Behavior When in Authority

CS103F: Ethical Foundations of Computer Science
March 5, 2019
Discussion: Amazon
Power Dynamics and Interactions

• Being in a position of authority inherently changes power dynamics
  • You are hired on as proctor for the class your significant other is taking
  • You receive a promotion and become your best friend’s supervisor

• Being in a position of authority increases the need for ethical behavior and action
  • Your significant other asks you to help them with their code outside of regular office hours
  • You continue to go out to lunch with your best friend despite now being their supervisor
iClicker Check-in

• Your significant other asks you to help them with their code outside of regular office hours
  • A (help them)
  • B (don’t help them)

• Continue to go out to lunch with your best friend despite now being their supervisor
  • A (continue)
  • B (stop)
How Should You Ensure Fair Treatment?

• What constitutes fair treatment of employees and customers?
• How can you balance your personal preferences and beliefs with professional interactions?
• If/when is it okay to make an exception for a particular employee or customer?
How Should You Handle Privacy?

• What information about your employees and customers should remain private?
• What is okay to share?
• What must you share?
Disclosure Laws Related to Education

• **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)**
  • Protects the privacy of student education records
  • Must receive written permission from parents or student to release that student’s education record

• **Title IX**
  • Prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions
  • Schools and educators **must** respond promptly to complaints related to sex discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual violence

• Really important if you proctor/TA while at UT!
But Laws Aren’t Enough...

• Laws only enforce the bare minimum of good behavior
• Cannot ensure a mutually positive experience, or that everyone conducts themselves with consideration for others
Boundaries and Respect

• Boundaries can be defined as the understanding of “where you end and another person begins”

• Respect others’ needs and wants in terms of:
  • Space
  • Limits
  • Acceptable workplace behavior
  • Autonomy

• Defining rules up front (and following these rules regardless of the individual relationships) creates an environment of trust and respect
References

• https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html
• https://www.knowyourix.org/college-resources/title-ix/
• https://www.orionassoc.net/2014/02/18/five-ways-establish-good-boundaries-employees/