2026 College Ethics Symposium – Write-inComments

2006 CES Feedback Summary and Action Items

1) It is clear that our total reliance on the faculty advisors to articulate what the ethics symposium is like has been inadequate. The faculty advisors point the students to the website in order to discover more about the program. While the website provides substantial information, the students do not take the time to crawl through it.

Recommendation: Develop a communication apparatus and content material that can be delivered directly to students before arrival.

2) Given the difficulty the faculty advisors experience in recruiting students and our inability to recruit new schools, we are not adequately communication the ethics symposium's value proposition.

Recommendation: Create a value proposition and develop a marketing plan as to how best to communicate it to prospective students and newly interested colleges and universities.

3) Cases – Our case studies need to be re-examined – purge, update, and newly developed.

4) Friday night activity – If we continue to use the video showdown approach, we need to provide the students a heads-up before their arrival. This could be folded into the pre-arrival communication material for the students.

5) Become more student-centric: The gap between planning team and students is wide on many fronts. It was suggested that a student board be established to provide ideas and to make the program more in tune with students.

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Thinking back, how is the symposium experience different from what you were expecting?

- I was expecting to have less fun than I did. I was shocked when I saw the agenda for trip and we had a boat, time on the beach. I mean it was lovely. Also very appreciative of the host families. They made the trip so special. All of them are so kind and wonderful.
- I had no expectations.
- The crowd was different I feel like the vibe was much more welcoming and open minded
- I was unaware this was a faith based conference
- More fun
- No
- I did not expect for it to be so freely open - i thought we would have educational sessions on how to structure our own ethical decision making framework instead of just presenting our ideas. maybe if we were “taught” how to evaluate as a whole group then move into the discussions we could’ve collaborated more in that way rather than it just be us giving our ideas in the cases while we did work through the provided framework, not all participants followed it and were more focused on their own personal judgement which made it hard to address the cases with an ethical approach since personal feelings would get mixed in.
- The symposium has helped my understanding of the world that I live in and has motivated me to be more empathetic and considerate of other people's ideas, backgrounds, experiences and worldviews.
- It was different by the environment we were in and how people would act.
- I honestly didn’t know what to expect. I also thought it would be a little more formal but I enjoyed it and loved it.
- I thought the symposium was going to be uncomfortable, I was worried people in my group (including myself) would be too scared to actually communicate their thoughts out of fear of disagreement, but everyone was very upfront and respectful with their ideas. In my group, it wasn’t uncommon for someone to start their part with saying “I disagree with you,” which I feel is a very heavy statement at home but here was very productive.
- I expected a possibly more tense environment in pursuing these discussions, but the experience and overall conduct of the participants was deeply open and respectful.
- I didn’t know what to expect. I think the balance in time spent in discussion and time in activities is well divided up.
- It was much more fun laid back and educational in a good way. I expected it to be stuffy snobby and not have a good time
- I didn’t realize that it would cover ethical topics from across disciplines as opposed to just business (my academic focus).
- I thought it was going to be pretty strict. Especially in the case study groups. However it was nothing like that, it was laid back and open for discussion!
- The host family experience was far more comfortable and accommodating than expected.
- I didn’t expect it to be so involved.
- Yes. I truly did not expect to learn all that I did and meet the people I met.
- I did not expect for the groups to be as vocal as they were. It was nice to see others they may or may not agree with my beliefs or opinions of ethics.
- I initially did not know it was going to be Christian/faith based.
- I wasn’t really sure what to expect but it was better than I coulda imagined

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- I didn’t expect it to be so religious.
- The discussion was much more open and not so pressuring for answers and conclusions.
- I was expecting it to not be as fun and I didn’t think my opinion was going to be heard but I was wrong.
- It was a great retreat and experience that is better than most things such as this.
- I did not expect as much self reflection and engagement.
- I was not expecting it to be as casual as it was. Not that it was bad just different.

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Which Part of the Program did you like the best?

- I really liked the different case studies and discussion that we had. My group was very conversational and even though we didn't particular agree with everything we were able to keep a good peaceful conversation and our facilitators was very helpful.
- My favorite part of the symposium would be the different viewpoints. This really broadens your perspective and allows you to walk a mile in another persons shoes. It also makes the conversation more interesting when you have different viewpoints.
- Getting to talk in these little groups everyone was so respectful in what they had to say even with disagreements. I've never been a part of a respectful debate so this was so refreshing.
- Collaboration w other school on a small group level
- The video and dolphin cruise and host family
- Small group discussions
- Getting to know my group members and facilitators
- I enjoyed getting to hear other students' ideas and things that shape their beliefs. The venue was nice and all the facilitators were super nice. Since we got here very early it was nice to connect with the other facilitators.
- I loved the discussion of the case studies guided by the facilitator as well as the interactive activities to make students familiar and promote social interaction beyond the ethical discussions.
- The part I liked the best about the program was how everybody from the faculty and even the students were very nice and welcomed everybody
- I liked working in the group on the commercial ethics video. I think if you create more activities like that we can bond more as students and people. I feel like more engaging activities or games should be had is that students and can connect more than off the surface level.
- I loved the connections built. I was able to build connections with peers my age, facilitators who've lived a lifetime more than me, different host families, and even different college professors. Additionally it would have been very nice to somehow do more activities with the host families.
- I deeply enjoyed the discussions with my case study group and the wonderful opportunities to connect with different facilitators, learn from their experience, and receive guidance on future plans.
- I enjoyed being able to talk through dilemmas to help identify how my feelings and values can appose but ultimately how my values drive me decisions.
- I like the debate of ethics without the pettiness of people. It was a very good educational conversation which it very much so not how these conversations would go in day to day life
- Getting to dine and stay with our host families— I could've done more with them!
- I truly loved getting to know the students. I made lots of new friends! I also honestly really enjoyed the video showdown! At first it made me nervous but then we had so much fun with it.
- The host families and meeting different students from all over the place
- The case studies and accepting group dynamic to really dive deep into hard conversations.
- Connecting with other students and hearing different perspectives.
- The creation of the videos.
- I loved being able to stay with the host families and get to know people that have walked through what we may go through. Having a host family that is a part of the conference itself gave a new insight into how people other than the facilitators think. It was nice to have a variety of people.
- I liked the discussions and I really enjoyed getting to know the other students.

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- Just getting to work with a group on the video and with groups through different scenarios and having open conversations
- How many activities we could do and how many people I met.
- I liked the openness of the discussion, and the facilitator tried to keep a neutral atmosphere that allowed for different views.
- I liked the speed dating but I wish we had more of that. The commercial was fun but if it's changed every year it would be interesting to see if there is something else we could use to get to know people better. We were a little too focused on the making of the video I didn't get to catch their names and a little something about them.
- I like Henry Criss the most, he was awesome and great at helping the group break each case down.
- Meeting and connecting with everyone and the case study conversation.
- This experience let me self-reflect on my personal ethics. I think ethics are a very personal journey and having structured time to work through ethics in a way not offered in the classroom is so valuable.
- I liked the discussion within our groups. They were engaging and the perfect size to hear different perspectives
- I like truly connecting with all types of people both host facilitators and students

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How can the program be improved?

- I think with the video showdown. Maybe the group activity next year is talked about before we come. Not explaining the whole activity but giving us ideas of what to look forward to. It felt it spring up on us and felt really underprepared. If I knew it was a video I would've brought some of my own equipment down to the trip. It was really fun to do though and I liked meeting other students outside my case study group.
- The more diversity of colleges and majors would provide the best conversation. Love this conference!
- For-warning about the video I feel it was sprung on us and I was super anxious about making it. It was honestly so much fun though and I had so many good laughs making it.
- More diverse universities (larger/liberal arts colleges are lacking in representation)
- More time for the students in Hilton Head
- I think several cases should have more information be presented in terms of current policy. like the death penalty one - there was a lot of confusing regarding what crimes fall under that consideration, the timing - the lack of knowledge made the conversation very intense and it was obvious some participants were not as well educated in the regarding casing but were still presenting ideas. also, the speed dating was fine but the time limit should be enforced bc often times people would not swap so there wasn't anyone available and I only got to meet 3 students when we were given enough time to meet with like 6-8students
- This program could be improved by creating more opportunities for the students to develop genuine friendships among each other and create connections beyond the discussion classes. Overall questions could be updated
- The program should be 3 days instead that gives more time for us to bond with other students and faculty and facilitators. I think it will not also feel so condensed and dense. I think the program should also implement having a student youth board that includes alumni from the past to weigh in on the conversations or how to make this more effective for the youth. Because there is a lot of old people. And while I do love that and we are able to bridge that gap between our experiences from a younger generation to the older generation. I think having a youth board and more women on the board will make this more effective and meaningful for the students. Also diversity is important. If you want diversity from students I think the people behind the program should represent this as well. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND A YOUTH BOARD.
- An additional day would be so helpful. After talking to the other students, most have agreed that an additional day or night would help the scheduling not feel so dense and packed in. There was not a lot of wiggle-room in between many of the activities, which caused some stress. With that, both the students and host families have spoken to have said they would really appreciate another night, to foster more connections or to add another event. With that, the Friday dinner felt like a goodbye dinner, so I feel that would be better reserved for the final day, as it would give an appropriate goodbye.
- Better group diversity. What I mean is, my group was mostly quiet. I felt like people really didn't want to share and express their opinions or thoughts on the matter.
- Make some of the topics a little less straight forward. The resume one for example.
- I really disliked the video activity. It felt a little silly compared with the serious nature of some of the conversations we were having in our discussion groups. I think the time would've been better spent

working on more cases and interacting with my specific group members. I also think the symposium could be a day to half a day longer.

- Honestly I'm not a huge fan of the whole speed dating thing, but in place of speed dating maybe you can assign tables and then one student from each university is at the table so they can all talk! Not for meals but as an activity in place of speed dating.
- More time with other students, including stuff planned together after the symposium hours
- Have more frequent, shorter case study times instead of just 2 large chunks. Breaking up the discussions would help keep the energy up.
- Having the chairman given a direct script of what to say and have people speak directly in the microphone instead of around it.
- Allocate more time to spend with host families and more time for students to venture out on thier own.
- Maybe have less case studies. It is impossible to get through all of them and have a good discussion.
- I think ensuring the scenarios and facilitators are as non biased as possible. I also think we could've gotten to more complex ethical issues more quickly.
- I think allowing time at the beach as a big group and doing an activity on the beach
- Maybe extend the trip or have some more free time.
- I think this program is great!
- There were many cases and we didn't get to touch all of them. I like that it starts off with less drastic cases and moves upward the level of severe mess however there was really no time to discuss everything.
- Maybe a timed presentation or speaking opportunity to the case studies that we discuss for each person to get a chance to get there full thoughts and ideas out and then open up conversations round table style.
- There could be a social activity involving coligny plaza since it is so close
- Some of the cases were overwhelming with all of the content in one discussion. It made it difficult to get to the real ethical point at hand.

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Web-site - Areas for Improvement

- I think a section for a picture gallery of each years symposium would be cool and showing which schools came would be great
- There are a couple things on the website that outdated. I would say the main thing could be the design. Content is great!
- I feel like it's simple enough to understand, just what is needed. Maybe add like a take it from us students page where you include students perspective on the conference, I'm super many would love to sing the praises about this event. Other than that I feel other than minor hiccups it's a good webpage
- Speed
- Nothing specific - It's a working website and that's abt all - once I understood how to use it it was very easy to navigate
- Communication with students was great! I would suggest reminders of aspects like schedules being sent with anticipation as well as certain specifications on what to expect of the ethical discussions so that they can be thought and developed fruitfully.
- Web Site was easy to use
- I would say just to make it looks more aesthetically pleasing and maybe more pictures especially if what the students are doing so when people look at the website they can get a better feel for what to expect.
- Needs more graphics or images. The website is very text heavy and overwhelming to the eye, adding graphics or photos can help break up the blocks of text.
- I think the overall website design could be a little bit prettier more intriguing and a little bit more modern.
- Honestly the website is great!! The only issue I had was I couldn't go out of a case study and go to another, I'd have to relogin but it wasn't a big deal!!
- Make an easier menu for viewing/printing all of the case studies (One cohesive PDF). Having to go through each one individually was time consuming in preparation.
- None
- Cleaner layout and navigation, as well as presence.
- Could have some more fun designs.
- I think the website could contain more content that gives students a better feel for what the symposium will entail. It was very easy to use and did contain necessary information, but the overall theme I think could be portrayed more strongly.
- Printable links for the case studies. I kept getting navigated to case study one to print out on the website.
- More photos would be great. Perhaps a suggested packing list for those who haven't been here before.
- There is just a lot of information on the website so finding a way to simplify all of that.
- Quotes of feedback from actual students. Why schools should apply- let's get more people involved. More photos!!