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Dear:

This semester in my classes in Professional Ethics in Engineering, my students and I are holding an ethics competition called the Ethics Bowl. This competition is based on the activity designed by Dr. Robert Ladenson at the Illinois Institution of Technology; it has become the major event in the annual meetings of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. Last year, thirty-six teams from across the United States participated. For several years, two ethics bowl veterans, Michael Rabins from Texas A&M and Michael Pritchard from Western Michigan University have been asking me when UPRM is going to send a team of students to participate. Dr. Vivian Weil from IIT sent us a video explaining its procedures and rules and showing a mock debate between different student groups. Finally, Dr. Ladenson has published an article outlining the impressive education benefits produced by the Ethics Bowl (see "The Educational Significance of the Ethics Bowl" in *Teaching Ethics,* Vol. 1, number 1, 2001).

With this in mind, I have decided to set up a competition for this semester within three sections of FILO 4045: sections 101, 121, and 131. These competitions will take place on the following six days at 10:30, 12:30, and 1:30 in Chardon 003: November 13, 15, 18, 22, 25, and 27. Each section will have its own competition and to keep things simple this first time around, we will not hold a competition between the sections but only within each section. This, however, will be significantly challenging for the first time around. Each section will have six groups competing in three rounds; a preliminary round, an intermediate round in which the winners of the preliminary round will compete and a final competition in which the winners of the intermediate round will compete. All totaled there will be 18 Ethics Bowl matches. Each match will have a moderator (me) and two judges, ideally one from within engineering and another from some other field. The students will not be graded on the competition itself but on a different set of criteria that we have developed through the course of the semester. They will also prepare a comprehensive written analysis of the case they debate in the Ethics Bowl that will be graded.

Eighteen Ethics Bowl matches will create 36 judge openings. I am writing this letter to ask you to participate in at least one of these matches as a judge. The debates will be carried out in Spanish. I have also provided each group (and will provide each judge) with a packet of materials, including the cases that we will use in the competitions, the procedure and rules of the debate, and the scoring criteria the judges will use. Last February I served as a judge in the APPE Ethics Bowl held in Cincinnati, Ohio; it was an exciting and wonderful experience. I think you will also find it so. Furthermore, my students will benefit greatly from having you participate, ask them questions, and share

with them your experiences. In fact this is the goal of having a diverse panel of judges; students will receive valuable input well beyond what I will be able to give them on my own resources.

The Ethics Bowl also provides our College of Engineering with a unique and power tool for responding to ABET's EC 2000 (the ethics criteria in set forth in the ABET 2000 accreditation process). Along with this letter I am sending a master list of the fifteen cases the students are preparing for the competition. Twelve cases out of this list will be chosen for the competitions. Through this process students will be teaching one another cases involving a wide variety of highly relevant topics:

- Confidentiality
- Conflict of Interests
- Environmental Concerns
- Product Liability
- Safety & Health
- Puerto Rican Women in Engineering
- Engineer as an Expert Witness
- Public Criticism by an Engineer
- Bidding Practices in Engineering in Puerto Rico

Quite frankly, this semester is a test. I am going to assess the results of this competition to see how much the students will learn. From what I have seen so far, a major factor in its success is the extent to which UPRM faculty, especially but not only UPRM engineering faculty, become involved in this competition. If we can develop a committed team of judges for this semester, then I believe the competition can be extended through a series of stages. Most importantly, since Sears Corporation has sponsored the stateside Ethics Bowl competition for over ten years, I believe that there are outside funds readily available to support ever expanded versions. Should this semester be successful, I would like to take this competition through a series of levels such as the following:

- A competition between as well as within sections of Engineering Ethics
- A competition throughout the entire College of Engineering bringing in engineering students who are not taking classes in Engineering Ethics
- A competition within and between the academic units of UPRM: agriculture, arts & sciences, engineering, business administration, etc.
- Taking a UPRM team to compete in the National Ethics Bowl competition
- Promoting an Ethics Bowl competition between the different universities in Puerto Rico