Writing and Using Case Studies in the Classroom, and for Publications

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PHONE HACKING AND RUPERT MURDOCH’S NEWS CORPORATION

Harold Weston wrote this case solely to provide material for class discussion. The author does not intend to illustrate either effective or ineffective handling of a managerial situation. The author may have disguised certain names and other identifying information to protect confidentiality.

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The British tabloid News of the World, owned by Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation, hacked the phones of politicians, celebrities and ordinary people. This practice led to a major inquiry into tabloid practices in general. The conduct of this tabloid, and the whole history of British tabloid conduct, involved questions of legality and ethics. Also raised were important questions of governance specific to News Corporation and its tabloid News of the World. The general view was that a management failure
LIFE INSURERS’ DECISION TO USE RETAINED ASSET ACCOUNTS FOR LIFE INSURANCE PAYOUTS: A CASE STUDY

Harold Weston
Susan Willey

ABSTRACT

This case study allows students in a variety of insurance courses to analyze the use of retained asset accounts for insurance policy payouts to beneficiaries that, when reported by Bloomberg Magazine in a series of articles published in 2010, led to litigation and the enactment of statutory and regulatory reforms in some states. In analyzing this multifaceted case, students can be assigned to examine insurance laws and regulations, insurance operations, decision making under uncertainty, ethics, reputation, and/or customer relations.
MBA 8030 LAW, ETHICS & GOVERNANCE

Other class exercises

• Governance – corporate board meeting simulation

**Stark Industries Future Corp.**

“Unveiling the Future for Today AND Tomorrow”™

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

The student team will act as the directors of Stark Industries Future Corp running a board meeting as role-playing exercise in class. That means someone should be the chairman, someone should be the CFO, etc., as necessary.

A description of the company follow, along with the agenda, and reports that the board committees or company officers present for discussion. The student team will evaluate and discuss the issues, and then decide what action to take, which could be: make a decision, refer the issue back to the committee or officer for further research and recommendations, defer the issue to another meeting, withdraw the issue without action, or any other position the directors decide.

Students should prepare for the board meeting, which includes research of some of the issues on the agenda. It is ok for the various members not to agree on a decision, and to
### MBA 8030 LAW, ETHICS & GOVERNANCE

**Other class exercises**

- Atlanta Public Schools Cheating Scandal
  - “Atlanta Public Schools Cheating Scandal as Case Study on Metrics, Performativity, Governance Frameworks, and Incentives”
- Sugared soft drinks and obesity
- Google and privacy
- Violent video game manufacturer
RMI 4350 Enterprise Risk Management

- Aaron’s Furniture Company
- American Tower (cellphone)
- Chick-fil-A
- Cirque du Soleil
- Indianapolis 500 Speedway
- Legal Seafoods
- Lumber Liquidators
- Mortuaries
- Steinway Pianos
- Trump Organization
- Volkswagen emissions cheating scandal