

2011

[Fall 2011 TLPDC Ethics Series Report]

Series sponsored by the Texas Tech University Ethics Center and the Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center.

Fall 2011 TLPDC Ethics Series Report

Introduction

The Texas Tech University Ethics Center (TTU Ethics Center) collaborated with the Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center (TLPDC) to host three luncheons during the Fall 2011 semester. These sessions were originally developed as part of the SACS-COC Quality Enhancement Plan in Fall 2009.

The TLPDC/TTU Ethics Center ethics lunch sessions address different aspects of professional codes of ethics, academic integrity, and ethical issues in personal, professional, and civic life. The following sections will summarize the three Fall 2011 sessions in detail.

Session I

Event Details

Name: Using Movies to Teach Ethics

Date: 9/21/2011

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Location: Room 151 - Audio/Video Instructional Lab (AVI)

Speaker: Jennifer Bard, Alvin R Allison Professor of Law & Director, Health Law Program, School of Law

Summary: "Please join Professor Jennifer Bard for a discussion on how movies can be utilized in class to teach ethics. Professor Bard will highlight different movies that provide for ethics discussions in various disciplines and will also discuss the text, 'The Picture of Health: Medical Ethics and the Movies'. Lunch will be provided and registration is available on the TLTC website. This talk will meet part of the NSF requirements for RCR training."¹

Participants and Feedback

The 63 participants came from 18 different colleges/units. Most were from the Whitacre College of Engineering and College of Arts and Sciences (14 each). The following table provides a more detailed description of participants' affiliations.

¹ <https://www.tltc.ttu.edu/WebApps/EMSEventEnrollmentDev/View/RSS/RSS.aspx/GetEvents> (accessed 09/21/2011)

Table 1

Participants at *Using Movies to Teach Ethics* session.

	Faculty	Faculty/ staff	Staff	Post- doctoral	Graduate student	SUM
University Student Housing			1			1
Physical Plant			1			1
Provost, Office of		1				1
TLPDC			1			1
Law School	1					1
Ethics Center			2		1	3
Honors College			2			2
University College	1	1				2
Planning and Assessment, Office of			2			2
Education					2	2
Vice President Research, Office of		1	1			2
Library			2			2
CASNR	2				1	3
Business	1				2	3
Visual and Performing Arts	2				1	3
Human Sciences			2		4	6
Engineering			3		11	14
Arts & Science	4		1	2	7	14
TOTAL	11	3	18	2	29	63

Event Questionnaire: 45 questionnaires were collected. Attendees answered the following five questions/statements:

1. What is your affiliation with Texas Tech University?
2. This workshop met my expectations based on the workshop title and description.
3. I would recommend this workshop to my colleagues.
4. Do you have any comments or suggestions you would like to share regarding this workshop?
5. Do you have any suggestions for future ethics work shop?

The following charts summarize the answers to the first three questions.

1. Most respondents were graduate students (Figure 1).

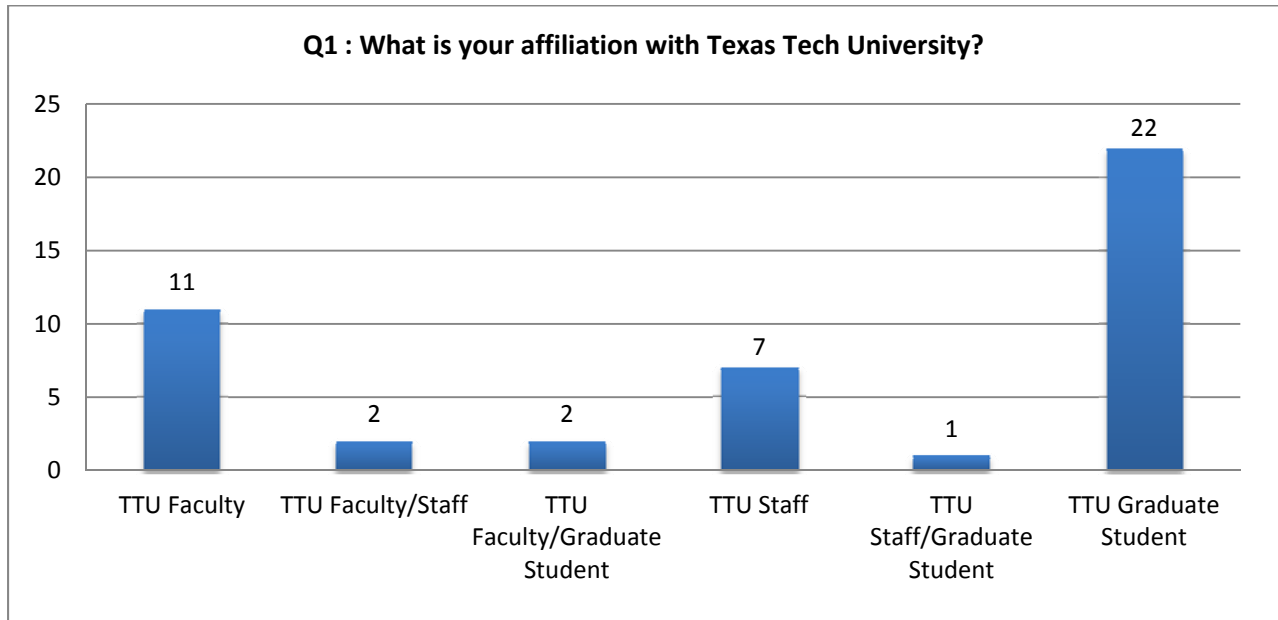


Figure 1. Number of Session 1 Respondents, by Rank

2. A great number of respondents (82.2%) *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that this workshop met their expectations based on the workshop title and description (Figure 2).

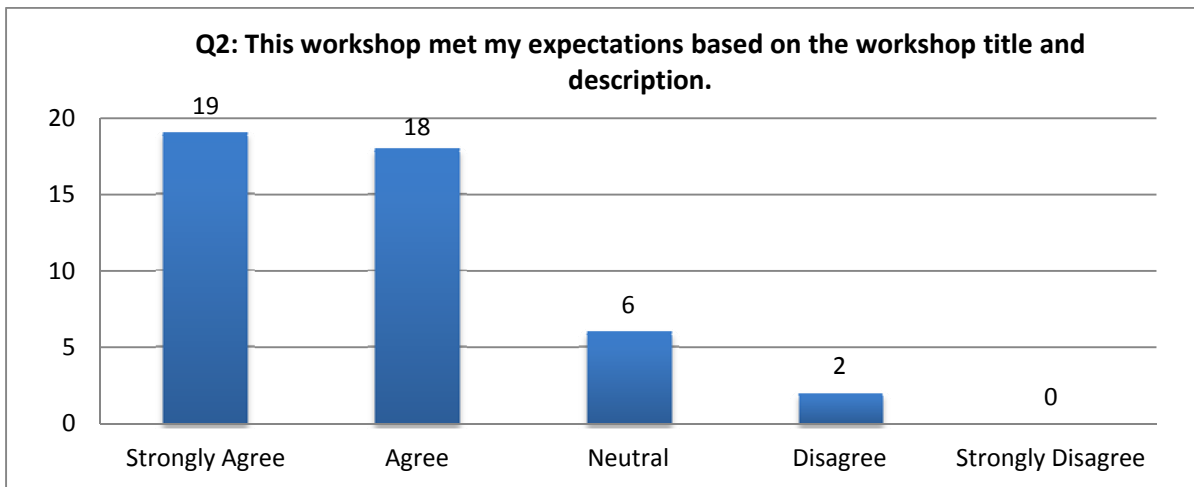


Figure 2. Session 1 Respondents' Expectations

3. The majority of the respondents (88.9%) also *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that they would recommend this workshop to their colleagues (Figure 3).

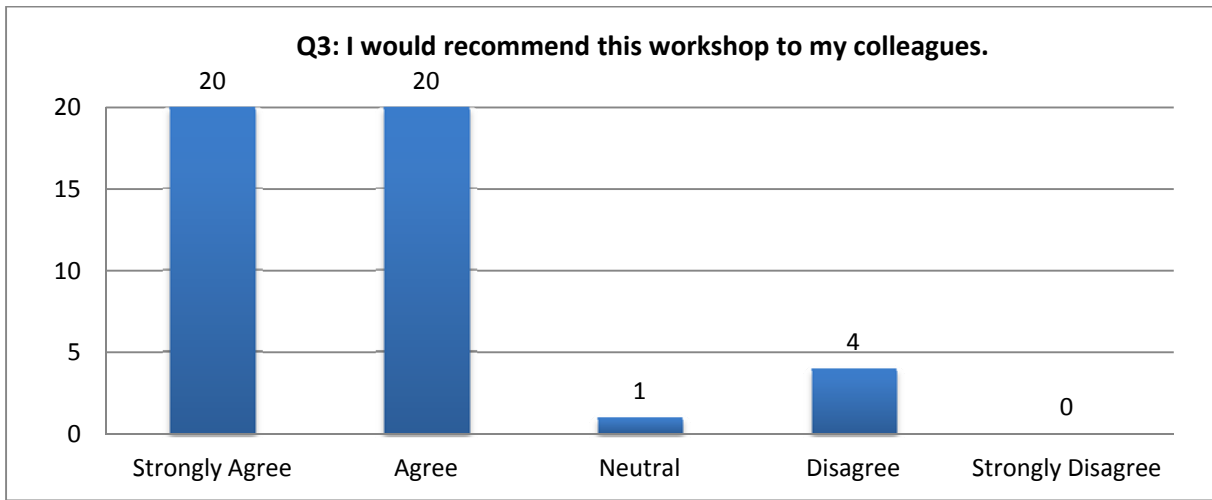


Figure 3. Session 1 Respondents' Plans to Recommend Session

Substantive Comments

4. Nineteen (19) respondents gave comments/suggestions regarding this workshop. Their answers can be categorized into 3 themes:
- Overall great performance
 - Content/structure suggestions
 - Technical/miscellaneous

The following are comments or suggestions from each theme.²

- Overall great performance:
 - Great topic. So relevant for today's classrooms.
 - Excellent. I have used *Thank You for Smoking* and *The Boys in the Band* - Both great ethics films. Ideas on some of clips were very useful!
 - Good resources, gave great reason "why." Very good! I love the idea of this for teaching and developing students.
- Content/structure suggestions:
 - A little more discussion on application; not as much description.

² See appendix A for comprehensive comments/suggestions regarding this workshop.

- More emphasis on the methodology of teaching ethics using movies/case studies (movies as case studies).
 - Something Engineering specific please.
 - Although I know [it] will be done at a later date, I would like to know how to edit DVDs. I have a lot of TV series on DVDs, and I know it could be helpful in my lessons.
 - Tried to accomplish too much - would have just liked to discuss different ethical principles and clips that demonstrate theme. The technical aspects should be another lecture - finding clips, editing, etc.
 - It seemed to jump all over the place. I [wanted] to know the ethical topics and the movies that can be used to illustrate and discuss them. Maybe a demonstration? Have us be the students.
- c. Technical/miscellaneous:
- I wish this was a little longer as there was a lot of information that was covered.
 - Video clips are hard to see from distance in the room.
 - Small screen in room - clips not readable or easy to see from back of room, which lowered the impact.
 - The word of PPT or video is a little small and the voice of the video is the same. Should be louder.
 - As a child of technology, this was geared more toward technology illiterate teachers/new ppl who've never used clips in PowerPoint before, which would have been nice to know in the description.
5. Five respondents also gave suggestions for future ethics workshop.
- More of identifying theme of class lesson with matching with the movie.
 - Using case studies to encourage critical thinking.
 - It will be better to continue more workshops like this.
 - Lists of popular clips/movies/shows per the major subjects (medicine, counseling/psychology, business, etc.)
 - How to imbed the clips in the ppt. Effective presentation technique.

Session II

Event Details

Name: Top 10 Ethical Issues Facing Today's Students

Date: 10/18/2011

Time: 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Location: Room 151 - Audio/Video Instructional Lab (AVI)

Panelists: Dr. Bryan Duncan, Sofia Rodriguez, and Dr. Amy Murphy

Summary: "When most college students leave home for the first time, a new realm of ethical dilemmas opens up to them. They now have choices to make about many things-like whether to use drugs, have casual sex, drink under-age or over-drink legally, or plagiarize their term papers. They also have to choose how they should use social media, whether to join student organizations, and what activities to do with them. How do students make those choices? Coming to college is almost like joining a new culture; how do students navigate it? In this session, Dr. Bryan Duncan (Student Counseling Services) will use an acculturation model to show how students develop their identity and make ethical decisions in college. Sofia Rodriguez (Student Judicial Programs) will share the issues that students face with communicating online and choices about sexuality and substance abuse. Dr. Amy Murphy (Interim Dean of Students) will discuss the role that parents and student groups can play in helping students transition into college culture and master its ethical challenges. This session will help you understand the trends and issues connected with students' ethical decision making."³

Participants and Feedback

The 76 participants came from 23 different colleges/units. The majority was from the Whitacre College of Engineering and College of Arts and Sciences. See Table 2 for a more detailed description of participants' affiliations.

³ <https://www.tlhc.ttu.edu/WebApps/EMSEventEnrollmentDev/View/RSS/RSS.aspx/GetEvents> (accessed, 09/21/2011)

Table 2

Affiliations and Rank of Participants at *Top 10 Ethical Issues Facing Today's Students* session.

	Faculty	Staff	Post-doctoral	Graduate student	N/A	SUM
Graduate School		1				1
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences		1				1
Institutional Review Board		1				1
Sponsored Programs Accounting & Reporting		1				1
Information Systems				1		1
Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, College of		1				1
Athletics		1				1
Physical Plant		1				1
Provost, Office		1				1
TLPDC		1				1
Law School	1					1
Planning and Assessment, Office		1				1
Vice President for Research, Office		1				1
Mass Com	1			1		2
Ethics Center		2				2
University College		3				3
Business	3					3
University Student Housing		3		1		4
Human Sciences	1			4		5
Library	2	3				5
Student Affairs	1	9				10
Arts and Sciences	3		2	5	4	14
Engineering	1			11	3	15
TOTAL	13	31	2	23	7	76

Event Questionnaire: 48 questionnaires were collected. The session questionnaire included the following five questions/statements:

1. What is your affiliation with Texas Tech University?
2. This workshop met my expectations based on the workshop title and description.
3. I would recommend this workshop to my colleagues.
4. Do you have any comments or suggestions you would like to share regarding this workshop?
5. Do you have any suggestions for future ethics workshops?

The following charts summarize responses to the first three questions.

1. Most respondents were TTU staff and graduate students (Figure 4).

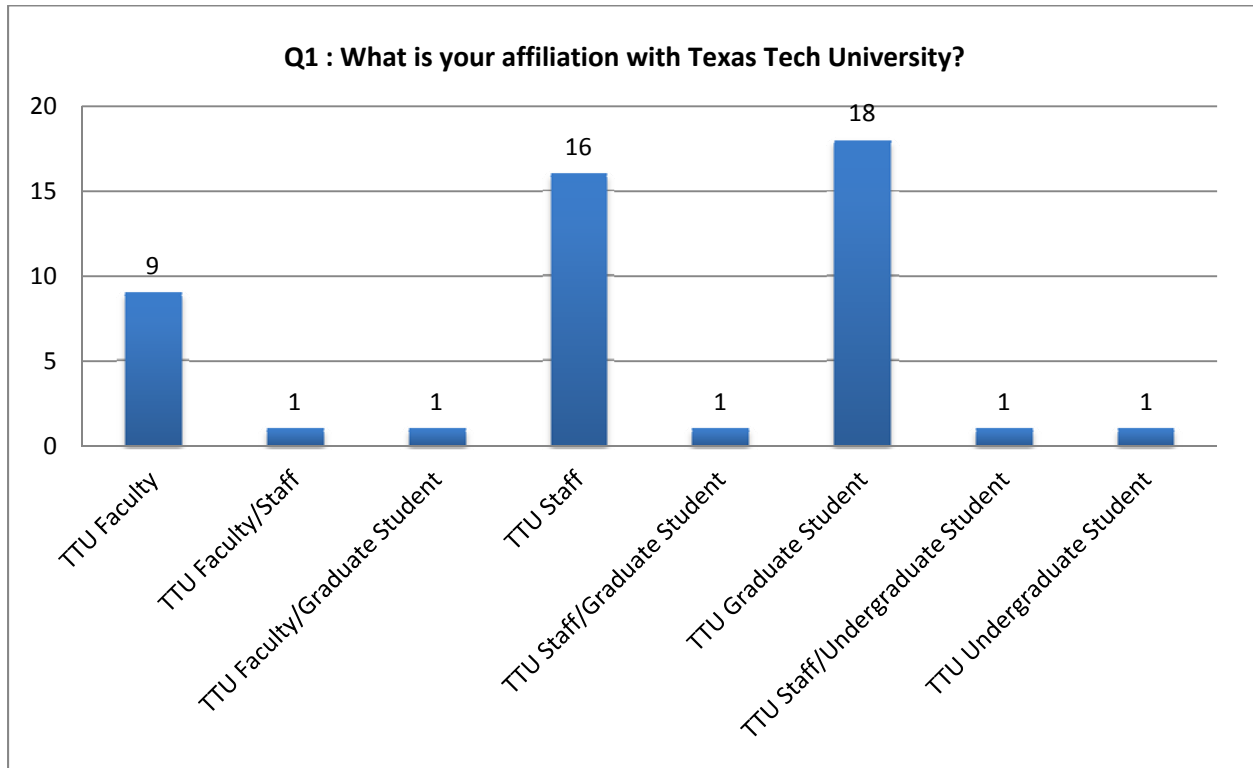


Figure 4. Number of Session 2 Respondents, By Rank

2. The majority of the respondents (93.7%) *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that this workshop met their expectations based on the workshop title and description (Figure 5).

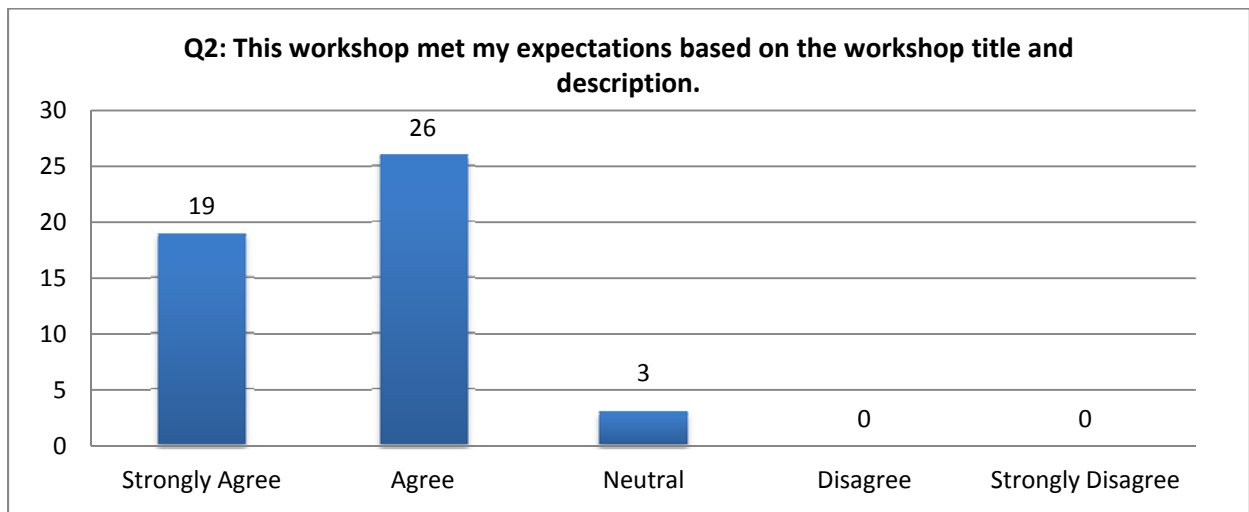


Figure 5. Session 2 Respondents' Expectations

3. Most respondents (87.5%) *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that they would recommend this workshop to their colleagues (Figure 6).

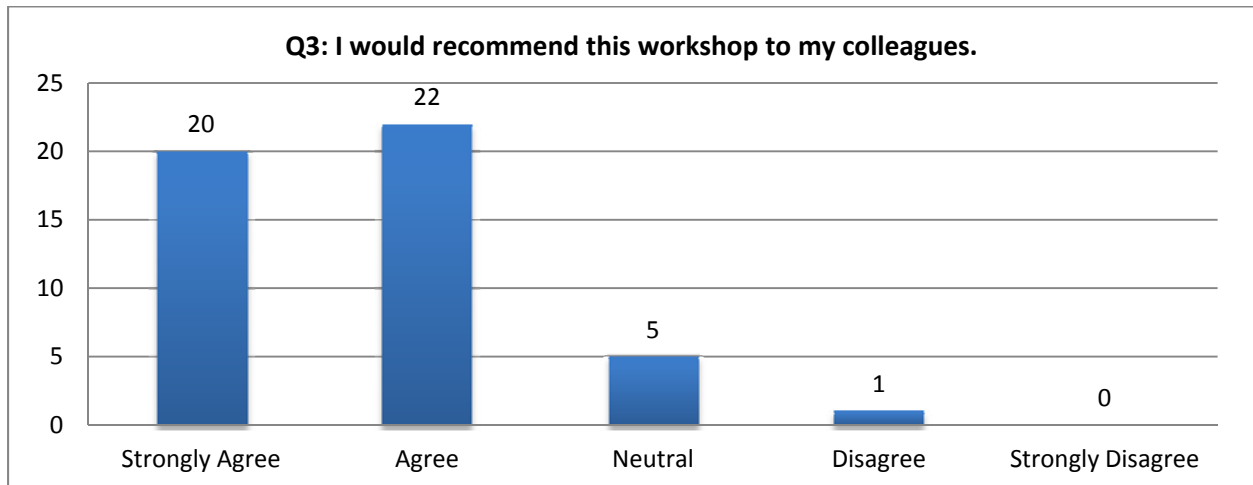


Figure 6. Session 2 Respondents' Plans to Recommend Session

Substantive Comments

4. Twenty (20) respondents gave comments/suggestions regarding this workshop. Their answers can be categorized into 3 themes:
- Interesting/informative workshop
 - Content/structure suggestions
 - Miscellaneous

Selected comments/suggestions include:⁴

- Interesting/informative workshop
 - Interesting/informative workshop:
 - Great workshop! Really interesting!
 - I did think it would involve more of a discussion since it was a panel, but it was good information.
 - I thought it was well structured. If you are interested, "Hooking Up" by Katherine Bogel is a great read.
 - This workshop exceeded my expectations. People who attended received more than a clock hour's worth of information. Even the food was fabulous.

⁴ See appendix B for comprehensive comments/suggestions regarding this workshop.

- As a new professional at Tech, I feel like I have a better understanding of their behavior at this institution. I like that the info was very relevant to my work with students.
- b. Content/structure suggestions
- More specific examples with resolution for each case.
 - SJP information was not as clearly presented as it could've been. Student choices weren't really examined.
 - A lot of information really fast. Might just more highlights, how to handle certain situations. What are the resources students can use?
 - Maybe adding more pictures is better.
- c. Miscellaneous
- Enjoyed the examples/relevance to the culture here at TTU.
 - The third speaker, Dr. Amy Murphy, was very rushed for her presentation. It would help to make the session 1 1/2 hour long.
 - Felt too rushed & left no room for discussion of ideas. Middle speaker felt disjointed and was on her phone while her colleagues spoke.
 - I struggled to see how some of these issues were ethical issues. I did not gain any tools on how to help students identify and handle ethical issues.
5. Thirteen (13) respondents also gave suggestions for future ethics workshops. Their answers can be categorized into 2 themes:
- a. Adequate time
- b. Content suggestions

Selected comments/suggestions include:⁵

- a. Adequate time:
- Bigger room . . . Time for discussion.
 - Longer time allowed for real discussion of ideas presented.
 - Wish feedback time, Q&A. Maybe create discussion space - blog/group online.
- b. Content suggestions:
- More panels.
 - More about students.
 - Academic honesty.

⁵ See appendix C for comprehensive suggestions for future ethics workshops.

- Plagiarism.
- I think it would be neat to do a sportsmanship specific roundtable discussion.
- Would've liked to hear most specifics on diversity issues, examples, and direction/tools to assist in these issues.

Session III

Event Details

Event Name: When Scientists Cheat: Colleagues as a Defense against Bad Science

Date: 11/10/2011

Time: 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Location: Room 151 - Audio/Video Instructional Lab (AVI)

Speaker: Gerald P Koocher, PhD, Associate Provost and Professor of Psychology

Summary: "Please join Dr. Gerald Koocher from Simmons College for a discussion on dishonesty in the scientific community. This presentation will present survey data and case examples that highlight causes of and strategies to reduce scholarly dishonesty in the behavioral and biomedical scientific community. Additional discussion will focus on strategies for how to intervene and gentle alternatives to whistleblowing."⁶

Participants and Feedback

The 50 participants came from 12 different colleges/units. The majority was from the College of Arts and Sciences and Whitacre College of Engineering. See the following chart for a more detailed description of participants' affiliations.

⁶ <https://www.tlrc.ttu.edu/WebApps/EMSEventEnrollmentDev/View/RSS/RSS.aspx/GetEvents> (accessed 09/17/2010)

Table 3

Affiliations and Rank of Participants at *When Scientists Cheat* session.

	Faculty	Staff	Graduate	N/A	SUM
Business	1				1
CUR		1			1
Graduate School		1			1
Honors College	1				1
Library	1				1
OVPR		1			1
Provost Office	1				1
Ethics Center		2			2
Human Sciences	1		1		2
CASNR	1		2		3
Engineering	1		13		14
Arts and Sciences	5	1	14		20
N/A			1	1	2
TOTAL	12	6	31	1	50

Event Questionnaire: 43 questionnaires were collected. The following five questions/statements were asked on the questionnaire:

1. What is your affiliation with Texas Tech University?
2. This workshop met my expectations based on the workshop title and description.
3. I would recommend this workshop to my colleagues.
4. What comments or suggestions do you have regarding this workshop?
5. What suggestions do you have for future ethics workshops?

The following charts summarize responses to the first three questions.

1. Answers to the first question show that most respondents were graduate students (Figure 7).

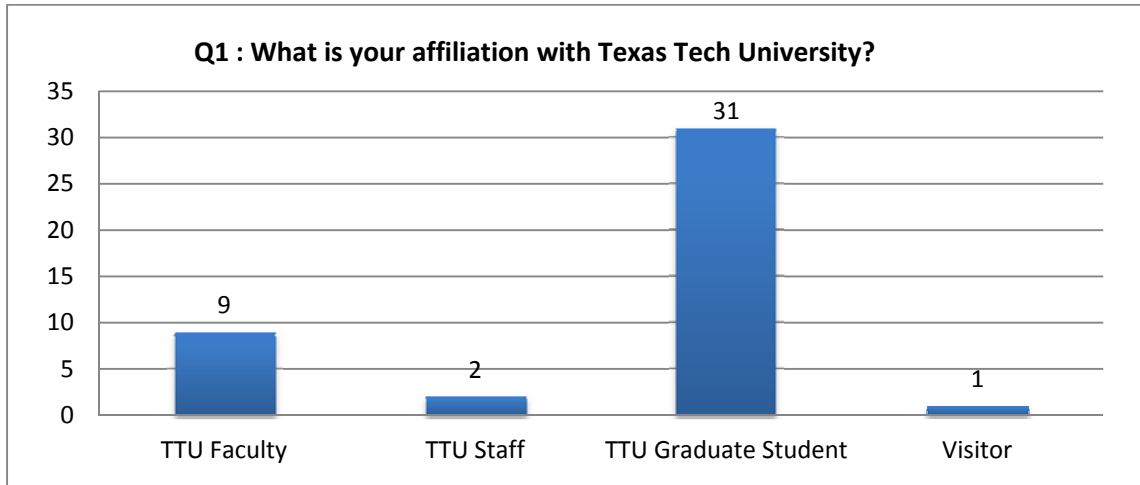


Figure 7. Session 3 Respondents, By Rank or Class

2. Almost all of the respondents (97.7%) *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that this workshop met their expectations based on the workshop title and description (Figure 8).

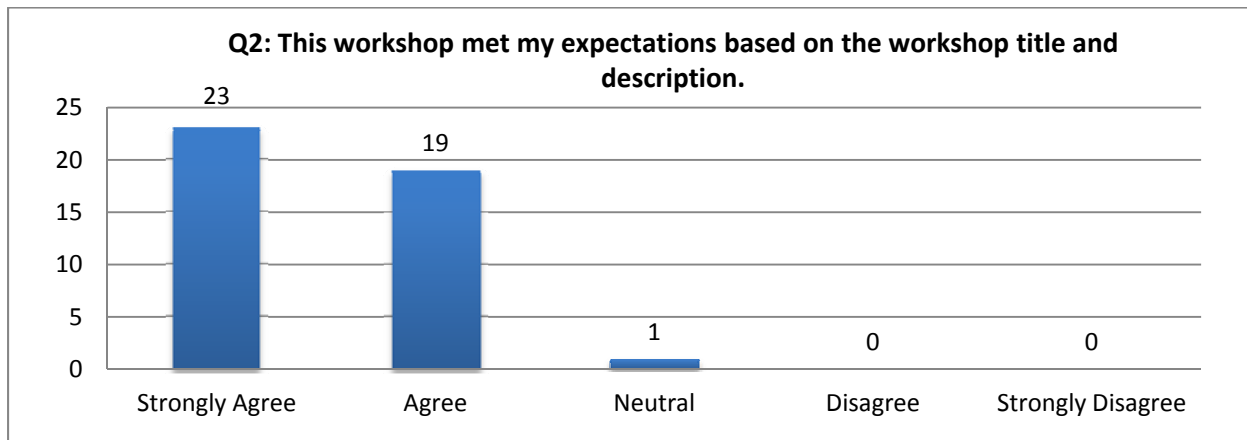


Figure 8. Session 3 Respondents' Expectations

3. The majority of the respondents (93.0%) *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that they would recommend this workshop to their colleagues (Figure 9).

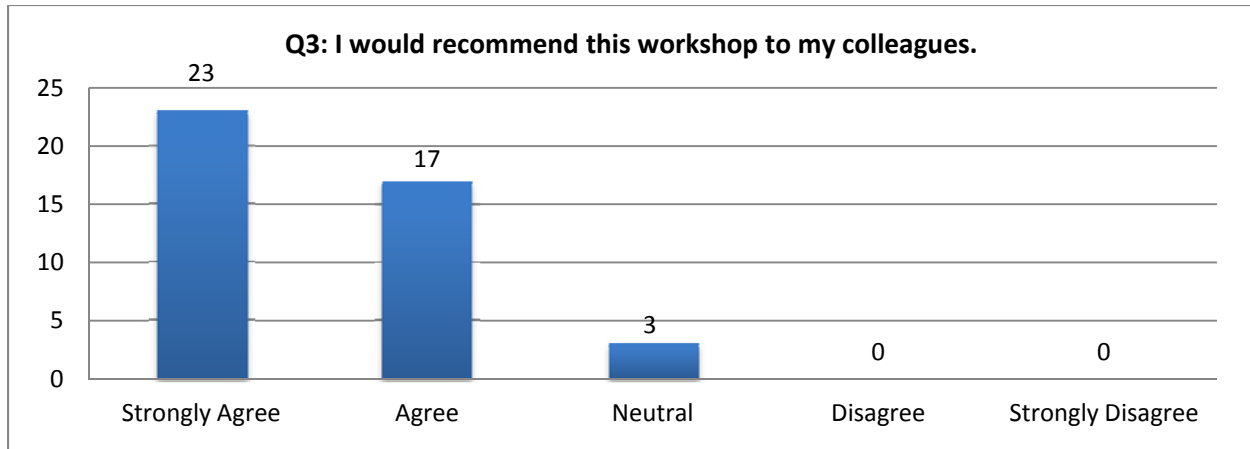


Figure 9. Session 3 Respondents' Plan to Recommend Workshop

Substantive Comments

4. Sixteen (16) respondents gave comments/suggestions regarding this workshop. Their answers can be categorized into 3 themes:
- a. Great speaker
 - b. Informative seminar
 - c. Additional content

Selected comments/suggestions include:⁷

- a. Great speaker:
 - A great, well-prepared, and entertaining workshop.
 - Glad he talked to the students.
 - Undergraduate students should be encouraged to attend a workshop like this.
 - It was a really good workshop. Would like to listen to some more of such workshops.
- b. Informative seminar:
 - Quite informative.
 - Got helpful information.
 - Very good presentation, enlightening and informational.
 - This was little different from the general ethics seminars. It was well presented with examples which I could relate to.
- c. Additional content:
 - What we can do with these situations.

⁷ See appendix D for comprehensive comments/suggestions regarding this workshop.

- Make time spent on strategies to prevent and resolve ethical issues would have been helpful.
5. Six (6) respondents also gave suggestions regarding future ethics workshop. Selected suggestions include:⁸
- Should continue to have such seminars in future.
 - Would like to hear more on ethics in research (science).
 - Consider how to apply science to other fields, like arts, engineering.
 - I liked what Dr. Koocher talked about with errors in research design and statistics use. Anything on how to stop that would be great.

Conclusion

Evaluations from the Fall 2011 TLPDC Ethics Series showed that participants found these workshops interesting and informative; all sessions were well-received and benefitted participants in several ways. The majority of the respondents (91.2%) *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that these workshops met their expectations based on the workshop title and description. Participants also believed the workshops were insightful and relevant to today's classroom and to the culture at TTU; nearly 90% of respondents *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that they would recommend these workshops to their colleagues.

Attendees suggested allowing more time for presentation, examples, and audience participation in future: the "one-hour" session seemed too rushed and prevented in-depth discussions. For future workshops, the respondents suggested a larger space, more panelists, recruiting more undergraduate participation, and hosting follow-up sessions for video technology training.

On the other hand, a few participants voiced confusion because some information, although helpful, had not been forecast in the seminar description. Some people suggested that presenters use video clips and images, and one session had technical issues, such as low volume of the speakers and videos and the small fonts on the PowerPoint slides.

Overall, the Fall 2011 TLPDC/Ethics series had very positive outcomes. Both presenters and attendees suggested that the Ethics Center continue such workshops. Proposed topics of interest include arts, diversity, sportsmanship, science research, and academic honesty. In addition, some respondents wished for more information and discussions on applications, solutions, handling ethical issues, or preventions of misconduct.

⁸ See appendix E for comprehensive suggestions for future ethics workshops.

Appendix A

Comments/suggestions regarding the workshop “Using Movies to Teach Ethics”

1. Very well done!
2. Excellent. I have used *Thank You for Smoking* and *The Boys in the Band* - Both great ethics films. Ideas on some of clips were very useful!
3. I wish this was a little longer as there was a lot of information that was covered. Great workshop!
4. Very nicely done!
5. A little more discussion on application; not as much description.
6. Small screen in room - clips not readable or easy to see from back of room, which lowered the impact. Of course, this demonstrated what can go wrong.
7. Tried to accomplish too much - would have just liked to discuss different ethical principles and clips that demonstrate theme. The technical aspects should be another lecture - finding clips, editing, etc.
8. Although I know [it] will be done at a later date, I would like to know how to edit DVDs. I have a lot of TV series on DVDs, and I know it could be helpful in my lessons.
9. More emphasis on the methodology of teaching ethics using movies/case studies (movies as case studies).
10. Sound was too low several times.
11. Very well done.
12. Good resources, gave great reason “why.” Very good! I love the idea of this for teaching and developing students.
13. Great workshop with enough useful information. The word of PPT or video is a little small and the voice of the video is the same. Should be louder.
14. Great topic. So relevant for today’s classrooms.
15. Something Engineering specific please.
16. As a child of technology, this was geared more toward technology illiterate teachers/new ppl who’ve never used clips in PowerPoint before, which would have been nice to know in the description.
17. It seemed to jump all over the place. I was more wanting to know the ethical topics and the movies that can be used to illustrate and discuss them. Maybe a demonstration? Have us be the students.

18. Video clips are hard to see from distance in the room.
19. It was a good learning experience.

Appendix B

Comments/suggestions regarding the workshop “Top 10 Ethical Issues Facing Today’s Students”

1. Excellent.
2. Nicely done!
3. The third speaker, Dr. Amy Murphy, was very rushed for her presentation. It would help to make the session 1 1/2 hour long.
4. This was a very interesting workshop.
5. I did think it would involve more of a discussion since it was a panel, but it was good information.
6. Good presentation.
7. Great workshop! Really interesting!
8. It was really good.
9. I thought it was well structured. If you are interested, "Hooking Up" by Katherine Bogel is a great read.
10. This workshop exceeded my expectations. People who attended received more than a clock hour's worth of information. Even the food was fabulous.
11. As a new professional at Tech, I feel like I have a better understanding of their behavior at this institution. I like that the info was very relevant to my work with students.
12. Thank you for the information. It's very beneficial.
13. More specific examples with resolution for each case.
14. Felt too rushed & left no room for discussion of ideas. Middle speaker felt disjointed and was on her phone while her colleagues spoke.
15. SJP information was not as clearly presented as it could've been. Student choices weren't really examined.
16. Enjoyed the examples/relevance to the culture here at TTU.
17. Maybe adding more pictures is better.
18. A lot of information really fast. Might just more highlights, how to handle certain situations. What are the resources students can use?
19. I struggled to see how some of these issues were ethical issues. I did not gain any tools on how to help students identify and handle ethical issues.

20. Very strong content.

Appendix C

Suggestions for future ethics workshops provided by attendees at “Top 10 Ethical Issues Facing Today’s Students”

1. Bigger room . . . Time for discussion.
2. Longer time allowed for real discussion of ideas presented.
3. Time for Q&A.
4. Longer panel time to allow for questions.
5. Wish feedback time, Q&A. Maybe create discussion space - blog/group online.
6. More panels.
7. More about students.
8. Academic honesty.
9. I like that there is another workshop planned to discuss research.
10. An entire workshop dedicated to diversity & ethics.
11. Plagiarism.
12. I think it would be neat to do a sportsmanship specific roundtable discussion.
13. Would’ve liked to hear most specifics on diversity issues, examples, and direction/tools to assist in these issues.

Appendix D

Comments/suggestions regarding the workshop “When Scientists Cheat: Colleagues as a Defense against Bad Science”

1. Glad he talked to the students.
2. Make time spent on strategies to prevent & resolve ethical issues world have been helpful.
3. Quite informative.
4. It was a really good workshop. Would like to listen to some more of such workshops.
5. Very good presentation, enlightening and informational.
6. Great talk!
7. The seminar is good.
8. Got helpful information.
9. Very good talk

10. None really. A great, well-prepared, and entertaining workshop.
11. Undergraduate students should be encouraged to attend a workshop like this
12. This was little different from the general ethics seminars. It was well presented with examples which I could relate to.
13. What we can do with these situations.
14. If we could get the PPT material before the workshop, that will be better.
15. Microphone for speaker.
16. We need more turkey sandwiches.

Appendix E

Suggestions for future ethics workshop provided by attendees at “When Scientists Cheat: Colleagues as a Defense against Bad Science”

1. Should continue to have such seminars in future.
2. Would like to hear more on ethics in research (science).
3. Maybe we can have some video clips on the examples.
4. Consider how to apply science to other fields, like arts, engineering.
5. I liked what Dr. Koocher talked about with errors in research design and statistics use. Anything on how to stop that would be great.
6. I hope you can not only say it but also perform or take measure to really control it.