

Hongtao is deeply sorry for all mistakes he made

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Sun 2019-10-20 22:30

To: Martins, Nicole

Dear Professor Nicole,

My mistakes one after another these days and my wrong behavior have made you feel very offended and angry. I am deeply sorry for that. You must think I am a selfish, disrespectful and ungrateful person. I don't think I can get your forgiveness but I hope I can visit your office someday when you are free and tell the situations under which I made these disrespectful decisions; many times I was unaware.

If you are too angry to meet me or too busy, I wish I can get one thing across through this email: I have always been deeply grateful to your tremendous help since the first day we met last Summer. You are the most helpful teacher I have in this school. I have never said any bad words about you with anyone because I don't have a trace of negative thought towards you.

I didn't have any issues with you being busy and it being difficult to meet you in person. Being a graduate student myself, I totally understand how busy it is to survive in the academia. **I have never met the Dean and I don't even know his first name.** I know it's reasonable to associate that person with me since I emailed you twice about the IRB protocol two weeks ago but it was not me. I made disrespectful decisions but I am not a dishonest person. If it was me, I will shoulder that responsibility since I know lies will only make our relationship worse.

I know you won't believe it but I didn't have any negative attitudes towards you when I sent the second email to you. I was so obsessed with IRB submission and I didn't realize it is so disrespectful to send two emails asking you to check it.

I got frustrated with the IRB process in the past few weeks with ICA approaching. It's hard for me not to take Senta's responses and questions personal. I got so frustrated when I stared at the screen for nine straight hours waiting to reply to Senta's responses. I didn't get her response as she promised on that day. Out of despair, I sent that email to Sharon which I realized is very disrespectful for both you and Senta since both of you had spent so much time on it.

I had no idea about how the IRB system works and the workload IRB personnel are facing. When you told me that many of your studies were also waiting to be approved and each day IRB personnel were occupied by thousands of protocols coming from all Indiana campuses, I knew I was totally wrong and I was so guilty of what I did. I should have been patiently waiting and shouldn't have taken Senta's responses personal.

I am very frightened about personal conflicts. When I came outside of your office on Thursday, I was so frightened that my mind stopped working and I struggled walking with tingling legs. I didn't know what I said at your office and I didn't know what to say. I am so guilty of having made so many mistakes and hurt your feelings that I couldn't stop hitting my head with my hand.

I hate causing any troubles to others. Every time I copied you in my correspondences with Senta, I was so guilty that I had to make troubles to you since it will take you time to read that email. I really didn't want to waste your time as you are busy. After my mistake on committee choice, I knew that under these situations, I need to keep you informed. Avoiding that trouble will only bring more troubles to you.

Thank you so much for not having given up advising me. Through this crisis, I learned about how the advisory committee work in the US and how IRB systems works. I've also learned how to interact with advisors.

I am stupid person who made mistakes in IRB and in studies; a person who cannot control his emotions and sent the email asking about switching Senta without realizing it being so disrespectful to both you and Senta. But I am not an ungrateful person who forgot all your help along the way and spoke bad words about you.

Again, I am extremely guilty of all the troubles I have caused to you and of making you so angry and offended. I don't know how to beg for your forgiveness but I will bear in mind all your help since I arrived in the United States.

Sincerely,
Hongtao Hao