ETHICS

IS

DECIDING WHAT IS RIGHT
OR MORE 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

are available on
the following topics:

• Advising Groups
• Agendas
• Assertiveness
• Brainstorming
• Co-Sponsorship with Other Groups
• Communication
• Community Service
• Conflict Resolution
• Constitution/Bylaws
• Delegation
• Difficult Members
• Elections
• Ethics

• Evaluation Series
  Group Performance
  Individual Performance
  Meeting Evaluation
  Program/Event Evaluation

• Financial Series
  Budgeting Organization Money
  Corporate Sponsorship
  Fundraising

• Getting Involved
• Goal Setting
• Group Dynamics
• Icebreakers
• Marketing Your Leadership Skills
• Meetings
• Minutes from Meetings
• Motivation
• Newsletters
• Officer Transition
• Parliamentary Procedure
• Program Planning
• Public Speaking
• Publicizing Events
• Recognition
• Recruiting Volunteers
• Retreats
• Starting an Organization
• Stress Management
• Team Building
• Time Management
• University Events

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SILC staff offers programs and
counseling in these and other
areas of personal and
organizational leadership.

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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 alcohol 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, risks, and implications of each option?
If each member brings his/her own alcohol, minors may be drinking at the party (a violation of the law). If you provide alcohol, you must monitor who is drinking and how much is consumed. 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.