

Hey Pete,

Please forgive me in advance: I'm compelled to write this at the risk of being presumptuous, obtuse, and generally weird. I also hope you can forgive me for my anonymity, for the sake of prudence.

This quarter you've talked a lot about internalizing the true cost of energy. You've also talked about the proportionality of happiness to carbon emissions. You've also mentioned that some of your friends and colleagues in climate science have committed suicide. As someone who's experienced suicidal ideation, I can't help but see these as correlated. It seems natural that those passionate about mitigating climate change feel hopeless and isolated.

I imagine you've already considered this, as you are much more educated than I am, but its relation to you makes me feel obligated to say the following:

1. It seems like you're having a very hard week, and I'd like you to know that your students notice and care.
2. I don't think you're crazy.
3. Someone once told me that emotion is an experience, not a quality.

Cal Poly, your students, and the educational community need and value you. You probably know this too, but it never hurts to remind people they matter.