

----- Original message -----

From: Sabina Burton  
Date: 02/18/2014 4:46 PM (GMT-06:00)  
To: dalecki@uwplatt.edu  
Subject: Clarification from Valerie

Mike,

The email from Valerie below should clarify some things.

I didn't like hearing you say that you "would have ripped me a new one." I don't deserve such a statement nor am I in a point in my life where this is at all warranted or acceptable. I could definitely tell you were upset with me today and yesterday and thought to myself, great, here we go again. I couldn't think of anything I did wrong but that certainly didn't matter in the past.

You asked me to keep Roger uninvolved with Valerie's home search and I passed that along. However, I will not tell my husband to refuse to answer a potential client who seeks him out. Real estate is his job, teaching is mine. We are both very careful and sensitive to "conflict of interest" issues. However, there is and was none. I respected your wish and passed it on. I don't do things behind people's back. I don't say one thing and do something else.

Please take certain people's accusations with a grain of salt. Unlike others, my record at this school is clean. Integrity means a lot to me. That is why I take these kinds of personal attacks very seriously.

Considering that at this school you can write your own job advertisement, hire your girlfriend, unfairly profit from book sales, sexually harass students, run dubious experiments, practice favoritism etc. without any real consequences but can't help a future colleague with her apartment search strikes me as odd. It seems that because doing the right thing with the student harassment complaint rubbed some people the wrong way you now expect me to tiptoe around their feelings.

Valerie told me that she was uncomfortable signing a lease with someone who is or appears to be a personal friend of yours. That's it.

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From: vrstackman@gmail.com  
Date: Tue, 18 Feb 2014 13:40:25 -0500  
Subject: Re: Hello  
To: sabinaburton@live.com

Hi Sabina,

We did make it back just fine, thankfully, without event. KY was set to get more snow when we got back but we missed it thankfully.

With regards to the search, no, Roger was great. There seems to be some confusion, though, because there are bits of truth to much of what you wrote, but some of it is jumbled.

I first looked into many places online that I could find myself. Craigslist, the University Rental Resources page, etc.

When I wasn't having any luck (right around Christmas), I asked Roger for some help because I found him on a local realtor page and had stumbled past his Century 21 page and realized he worked there. I didn't want to ask Roger because I don't want to use "friend connections" to seem unfair in the housing application process, but I was very afraid I wouldn't have a place to live in the beginning so I asked you to speak to him and he sent me some information. He also sent me to his webpage which had a lot of information on it about local rental places, some of which I had already found, but many more that I hadn't yet found, so I called some of those too. Roger also showed me to the Rent Connect service the C21 people put together and I made many calls from that but most of those places didn't take pets at the time. Roger's website that he personally put together (separate from the C21 site) was also helpful to validate that I was finding a real place and not a spam or fake set up of a place just trying to steal deposits.

In one of my Craigslist searches (which I was doing at the same time to cast the widest possible rental net), I stumbled along a posting for a guy, Gerard A. who was helping folks find places to rent. I guess he owns some places himself and was helping local realtors and landlords meet up (putting us in contact) to try to get places to be rented. All he was looking for was a good word down the line if we knew someone who was looking to buy a home for us to pass his name along as a good faith type of thing (like paying it forward). There were no fees with this. I did find some information from him as repeats on things I had already found (through Craigslist, the internet, Roger, etc), but he also would just drive around and let me know if he saw a sign in someone's yard that said a place was for rent and would pass along the phone number and the address of the place.

I am a very individualistic person and I like to look on my own. Even if Roger had set up some meetings, I probably would have made another set of meetings myself that Roger wouldn't have known about. I tend to worry that someone else might not find something that I might be able to find (I can be minority obsessive like that), especially when it's a matter of me/us having a place to live or we will have to camp out on the lawn in a tent between Ullsvick and Ullrich (smiles).

Diane Lind, the Rental Resource Coordinator for UWP was also REALLY helpful in trying to directly send me some places that she thought would be good for me after we told her what we were looking for and that we had the two cats. Most landlords in the area don't like pets, so that was a hassle. She was very kind and has asked us to stop in to

say hello in person when we get into town and settled so we can "put faces to names."  
She was very kind and helpful and really was amazing.

I stumbled upon, through a series of phone calls, a plumbing place that manages a lot of rentals, too (Ingersoll Plumbing) and they showed us a few places, but they just didn't work out for us.

We ended up choosing the place we went with because of free heat (which seems precious to us moving back to the north [smiles]), they allowed pets, and I could get a two bedroom top floor unit that was in our budget. Frankly, this was the first guy who called us back that he had something available that we wanted and that we had been approved by. I got approvals for other places and was told that other places were open after, and we went to see many. I just got the best "vibe" off of this one place because the upstairs had vaulted ceilings and lots of light and, I'm not sure, just a happy "vibe" and so we decided to go with that Friday morning just before we saw you and Cheryl for lunch.

I am sorry to have caused some trouble. I will be happy to pass this whole thing along (copy this email) to Mike if you'd like, I certainly DO NOT want Roger to be in any hot water....

Val

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On Tue, Feb 18, 2014 at 12:42 PM, Sabina Burton <[sabinaburton@live.com](mailto:sabinaburton@live.com)> wrote:

Val,

Hope you made it home ok and your drive was better than coming out here.

Joe sends his regards. He was sorry that he missed you but is looking forward to June.

Regarding your appt. search: Mike asked me if Roger set up the apartment for you (because he talked to some guy as well). I told him that you asked Roger for tips once and he sent you some info on rental places but that he didn't set any meetings up or so. I think Mike was upset about the idea that Roger took over. Someone told Mike that you were working with a realtor here who showed you around but I didn't know who. I am just glad that you found a place that will work for you and Jenna.

Sabina