

Study Questions

Ethical Practice: Professionalism, Social Responsibility, and The Purpose of the Corporation

Session 1: Monday, April 2, 2007

Course Introduction: What is Business Ethics?

- Jaan Elias and J. Gregory Dees, “The Normative Foundations of Business” (HBS Note 9-897-012)
 - Patricia H. Werhane, “A Note on Moral Imagination” (UVA-E-0114)
1. In your previous place of work, had the organization chosen “an objective function and a set of normative constraints” (Elias/Dees, p. 16) to govern its operations? What were they?
 2. Can you give examples from real life where each of the four schools of moral philosophy—consequentialist, rules-and-rights, virtue, relationship ethics (Elias/Dees, p. 13)—is applied?
 3. Do you think you possess “moral imagination”? How has it manifested itself in your life?