Advocating for an Ethical Process

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Agenda

- Welcome
- Ethical Dilemmas Workshop
- Open Discussion and Q&A
- Additional Resources
Scenario #1

The scholarship application for X University requires students to upload two teacher letters of recommendation and doesn’t offer an alternative method of submitting the documents to keep the letter of recommendation confidential. Unfortunately, in your high school’s handbook it prohibits giving students copies of their recommendation letters because that would violate the school’s confidentiality standards. You don’t want your student to miss out on a scholarship opportunity, but you also can’t violate your school’s policy. Your teachers write honest, thoughtful, and truthful letters because they can remain confidential.
Scenario #1: Questions to Consider

- Why would a university ask students to upload their own letters?
- Can the university's scholarship committee access documents submitted through the admission process?
- Perhaps the university doesn't require - or even accept - letters of recommendation for admission. If the scholarship process is completely independent of the admission process, should the admission office be more involved to facilitate this process?
Scenario #2

You see the following post on the College Admissions Counselors’ Facebook page: “I have a student who deposited at Atlantic Ocean University (AOU) prior to May 1st, got their welcome packet in the mail, secured off-campus housing, etc. In contacting the university during the second week of June about another issue, AOU informed the student that he was not enrolled for the fall. Apparently, they sent out a preference letter in an email to him, and the student thought he had already completed all his preferences, so he overlooked it. Nope! There is not a spot for him. He was told he can reapply next year. Is this an attempt to weed out the over enrolled population? Or is this normal protocol…” Replies to the post all put AOU on blast and pile on, relaying similar stories of ways people feel AOU has acted unethically.
Scenario #2: Questions to Consider

- It appears that the original post and respondents feel the university knowingly acted unethically.
- How do the three pillars of communication, education, and advocacy apply to this dilemma?
- If you do decide to act, to whom do you reach out?: Reply privately to the original poster?
- What if the university is unaware of any guidelines for professional practices?
- Does that change how you might view this situation and if you should respond?
- Reply publicly in the thread?
- Approach the university directly?

DILEMMA #4: DISCUSSION TOPICS
Scenario #3

Having been accepted to a nursing program, Flo Nightingale is told the housing deposit is due March 15. Flo wants to wait to hear from another nursing program that won’t notify until April 1. She approaches you as her counselor, wondering how to make the request for an extension of time for admissions’ consideration between the two programs.
Scenario #3: Questions to Consider

DILEMMA #3: DISCUSSION TOPICS
Open Discussion

What ethical dilemmas have you seen “from the field?”
Additional Resources

- **Ethical Leadership Credential Program**
- **Advocacy Leadership Credential Program**
- **PACAC Counselor Assistance Grant**
- **NACAC Guide to Ethical Practices in College Admission**
- **NACAC Ethical Dilemmas Resource**

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