

Beomjin Han

CSC 194

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Seminar #3 – Felipe Ortega

Our presenter was Felipe Ortega. He is an R&D Senior Engineering Manager at Aruba Networks, a Hewlett Packard Company. He's also worked in both startups and large companies. He got a BS in Electronics Engineering from Arizona State University, and an MBA from Sac State. At Aruba Networks, Felipe is leading software quality assurance department, developing datacenter network switches, and cloud based management and orchestration application. He has much fondness of Sac State and made big contributions to Sac State Engineering Department. Felipe talked to us about difficulties in team environments when ideas start to diverge. He asked the audience about their background and their majors, and applied them to the types of scenarios when teamwork is involved, and the frustrations that come with it.

What I learned that I did not know before are the three D's of workgroups (Discuss, Decide, and Do), and the diamond of participatory decision making. The classic dead-end is when nobody agrees on an idea. When trying to find a solution, it's more beneficial for people to come up with diverse ideas at first and go through the groan zone. This is when we explore diverse solutions to a problem, and the group members struggle to integrate new ideas. Getting the group ready for the groan zone can lead to better results than deciding too quickly and not exploring better options. After that, comes the conversion zone when things start to come together. This takes shape of a diamond in the diagram. Felipe recommends, in an hour-long meeting, take 30 minutes discussing the alternatives, 20 minutes rating them, and 10 minutes to decide what to do.