

From: Peter V. Schwartz pschwartz@calpoly.edu 
Subject: Fwd: Roger
Date: May 14, 2018 at 7:39 PM
To: Roger rogersburton@gmail.com

PS

Roger,

I asked the students to reflect on your visit for about 5 minutes while I went out and got a drink. I returned to and interrupted vibrant enthusiastic discussion. I was pretty surprised. It seems the students missed a lot of what I thought you were getting at but had lots to talk about. I think the majority said your visit left them in a confused haze... which I indicated may have been fine.

They doubted your authenticity. Admitting that you are a white privileged male, many felt you came across very privileged... pretentious.

The majority of students felt you didn't answer the question about what you did as a result of accepting your privilege... I mostly listened and write things on the board before I responded. I was really surprised, I thought you answered the question completely... and maybe more of them did after I spoke, but initially, they didn't.

Many didn't think that becoming a hermit wouldn't benefit the world. Your activities didn't benefit the world, and you never spent any time talking *with* the under served people you claimed to care about.

So their minds were critically analyzing the whole time, but not in the way I might have thought. They were crucially analyzing *you*.

Some of them didn't think you are actually knowledgeable about what you were talking about.

One student asserted that you constantly told them to not believe you... and that this was purposeful on your part.

They wanted answers from me, but I just took their thoughts first... Importantly, about 50% were already aware of maybe the core message that previous classes found doom and gloom: their tomorrow, isn't a replay of their parents' lives.

I guess Doc Martins are expensive.

No one knew what "emergent" meant.

It was also expressed that this wasn't a lecture, but more of a discussion, and it did seem as though your life choices were living the conversation we were having. A few students were vocally appreciative, but most were kind of confused about what your visit was supposed to be. In fact one of the first questions was what was my intention in inviting you. They were frustrated when I went onto the next statement without answering... but I quickly added that this should be apparent after I responded to a lot of their statements.

This was about 10 minutes... then I did my best to frame your visit... mostly saying that you'd be interested and pleased to hear these thoughts.

I explained what emergent meant as best I could and used SUSTAIN as an example. I had to laugh at myself and I explained to them that I often didn't understand you, and you noted that I often asked for an example. So, it was fitting that I wasn't able to explain what "emergent" meant but provided an illustrative example.

Then I explained your past a little, and named some of your projects, but explained that your consulting style was likely very much like the way you spoke with us.

I explained how you initially thought that the corporations were the lever for change, but now you see the youth and education as the lever. I explained that it isn't living like a hermit that is a response to your privilege, but rather the consulting work you do.

I also said that I didn't think one is required to spend time working with the minority communities to work for them. Their voices are already there, one just has to listen... I remember when I said Dean Wendt asked for the model for us to follow, and you said it was the underserved and perceived-as-overly-sensitive voices.

As the class ended, I was explaining the three levels of change and in "process" I was explaining the 1/3 (not white-male) to the 15 (harassed from Cal Poly) power is one chance in 50,000... and the class was over.

Likely these issues will come up again.

If you are interested, I would be glad to give you some of my feedback. I have some advice if you would want... toward better connecting (in my opinion), but I recognize that this may be fine for you... and I think it was great - and still is. We had lots to talk about. However, if you're interested to talk about how I perceive you might have a smoother connection with their thoughts, I'd be glad to talk.

Gratefully,

Pete

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Product
Process
Context

already
aware
50%

Living the
Conversation

not lecture
Conversation

Activities
to answer

ignorant?

No gain

"don't believe"

~~Doc Martin's~~

Left in a haze

Equity/Diversity

What are you
doing?

"Becoming a
Hermit?"

Credibility
Purposeful