academic integrity

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Step 1

Academic integrity is the major factor in the situation. The actions of all individuals involved in the academic community are expected to be fair, honest, and trustworthy. Blake's actions and intentions to cheat in the term paper breach the principles of academic integrity which require individuals to act with honesty (Gallant, 2018). There is a lack of justice for others in Blake's actions. He intends to purchase the paper and submit it as his own. This is not fair to others who strive to achieve better grades by reading and doing their research like Sharon and Jennifer. This may also have negative implications for Jennifer and Sharon if they are caught. Their failure to report or take action against Blake would make them unfair to others. Although Blake might not be caught by his professor, submitting the paper as his amounts to plagiarism despite having paid for it.

Step 2

Sharon and Jennifer should take actions that promote justice for others for her and her classmates. Apart from reporting Blake to the professor, they can take actions to prevent him from going on with the act of purchasing the paper. Confronting Blake for his actions is one of the major options for Sharon and Jennifer. Blake clearly shows that he does not care about academic integrity as much as he passes the paper and the professor does not catch him. Jennifer and Sharon should consider the actions which are fair to other students in their class as well as actions that promote the common good. Confronting him and showing him the possible consequences of his actions to him as well as his classmates can allow him to change his mind. Blake can also be reported to his school administration for breaching academic integrity standards by cheating.

Step 3

The situation can have various consequences to Jennifer and Sharon if they fail to report the incident. Their knowledge about the incident and failure to report it can amount to being accomplices to the academic misconduct. This means that they might face various consequences in the future, either from their professor or the school administration once the incident is investigated. Although reporting the incident might have negative implications on the relationship between the three, allowing Blake to cheat is also not fair to Sharon and Jennifer. They have dedicated their time and resources to do their research for the paper while Blake chooses the easier way of paying for the paper. If Blake scores higher than others in the class, his grade would be earned unfairly by Jennifer and her classmates and also undermines fair competition.

Step 4

My ethical decision in the situation would be influenced by the idea of the common good. The common good approach promotes actions that are good for the whole community (Melé, 2019). All individuals according to this approach have the responsibility to look out for one another as well as the vulnerable in society. Actions that promote achievement for one individual at the expense of others should be stopped in any way possible. All possible actions in stopping Blake from cheating in the paper should be taken despite the implications of their relationship.

References

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