



# **Ethics in Higher Education**

# On Deck:

The Role  
of Ethics  
in Higher  
Ed

Examine  
Ethics  
Scenarios

Common  
and  
Emerging  
Ethics  
Issues

Open  
Discussion



# Polling Question #1

What is your understanding of ethics in higher education?

- a. Upholding academic integrity and honesty
- b. Promoting fair and equitable treatment of students, faculty, and staff
- c. Ensuring transparency in financial and administrative processes
- d. Fostering a culture of ethical decision-making and accountability
- e. All of the above

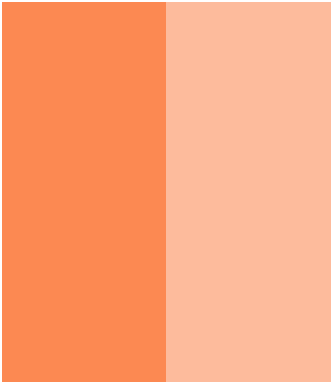
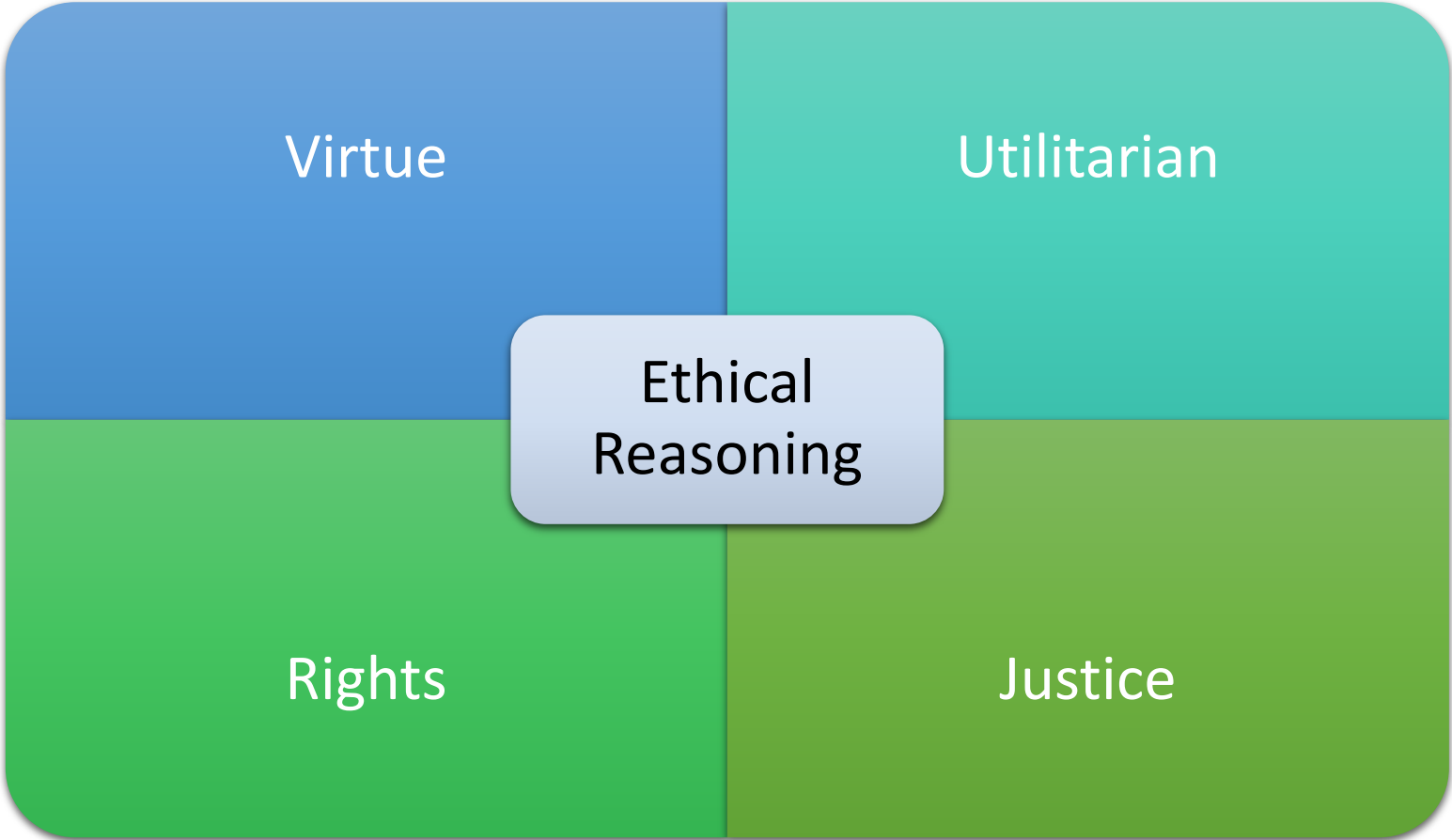


# The Intersection of Compliance and Ethics





# **The Role of Ethics in Higher Education**





# Reality or Fiction?



# Polling Question #2

Several athletes at a University were enrolled in fake courses that never actually met. This was done to ensure that these athletes maintained their eligibility to play sports at the University. The courses were allegedly created by an administrator and a professor, who were both subsequently fired.

Reality or Fiction?





# Polling Question #3

A University admitted several students based on their connections to influential donors and alumni. The university had allowed the applicants to bypass normal admissions procedures and had even falsified their athletic credentials.

Reality or Fiction?



# Polling Question #4

A University professor colluded with students to change their grades. The professor had changed the grades to make it appear as though the students had performed better on an exam than they actually had. The University launched an investigation and found that the professor had violated the University's academic integrity policy.

Reality or Fiction?

## Themes:

- The ends do NOT always justify the means.
- Policies, alone, are not a magic bullet.
- Culture and commitment are key indicators.





# Common and Emerging Ethics Issues



## Higher Education Concerns

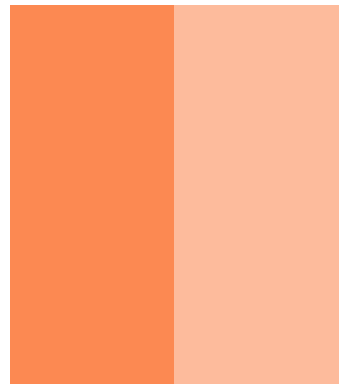
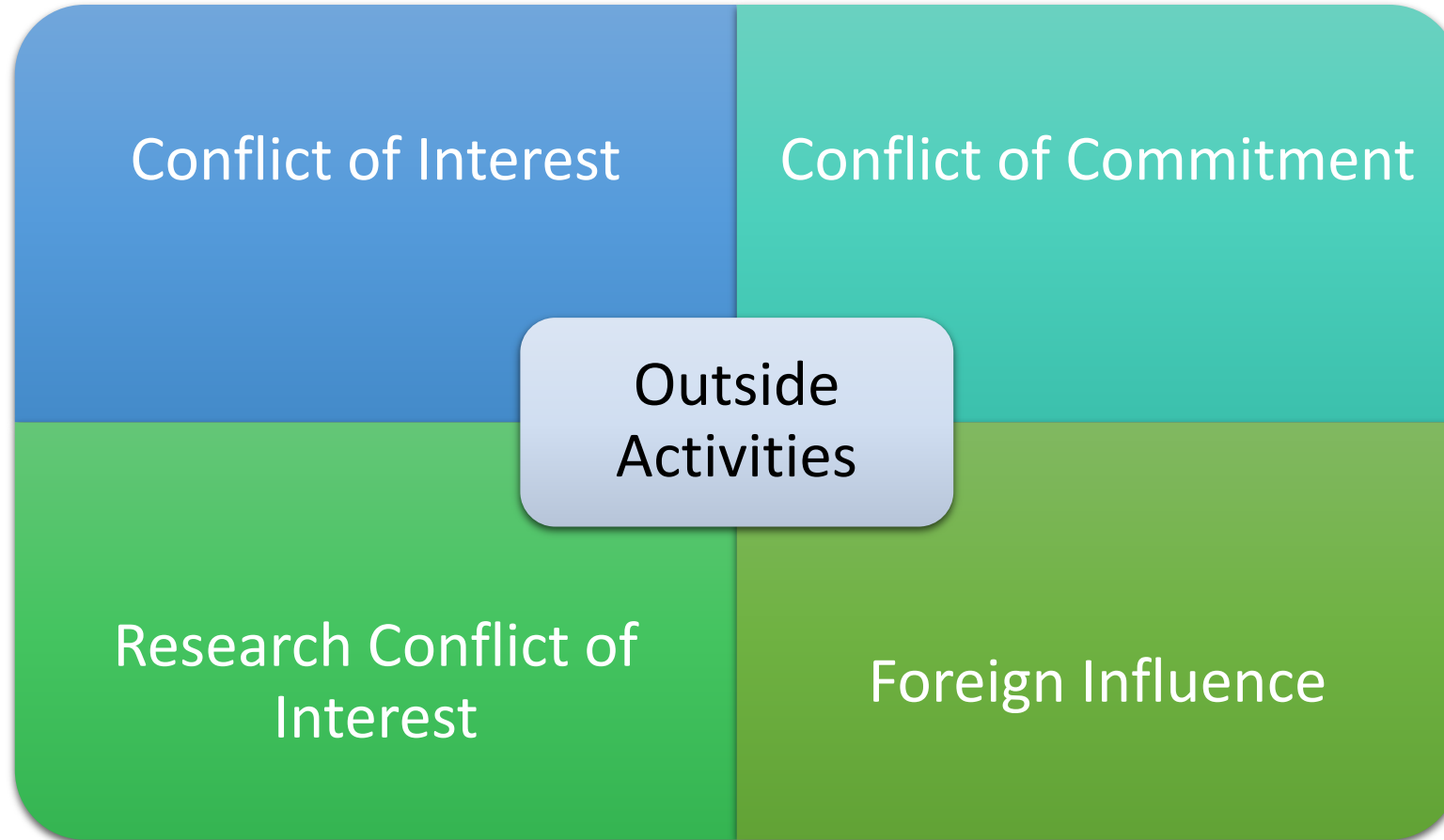
Academic  
Integrity

Privacy

Conflict of  
Interest

AI

# Conflicts of Interest





# Artificial Intelligence

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Report (2023):

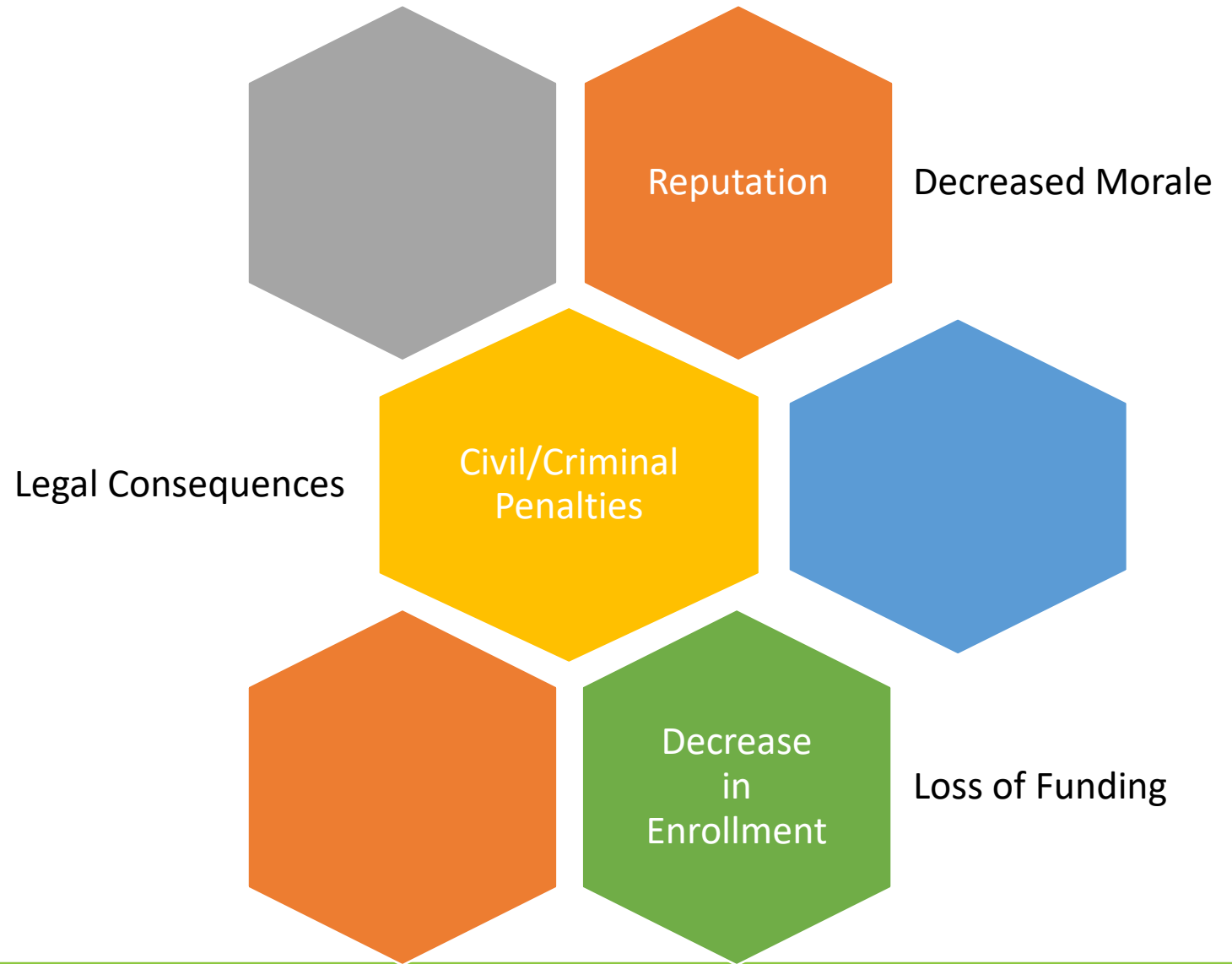
**Bias**

**Lack of transparency of AI tools: AI decisions are not always intelligible to humans.**

**AI is not neutral: AI-based decisions are susceptible to inaccuracies, discriminatory outcomes, embedded or inserted bias.**

**Surveillance practices for data gathering and privacy of users.**

# Impact of Ethics Infractions







# What's Next

## What Should You Do:



### Requirements (State, Federal, Institutional, Professional)

- State Code of Ethics
- DOJ
- Research grant requirements



### University Policies



### Collaboration

- Use lines to your advantage



### Monitor implementation

- Report out, as appropriate



# Polling Question #5

Does your Audit or Compliance manage a compliance and ethics hotline?

a. Yes

b. No