



Benjamin Haos <benjaminhaos@gmail.com>

Confirmation of conversation after class.

7 messages

Benjamin Haos <benjaminhaos@gmail.com>

Wed, May 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM

To: jewonk@ewha.ac.kr

Professor Jewon Kang,

This message is to confirm my understanding of our conversation after class this afternoon (5/11/16); to request further details on your comments during that conversation; and to reply to a select few of your statements. Please understand this is an abridged version of words i feel need to be exchanged but due to matters of respect, as well as my personal time considerations, i will limit myself to only the most pressing concerns. I should also add that i am choosing to speak frankly based on your comments that i should have taken initiative when you requested my approval of the disbanding of my team.

To be clear, i doing as you told me to do.

The main concern : My understanding is that you view my work as not related to my stated goals and not of academic standards in general.

Although i did not document in my progress-report paper the relation of my Oscilloscope work to the overall development of this project i have been perusing for well over three years, i clearly stated verbally, multiple times, it's relation. I spoke of this relation with you personally twice before i presented today; also at least once, i believe twice, during my presentation; and afterwards with you personally at least three times. I guess i simply assumed it would be obvious how it is related. It would be analogous to explaining why a person learning the art of carpentry might pursue knowledge of creating a saw or a hammer.

Regarding my document not being of academic standards.

When you spoke these words i responded under the stress of hours of preparation for a presentation that i hoped would be at least of similar standards to what i expected, and did, view today. I did this work completely by myself and with much consideration for creating a presentation that would meet the standards expected of me by my peers in my industry of Computer Science. This is the only reason i did not immediately respond to your attack and instead chose to review my work and try to find what it was that you found lacking. I was especially concerned with your statement, and i quote, "that your work was cynical."

I have been pouring my heart into my work at Ewha. Every word that comes out of my mouth and that is written on paper is straight from that source of utmost respect and love for this school that has been so gracious to allow my attendance. I was taken aback at your statement and upon arrival home to my study, i reread the document i had delivered to you. I am appalled that you find my words disingenuous. After being told four days earlier by you, to not take the work to serious, and again i quote, "these are only second year students," i chose to give you the Heart and Soul of my project at the present moment.

I am insulted at the way you responded to my gift of honest creativity produced during time of stress. I doubt you will ever receive words like those from any other student and this sentiment is based on multiple persons of your equal making that exact statement. Understand my writing has been

well received in and out of academic circles and those circles are not limited to any one field.

Disregarding a few minor mistakes in wording generated under duress of deadline, i know from previous response to my prose, the work i gave you is stellar. I have no doubt that with the usual cleanup, some basic edits, and the addition of the final progress; it will be as well received, if not more so, than my previous writings. Additionally, i find no reason to believe i was being "cynical."

Please address that statement you made.

So that is my request for further details. My above statements deliver a response to your comments and by doing so, i am confirming my understanding of your words. If i am in any way mistaken in my understanding(s), i apologize and depending on my misunderstanding, i might rescind my comments, at least the adjectivally...

As i stated at the beginning of this message. My candor is a result of your direction and is offered out of respect for you and your expressed wishes. I am very impressed by you, your work that i've experienced, the product of your students, and the excellence of your TA, Ms. Minjoo. I do apologize that i have not been able to give your class the attention i wish i could. Please understand that you have started me down a path i did not intend to travel alone much less without the time i believe it needed for completion. I have every intention of completing as many parts of this project as possible and i am currently completing the areas i know i will not be able to complete when i am not in a setting such as Ewha.

Thank you for your work. I look forward to a more detailed response to my midterm progress report and hope the above comments have given you the insight into what i need but if you would like any clarification, please do not hesitate to make request of such.

With much respect and fully honored to be,

Yours,

Benjamin Haos

Jewon Kang <jewonk@ewha.ac.kr>
To: Benjamin Haos <benjaminhaos@gmail.com>

Thu, May 12, 2016 at 7:02 PM

Dear Benjamin,

Thank you for the email letting me know your concern furthermore. I was also planning to send an email to you. This will be a good touch-base for continuing the communication and resolving misunderstanding, if any.

Please let me give my thought to you first, and then address your questions and concerns. My languages may be terse and straightforward in the non-technical discussion, and you may be offended by the tone of this email as well, which is not my intention either. However, in spite of my commitment to you, I have to say there were some disappointing moments. But still, I am very willing to be patient with the previous occasions, and wish you to achieve the goal and keep the pride. For this, first and foremost, I would like kindly ask you to follow the minimal requirements in

this class as everyone is doing so.

1) Submission of weekly report

I emphasize the importance of the weekly report several times. The weekly report is not a big thing as it requires only a half page of your progress in the last week, and the other half page of your plan. Sometimes, students may have no work to show due to the other homework, exams, or personal things, but it does not matter if they can show the future plan. However, the weekly report is very effective for the communication with me in the meeting. I am managing 16 teams in this basic engineering design class, so that I cannot remember all the pieces of ideas, discussions, etc. In this situation, the weekly report makes me and students easily aligned in the discussion by tracking histories. I can be prepared before each meeting by reviewing the reports, and can give a proper advice to their future plans. In the last meeting with you before the presentation, I had to spend more than 40 minutes with you while every team gets to have only 15 minute to complete all the discussion in three hours. You have told you were not aware of how/when to submit the report around a month ago, but then you should know it now if you want to complete this class.

2) Attendance

Every students needs to attend the class. I understood your different situation as you are the one-man team, and allowed to make an office hour based on your schedule. However, you did not show two times. I had to ask to TA to contact you to attend the class because I wanted you to be updated about the mid-presentation coming in a week. I still believe you are self-motivated person. Will you still want to have an office hour (e.g. 10am Monday) or start coming to the class?

3) Deadline

I told you several times to keep the deadline and upload your document as well as presentation files. You delayed about 8 hours and no ppt in the submission. Again, I am managing 16 teams. Please keep the deadline in the final presentation.

4) Attitude

Do not yell in the class room. But then, I also have to say my languages might hurt you, which was not my intention. I am sorry for this.

It is not good idea to quote only few words in the conversation such as “cynical” and asked me to address them. Instead, I would like to address some issues, including my perspective to your report and the way you would improve. However, please note this is not to blame of you. I want you to keep going smoothly after.

I highlighted Section 4.1 and Section 4.2 are very important as they show things you have accomplished so far, and they are important in the

evaluation. Please take a look at the first few sentences in Sec. 4.2 in your report. In my view, they are only excuses.

i) "Team was disbanded by the instructor... to the surprise of the remaining members."

: I think you remember the email exchanged between us before the discussion about the separation. I will not address this issue anymore.

ii) "As they left, they took all the tools and supplies"

: You already reported this, and I asked you to contact TA to reserve things. Could you do so a bit early to grab your supplies?

The next few sentences are all about the future plan. Please move them to Section 4.3. In your email and demonstration, you have mentioned there were some works done in the oscilloscope, and, thus please fill the section with them. Sec. 2.2 Related works, please refer to the similar contents in your previous proposal. There are some types and grammar errors in English as well. I might understand this to the other students, but not to you because you are from the States.. Please carefully write the report a little bit more.

Can you please resubmit the mid-report with more scientific styles before the next Wed. (5/18) so that I can evaluate the revised one again?

I understand you might have some concerns as you are the one-man team. I already accepted you could narrow down the original scope, and discussed several times with you about the disadvantage. As I said, your work will be evaluated in a different criteria.

Thank you for your work, and please give me your thoughts.

Best,

Jewon

From: Benjamin Haos [mailto:benjaminhaos@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 7:00 PM

To: jewonk@ewha.ac.kr

Subject: Confirmation of conversation after class.

[Quoted text hidden]

Benjamin Haos <benjaminhaos@gmail.com>

Fri, May 13, 2016 at 7:37 AM

To: Jewon Kang <jewonk@ewha.ac.kr>

Professor Jewon,

Thank you for your taking the time to document your thoughts and to deliver them to me. As i have only just now given your message a quick read-through, I will do my best to respond to you by the end of the weekend. Although i think there may be a couple minor concerns, i believe we can work through them and have a positive result.

Again, thank you for your well-mannered, honest, and straight forward response. There was nothing i found in your missive to be offensive and i very much appreciate your open candor. I did not find your language to be terse but rather calm, collected, and on-point. I have been very pleased with communications with your TA Minjoo; my curiosity wonders if she has learned her excellence from you.

Again, thank you and please expect a response by Monday morning.

Yours,

B. C.Haos

[Quoted text hidden]

Benjamin Haos <benjaminhaos@gmail.com>

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 1:02 AM

To: Jewon Kang <jewonk@ewha.ac.kr>

Professor Jewon Kang,

This is my formal response to our previous conversation. I will address your response line by line as perceived needed.

I did not find your response to be terse and although you were straight forward in sharing your perceptions, i fail to find much empathy in your response and iat no point have you detailed your claim that my work will be evaluated in any type of different criteria. Fact is, it seems you expect me to meet every single expectation you have a fiver person groups. As much as i would love to spend the time critiquing your guidance, time is money and i have spent enough here.

Thank you for expressing you willingness to be patient. Considering the previous conversations we have had, it is nice of you to put it writing what i

was understanding already to be the case.

Regarding your moments of disappointment, i think a person of your maturity must have come to realize that at times things do not turn out as one might expect. What i have learned in my years is that although i may find that my expectations were not met in one regard, they were exceeded in another. This is a simple fact of life; we must accept things as they are and from what we receive, find the good and useful.

Regarding pride; i have no use for this frivolous vanity, please do not consider it when you consider me.

Regarding weekly reports; i was under the understanding that you understood that i had previous commitments that were going to limit my ability to give focus to the two credits of non-required work that your lab is. Considering i have created email messages to you, have spoken in person with you, and that i created every single report for my team up until you allowed the dissolution of the team you placed me in, i have little concern about meeting the requirement of weekly reports. I will address the two facts i just stated later in this message.

Regarding attendance; i spoke in person with you and based on your words i understood that you did not expect to see me for the two weeks i would be finalizing my Capstone project. I specifically told you that i would arrive in class on the Wednesday following my around-the-world presentation and i did do so.

Regarding that meeting; where i traveled one hour plus to visit you in class only to turn around and travel one hour plus home; you spent twenty minutes explaining to me an outline of a research paper. I have read thousands of research papers. Science, engineering, philosophy, art, history, etc. The document your lab requires is not a research paper, there is no research beyond learning of already known knowledge going on here. Your complaint that you spent forty minutes describing to me things i already knew is a result of your actions and not my own and is extremely insulting to the time i put in. Meeting with you on Monday at 10am would probably be best for both of us.

Regarding your expectations of deadlines; seeing as you claim accommodation for my solo situation, i expect you either explain in writing how you are actually allowing deviation from the standard expectations or i expect you to be satisfied with what i produce. If you do not iterate your adjusted standards so that i know what i can ignore and what i must give attention too, then you have not adjusted your expectations.

Thank you for understanding that my behavior in class was a direct result of your words. It would have been nice if you had questioned the other teams in English so that i would have had some idea of what to expect but as i explained earlier, i am familiar with adjusting my expectations to realities at hand and rather than complain about things i find lacking, i try to extol the fineries i find. This has worked well for me and kept me at peace in time of turmoil.

I directly quoted your use of the word 'cynical' because it needed to be addressed. Personifying my words as such was a direct attack on my person and i needed to understand why you perceived me such. Thank you for explaining to me your reason and since you are taking umbrage mostly from my intentional nerve poking, i will consider that my words served their purpose. It will take very little re-wording for me to paint those same words into challenges overcome but the words were written for you to read and their mission was accomplished.

Regarding your removal of me from my group; if you would like, i would be happy to go back over and document the email messages exchanged regarding your dissolution of the team you placed me in. I think it would be an exercise useless to me but perhaps you might find some benefit in me doing so? A simple synopsis would go like this: You messaged me a day before meeting in class and asked approval for allowing the group you had create to be dissolved. Rather than bringing the lady's concerns to my attention and working to mediate them, you acquiesced to their request and placed me in the position of maintaining the team. You actioned this on the week we were to be discussing "team work" per the syllabus... I assumed, apparently in error, that you thought this to be the best path for the people you are charged with guiding and i thus followed your lead. There is no reason, based on the messages you conveyed to me up until now, that i felt i should have argued with you and until now, i would have thought doing so would be disrespectful of you. I am disappointed that you seem unwilling to take any responsibility for the actions engendering the current situation. I would also like to remind you of your statement that "girls can be emotional," and ask you to pause at this lead you set.

Thank you for your recommendations regarding my paper and how i might edit it. I will do so but i cannot be expected to return to you a document edited by the date you requested. I assume that there is a requirement of a final paper and in that final paper you will see your recommendations actioned on and hopefully you will also see a more fully described descriptions of knowledge obtained in your lab and explanation of production of my product.

Finally, unless you are willing to accept the same criticism, please do not speak to me of spelling and/or grammatical errors you find in my papers unless they create misunderstandings or errors in statement. It is commonly accepted that there will be minor errors in syntax and grammar in academic writing produced by graduating students and i would like to offer your higher expectations of my work as a simple example of what i have spoken of several times.

Thank you for allowing me to express myself freely and for doing so yourself. It is refreshing.

You can find my progress report for this week here : https://a-haos-at-ewha.github.io/36564_1_basic_engineering_design_for_electronics_engineering/pgs/progress_reports/weekly/week_12/index.html

You can follow the development of my experience in your lab here : https://a-haos-at-ewha.github.io/36564_1_basic_engineering_design_for_electronics_engineering/pgs/progress_reports/index.html

And you can expect to see my work at Ewha consolidated here : <https://github.com/a-haos-at-ewha>

Thank you for your generosity, your tolerance, your understanding, and your considerations,

-Benjamin Haos

Jewon Kang <sagittak@gmail.com>

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 3:55 PM

To: Benjamin Haos <benjaminhaos@gmail.com>

Cc: Jewon Kang <jewonk@ewha.ac.kr>

Dear Benjamin,

Thank you for the report and having today's meeting with me.

I was writing a memo for myself for remembering the today's discussion, and it would be good to share it with you.

Weekly report: by Sunday midnight. As the submission link may be not open at the moment, please send me an email.

Attendance: Monday 10 am instead of the Wed. class for the convenience.

+ "Regarding attendance" in your email: you have not told me the sentences. Instead, you told me that you would send me an email to set up an appointment. You seemed to be confused with other instructor's saying as told in the meeting.

Mid-report: by 5/20 (Friday). You can add some new results though it has been done after the original due. Your section 4 will be re-evaluated.

Deadline: Please keep the deadline in final. I will let TA help you remind the deadline (say, a week ago & a day ago)

Project scope: It is likely that you might want to keep the original or very similar level of the scope shown in the proposal. If you want to narrow down the ideas in the middle of the time to meet the final due, please tell me about it. I would not like to be surprised by this.

Do we have other issues to be remembered? Please feel free to tell me if you have other concerns. Thank you.

Best,
Jewon

[Quoted text hidden]

Benjamin Haos <benjaminhaos@gmail.com>

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 11:45 PM

To: Jewon Kang <sagittak@gmail.com>

Professor Jewon,

My revised midterm report is going to be late.

I have a gallery show tomorrow and add usual, things took longer to get done than I anticipated.

Hopefully you will appreciate that I have utilized portions of my basic engineering design project on my art project. I have a nfc reader controlling a relay set that activates a group of light bulbs running on household current. I am also going to modify the Android app and if things fall into place, perhaps have it upload data to an online local.

I am just about to hop on the train and head home. I will review your recommendations again and try to get something together but I have a lot of work in my other classes and I need to address that.

Sorry for the delay. I knew revising the document was going to be trouble and that's why I kept trying to explain to you that it couldn't be done. I only agreed because you insisted but like I presumed, time had not been available for the task.

Hope you have a good weekend. I will be working on a machine learning, big-data project that is due Tuesday. I will swing through Monday to discuss my status and I look forward to speaking with you.

Yours,

Haos

[Quoted text hidden]

Jewon Kang <sagittak@gmail.com>

Sat, May 21, 2016 at 12:26 AM

To: Benjamin Haos <benjaminhaos@gmail.com>

Dear Benjamin,

Thank you letting me know the status beforehand. Keeping yourself busy looks nice to me. It is also highly appreciated if one tries to stretch the limit farther as she/he can do.

But also, time & money is limited, and we always working in the constraints. You can redefine the scope if it is too much burden to you. The report is also a chance, given to you, and the choice is up to you.

Have a nice weekend, and let us see on Monday.

Best,

Jewon

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