somewhat of a hung-jury.

Contrary to what came out of our deliberating, we must consider the rights and moral dignity of Mr. Lopez being respected by ExtremeNet’s executives and what if any actions should be taken. The text indicates that there is a possible argument of intuitionism, which is an individual having an immediate sense of right and wrong and acting on it. Could it be possible that he simply acted on his values? But the company could just as easily argue that it was a hunch, a wild guess, or an irrational inspiration. It is often hard to control the consequences of our actions but we can control what we do or not do (Thiroux & Krasemann, 2009).

It seems that we are at a stand-still in deciding the disciplinary action of Lopez but insist upon ExtremeNet respecting the rights and moral dignities of all employees including Allen Lopez. So perhaps, ExtremeNet’s executives and Lopez should come to an agreement to have the website removed before any further damage is done and the company should address the issues of Lopez’s concern about the treatment of the low-level employees. This way the company saves face, Lopez keeps his job and his rights and moral dignity are respected.

Unit 2 was an issue that dealt with ethics in the workplace that would have illustrated what I have learned so far and just how I demonstrated its use, but not nearly as well as I demonstrated it in Unit 6, which I have chosen to use rather as that example because the case of Affirmative action and reverse discrimination seem to be a bit more current and to the point.

Affirmative action is an issue of great debate and much controversy due to the conflict concerning reverse discrimination. It is when an employer chooses to hire, fire, or promote an individual based on race, sex, or sexual preference rather than merit and according to arguments for discrimination, a business’s employment practices are its own affair. Employers have the right to hire, fire, or promote whomever they please, whether it is people of different races, women, or all white males. They should have that right without interference because they are the owners of the company. Anyway, when there are issues of past discrimination, it is seldom the present employers fault. Therefore, it should not be their responsibility to correct the problem. Furthermore, discrimination did not just occur in the businesses and school, it happened everywhere. So, it is not fair for employers to be prevented from hiring who they consider is worthy for the position (Thiroux & Krasemann, 2009).

Though I feel Affirmative action is merely adding fuel to the fire, I agree with what Sharon Thomas has to say concerning discrimination having come a long way but still had a long way to go because it is still in the workplace. She also feel that Katie Sampson’s proposal should be heard rather than be dismissed on the basis that others do not care to hear her or deal with the situation (Thomas, 2009).

Jennifer Mariano stated she understood having an Affirmative action policy in place at businesses but did not think regents would be correct in rejecting Katie Sampson’s proposal because she did not think that all would find it offensive and feel as though they are “handed” the position at school, and that some would cry reverse discrimination. Though she did feel that Affirmative action admission policies in higher education could serve as a remedy for the effects of contemporary discrimination by monitoring applicants to assure certain ones are not accepted based on race or sex (Mariano, 2009).

After further review of the discussion board, we all seem to agree mostly that discrimination of any kind is a insidious practice because everyone has the right to better job and steady income in order to advance themselves. Therefore, discrimination in any workplace is definitely a negative and should be dealt with accordingly. Still, that does not change the fact that it is there and cannot be corrected by instating Affirmative action policies, which is nothing more than another form of discrimination. This being said, the majority of our group has come to the conclusion that Katie Sampson’s proposal is a valid one and well worthy of acceptance by the regent. As she stated, we too feel an individual should be hired based on experience and qualifications rather than race and/or sex or sexual preference. Nor should one be prevented from obtaining employment or education for those reasons either. Contrary to the many documents posted on bulletin boards in workplaces across the country, stating discrimination are not so, it is alive and well. Affirmative action is not the way to fix it, whether it be in educational institutions or the workplace.

In addition, I have added my Unit 5 Reflection paper to demonstrate how I have learned to put my critical thinking to use and write papers that speaks multitudes but in as few words as possible, while remaining focused on the main idea of the given topic or topics.

Stem-Cell Research is a form of Cloning that could be an utterly important breakthrough in Biomedical Ethics—morally prolonging life. This research introduces the ability to grow a complete human organ through the nuclear transferring of a somatic cell. However, as in all research, there are both negative and positive effects. The technique used in making such transfers could cause miscarriages in mothers, and /or result in genetic disorders in children, though it could also replace vital organs that have been damaged or diseased, if the transfer is successfully without conflict. Therefore, much research is still necessary before Stem-Cell Research or Cloning can be completely successful.

The development of these particular skills has taught me to remain focused on important ideas and issues, while closely inspecting my work for grammatical and spelling errors as I move through the document. I have learned to use proper format, citations, and references for documents where businesses or schools require the use of such. I have learned skills through the course of this class that are not only useful in the class but in all aspects of my living. The skills that I have developed will be quite useful in the Criminal Justice field that I am seeking employment in. It is equally useful in the field of Security, which is where I am presently employed. I have learned the proper way to write documents and reports required for my job. Our company recently received an award from their insurance company for the clear and precise documentation of rounds and point checks done by their night security, which got me a recent raise. So, the writing skills that I am receiving in this class are already an asset to me before graduation. I give much credit to my instructor and fellow-classmates for their interaction and the thoroughness of Doctor Yount. The course is generally teaching me how to conduct myself in a professional and dignified manner among all I may come in contact with. Ethics is not just something that is good in business or in the papers we as students may have to write, but in all aspects of our living. Dignity and morality greatly exceeds the business world as well as it application in the business world. I has it’s place in all manners of life, whether it be human, animal, insect, etc…as life goes on, so does ethical and moral treatment of all.

References

Mariano, J. (2009, August 7). Unit 6 Discussion Board Case Study Issue B Affirmative action.

Message posted to KU Course HU245: Ethics.

Pickinpaugh, B. (2009, August 8). Unit 2-Discussion Board Case Study Issue B Affirmative

Action. Message posted to KU Course HU245: Ethics.

Ross, K. (2009, August 7). Unit 2-Discussion Board Case Study Issue B Affirmative action.

Message posted to KU Course HU245: Ethics.

Thomas, S. (2009, August 10). Unit 6 Discussion Board Case Study Issue B Affirmative action.

Message posted to KU Course HU245: Ethics.

Thiroux, J.P. & Krasemann, K.W. (2009). Ethics: Theory and Practice—10th Edition. Ch.15

Business and Media Ethics. The New Global Economy and the International Business

Scene. P.376, Para. 4&5

I wanted to add an additional page of references because I wanted to show that I have also learned the proper way to cite and reference papers. This page has correct references but the following page is how I did them in the beginning of the class. You can clearly see the errors that were made and corrected.

References

Mariano, J. (2009). Unit 2-Discussion Board

Pickinpaugh, B. (2009). Unit 2-Discussion Board

Ross, K. (2009). Unit 2-Discussion Board

Thiroux, J.P. & Krasemann, K.W. (2009). Ethics: Theory and Practice—10th Edition. Ch.15

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