

QUICK TIPS

ETHICS IS:

DECIDING WHAT IS RIGHT OR MOST RIGHT IN A GIVEN SITUATION.

*Examples of Behaviors and
Practices Exemplifying Ethical
Leadership:*

- Expecting high performance of oneself and others
- Respect for excellence
- Putting oneself in another's shoes (empathy)
- Treating others with respect and care
- Elevating the values and aspirations of others rather than appealing to their wants and needs
- Standing up for one's beliefs
- Reinforcing responsible behavior
- Reinforcing communication expressing opposing views
- Questioning and possessing a willingness to change
- Whistle blowing on others as a last resort



ETHICS

**TIGER
BITS** is a publication of the Center for Student Involvement. Copies available in the CSI, lower level rm. 014, FHSU Memorial Union, Fort Hays State University 628-4664.



CSI staff offer programs and consultation in these and other areas of personal and organizational leadership.

Information adapted from the Student Organization and Leadership Development Center at The University of Kansas

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

Most decisions that leaders make involve some kind of choice. Many times it may not be a clear cut right or wrong issue, but involve a "judgment call" focusing on the leader's and members' values and beliefs. For example, the issue of having alcohol at a party on campus is a clear cut decision because of state law; however, having an off-campus party with alcohol involves a judgment call by the leader or members of the group.

Below are some questions that might help you deal with those "judgment call" decisions:

What is the dilemma?

Should we have alcohol at our off-campus party?

What are the facts?

More than 50% of our members are underage.

Having alcohol at a party increases our liability.

Past activities have shown that more members would attend if were available.

What values are apparent in the situation?

We shouldn't need alcohol to have a good time.

Why shouldn't the legal-aged members be able to drink if they so choose?

Will we allow minors to drink alcohol at our party?

Which values do I wish to advance here?

Is it legal?

Is it balanced or fair to all sides?

How will it make me feel about myself?

Which of the above values is most important to you?

What are the alternative courses of action/options?

Allow each member to bring his/her own alcohol.

Provide alcohol.

Monitor underage drinking.

Do not allow alcohol.

Schedule the event at a licensed establishment.

What are the consequences?

If each member brings his/her own alcohol, minors may be drinking at the party
(a violation of the law).

If you decide to monitor minor's consumption, what will you do if you catch someone?

If you do not allow alcohol, your liability decreases, but so might your attendance.

What is my decision?

Choose the best alternative.

Some other considerations that might help you sort things out:

- * Ultimately I have to take responsibility for what I do and do not do.
- * Can I live with this decision.
- * Is my action ultimately doing more good than harm?
- * How is this decision affecting the "stakeholders" in this situation?
- * Am I using excuses to justify my behavior?
- * Would I be proud to have my decision placed in the headline news?
- * Am I practicing the Golden Rule -
"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."?

GOOD LUCK!

SOMETIMES THE HARDEST DECISIONS TO MAKE HELP YOU LEARN THE MOST.