

10 Things I've Learned ... As a University Professor

by Stephen Ruble[†]
as told to Todd Keith[‡]

1. Teaching classes that don't start until noon does not insure that students won't oversleep your lecture.
2. It is possible to lecture for an entire hour in front of 30 students without a single one alerting you to the fact that your fly is open.
3. Wearing sandals without socks and shirts without ties can get you in trouble daily. Being a lousy teacher usually isn't a problem for at least five years.
4. A professor's clothing is an appropriate subject for the end of semester evaluations [or my sideburns].
5. A pre-med student enlightened our faculty by noting that the word "fruit" is actually spelled "froot". And to think, all this time...
6. Students often seem genuinely surprised when they see me jogging around town. As if I don't do anything except lecture and then return to the office and wait for them to come by.
7. As a student, it is mandatory that you complain about the cafeteria food, because you can afford to eat better. As a faculty member, it is mandatory that you NOT complain about it because you can't.
8. Students complain about the cost of college, to the point that I once almost felt compelled to collect gas money for a young lady's BMW.
9. Words of wisdom: A friend of mine who was in the construction business once said to me, "friend, you may have summer vacation, but I get nights and weekends." Indeed.
10. Business people don't think twice about spending money to save time. University administrators don't think twice about spending time to save money.
- [11. Students demand concrete dates for tests but treat paper deadlines as a serving suggestion.]
- [12. The only class-wide email guaranteed to be read by every student is one with the subject line "Class Cancelled Today".]
- [13. If it makes sense, administration officials won't do it; such as waiting until after final exams to "refurbish" classrooms.]

[†] Stephen B. Ruble, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine at Samford University.

[‡] My comments inserted as [...].