

The Provost's Forums on the Public University and the Social Good

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Keeping Track of One's Moral Compass Despite Pressures to Lose It: How a Public University Can Maintain Its Integrity

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Haavi Morreim J.D., Ph.D., is an academician, attorney, and active mediator for both civil and family matters, with cases addressing health care, employment, contract, landlord-tenant, debtor-creditor, and other disputes. A medical school professor focusing on health law and bioethics for over 30 years, she brings a distinctive perspective to health care conflict resolution. Dr. Morreim's teaching is clinic rather than classroom based, integrated with the regular rounds and conferences during which faculty and physicians-in-training discuss patients, make medical decisions, and explore broader issues related to patient care. This teaching approach gives Dr. Morreim an up-close and ongoing view of the day-to-day challenges, nuanced questions, and conflicts that arise for patients, families, physicians, nurses, and others in the health care setting.

Dr. Morreim will discuss how public universities hold a special position of trust. As institutions established to serve the public interest through the creation and dissemination of knowledge, and as recipients of public investment, they have responsibilities to public welfare and ethical operation that are arguably above those of the marketplace. And yet, diverse financial pressures and competitive forces, perhaps greater now than ever before, threaten the integrity of public universities by potentially transforming their longstanding culture of seeking and disseminating knowledge for its own sake to one focusing on what will please the market in the short term. While such a transformation is not inherently unethical, it can invite corruption that can be countered only by a strong culture of integrity at all levels of the institution, from top leadership on down.

Lecture:

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Multipurpose Room

Student Community Center

Reception:

4:30 to 5 p.m.

Multipurpose Room

Student Community Center

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