Cooper
October 16, 2015

Physics 596 – Fall 2015

Scientific Ethics Case Study #12*

Mike's thesis advisor suggests that Mike write-up a description of some calculations Mike has made, and then submit the paper for publication. The advisor further suggests that Mike submit the article as the sole author, in spite of the fact that the paper would involve comparing Mike's theoretical results to data obtained by another student in the group, Lisa. Mike likes the suggestion. He tells Lisa that his advisor recommended publishing results in a single-author paper, and says, "I really think that this would help my career, plus that's what our advisor wants. How cheated will you feel if I publish this paper alone using all the data that your experiment provides?" Lisa and Mike are good friends, and she feels obligated to help him. Even though Lisa is disappointed, she tells Mike to do whatever he feels is right. Mike decides to submit the paper as the sole author.

Before discussing the case: Identify people in the group for the following presentation duties: (i) A person to present the 'case' in their own words to the rest of the class; (ii) a person to present one point of view in this study; (iii) a person to present the opposing point of view; and (iv) a person to lead a class discussion of the case. Feel free to take notes as necessary to present your discussions to the class.

Take 15-20 minutes to discuss this case study and prepare to relate your discussions to the rest of the class. Among the topics you might consider: Are the actions of Mike and his advisor appropriate? What, if anything, can/should Lisa do?