ECE 480
Team Time’s Up! - Frank Gonzales, Tim Montoya, Jesse Rebeck, Hugh Roberts
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Ethics Worksheet

Scenario A

Summary

A system that we have just finished designing shall be attached to a current machine that is on the product floor. There are significant issues concerning thermal and electrical safety but there are no dangers as long as the machine is not misused. All safety codes and standards are met and we plan to place safety warnings on the machine. Half of our team thinks we need to move on and get back on schedule and the other half thinks that these safety issues need to be further explored.

Ethical Issues

1) Knowingly endangering workers.
   a. We know that the workers could be harmed if the machine is misused.
2) Saving time and money at the cost of safety
   a. With additional time and money the safety issues could be reduced or eliminated.

Decision

1) We need to make sure that all of the workers using the machine are aware that the machine can not be misused. However, accidents can happen so this is not a fool proof plan. Safety warning should be placed directly on the existing machine and all workers should be personally notified of the possible dangers.
2) If the necessary safety features can be implemented in a reasonable time limit then these dangers should be removed. However if these additional safety precautions are unreasonable in terms of time and money then resources should be used to train and prepare the workers using the machine. We feel this is justified because all safety codes and standards are met.

Scenario B

Summary

A take home examination was given. No one could work together and only the instructor could be asked questions. A group of students were working together. They saw me and asked me to clarify a problem statement, which I did. Later they returned to ask a question about a solution. I did not ask but they mentioned how they solved the problem
and I realized that I had made a mistake. I fixed the mistake and turned in the test. I also signed a statement that I had done my own work.

Ethical Issues

1) Does clarifying a problem statement violate the instructor’s intent based on his requirements?
   a. It is not perfectly clear whether clarify a problem statement is the same as asking a question about the exam.

2) Was it wrong to amend the incorrect answer on the test before turning it in?
   a. Since I did not ask any questions about the solution, it is unclear whether or not this is wrong.

Decisions

1) There is a disagreement among our group. Some of us feel that any and all questions should be answered by the instructor only, and the agreement was broken by clarifying the problem statement for the other students. Others feel that since a solution was not discussed then there was no violation of the agreement. In this case we feel that the student should have asked the group if they tried to find the professor first.

2) Anytime work is copied cheating has been done. In this case it was a realization and the student did all of his own work, so signing the statement was not wrong. However, the student should have avoiding any and all conversation about the exam.