

Scenario 7

Introductory Description (Narrated on Videotape)

Christine, a graduate student in bio-engineering, is meeting off campus with her mentor, Brad, a young bio-engineering professor, to express concern about their relationship.

Additional Description

Remember before viewing:

- . Give a brief overview of what the audience will be viewing and how long it will take.
- . Tell them how much time they will have for discussion.
- . Ask them to refrain from talking during the video.

Brad and Christine are meeting in a restaurant for lunch. Christine is upset about an incident at school in which Brad grabbed her in the lab in front of other students and professors. Brad shrugs it off and says that they all know what is going on between them anyway because "that stuff goes on all the time." Christine realizes that Brad has been telling others about their personal relationship and expresses concern about the looks she is getting from others. She is worried that it is going to affect the respect she gets on their project. Brad reminds her that he is the lead on the project and she is only doing support work. Christine is outraged because she has been doing most of the work. Brad states that her work would not get any recognition without him.

When she questions the benefit of their relationship, he asks which one—our working relationship, our mentoring relationship, or our physical relationship? Brad reminds her that she needs him and that they work good together so she should just get over it. Christine reluctantly agrees but she remains distressed about the situation. Brad shrugs it off and orders lunch.

Learning Summary (Narrated on Videotape)

This scenario is primarily about faculty-student mentoring and cross-gender mentoring. It is a very sensitive scenario and includes sexist behavior between a young male professor and a female graduate student. The scenario *does not* exhibit recommended behavior or behavior that is expressly considered *typical*. It shows students that they may come in contact with situations that are similar to this one. It also shows the

potential control that faculty might knowingly have over their students and the need for mentors and mentees to *maintain strictly professional* behavior. The scenario also shows the potential conflict of having a student's research advisor also serve as her mentor. Also, there are issues related to stereotyping, biases, and discrimination.

Possible Questions

- In general, what was *going on in this* scenario?
- What was the meeting atmosphere like?
- Do you *think this meeting involved two-way communication*? Who do you think was in control of the meeting?
- What was Christine feeling about Brad at the beginning of their *meeting*? What was she feeling about him at the end?
- What was Brad feeling about Christine at the beginning of their meeting? What was he feeling about her at the end?
- How assertive and self-confident do you think Christine was in this meeting?
- What was bothering Christine? What did Brad suggest she do about it? Do you think that's a good idea? What are her alternatives?
- Do you think Brad respects Christine's work? Do you think Brad respects Christine?
- What do you think would happen to the project if Christine ends their physical relationship?
- What do you think the other students and professors think about Christine? About Brad?
- Do you think their relationships are successful? What kind of mentoring relationship do you think they have?
 Could having a different mentor help Christine in this situation? How?
- What do you think will happen to their working relationship? Their mentoring relationship? Their physical relationship?

Remember after viewing:

- *Remind the audience that these scenarios are not necessarily "typical" or "exemplary."*
- *Encourage the audience to respect others opinions.*
- *Diligently keep the discussion focused and polite.*
- *Keep questions open ended.*
- *Let the audience decide good from bad.*