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August 30, 1995

GRIEVANCES OF A FACULTY WIFE

TEXAS A&M'S TREATMENT OF MY HUSBAND,  
DISTINGUISHED PROF. JOHN O'M. BOCKRIS, SINCE  
NOVEMBER 1993.

The following legal facts are addressed  
and submitted by me as an intellectual,  
not as a mere woman.

1. Consequences of the national and international defamation of my husband's over a period of about 18 months, caused the intended intimidation and decline of his research group. - Furthermore, it resulted in almost irreversible damage to his national and international scientific reputation, to the point where he suffered a loss of approximately \$400,000 a year in research grant money. Last but not least, it had inevitably affected his health and mine.

2. In retrospect, the most disappointing and devastating fact was that no attempt was made by the Texas A&M Administration to contact my husband for a discussion of whether the defamatory statements about him in the press were correct, whether he could disprove them; or, whether his research work, or similar research done by other scientists, had already been published in scientific journals.

Public statements made by Texas A&M administrators that Prof. Bockris' academic freedom must be protected and that it is of great importance had thus become mere lip service. Nothing was done by the Texas A&M administration to stop the extremely defamatory and untrue statements made in the press. My husband's plight was completely ignored. [ PPM 2.3.2.5.p.5.,11A , on Academic Freedom.]. p.3.

3. It is my hope that the Texas A&M Administration will act in accordance with PPM 2.3.10, Attachment A #8, to invoke this clause [fixed information ..during the course of an inquiry..to be released only to any party having a need to know...improper release of such information may be cause for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal....].see p.4.

4. In accordance with the TAMU Policies and Procedures Manual, persons acting in violation of academic and human rights are subject to investigation and disciplinary action.

It is my hope that those responsible for my husband's tragedy will be called in and subjected to detailed, impartial investigations, for just and fair disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, - for violations, - as clearly outlined in the Texas A&M Policies and Procedures.

THE ABOVE ARE MY GRIEVANCES TO THE TEXAS A&M ADMINISTRATION.

Self-explanatory and factual data pertinent in this case are attached herewith.

THIS, MY PETITION, SEEKS REDRESS FROM THE TEXAS A&M ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NEEDLESS IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE DONE TO MY HUSBAND'S PROFESSIONAL CAREER, AND THE PERMANENT LOSS OF MATERIAL BENEFITS ACCRUING FROM A LIFETIME OF BRILLIANT ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS, DUE TO THE UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC DEFAMATION AND PERSECUTION WE HAD TO SUFFER FROM THE TAMU ADMINISTRATION SINCE NOVEMBER 1993.

*his constitutional rights - and the violation of*

Respectfully submitted,

*Lillian R. Bockris*

Mrs. John O'M. Bockris

*Hand-written  
in pencil above  
"and the violation  
of his constitutional  
rights"*

LRB/hf  
cc:adm.



## II. ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Academic Freedom: Institutions of higher education exist for the common good. The common good depends upon an uninhibited search for truth and its open expression. Hence, it is essential that each faculty member be free to pursue scholarly inquiry without undue restriction, and to voice and publish individual conclusions concerning the significance of evidence that he or she considers relevant. Each faculty member must be free from the corrosive fear that others inside or outside the University community, because their views may differ, may threaten his or her professional career or the material benefits accruing from it.

Each faculty member is entitled to full freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject being taught. Faculty members also are citizens of the nation, state, and community; therefore, when speaking, writing, or acting outside the classroom, they must be free from institutional censorship or discipline. On such occasions faculty members should make it clear that they are not speaking for the institution.

- B. Academic Responsibility: For faculty members the notion of academic freedom is linked to the equally demanding concept of academic responsibility. As a faculty member, a person assumes certain responsibilities to the profession, the students, the institution, and society at large. Some of these are listed below:
1. The fundamental responsibilities of a faculty member as a teacher and scholar include maintenance of competence in one's field of specialization and the exhibition of such professional competence in the classroom, studio, library, or laboratory and in the public arena by such activities as discussions, lectures, consulting, publications, or participation in professional organizations and meetings.
  2. The demonstration of professional integrity by a faculty member includes recognition that the public will judge the profession as well as the institution by one's statements and behavior. Therefore, the faculty member should strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, to be willing to listen to and show respect to others expressing different opinions, and to avoid creating the impression that the faculty member speaks or acts for the college or the University when speaking or acting as a private person.



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received by means of an amplified telephone conversation (e.g., a speakerphone) which permits all persons present at the time to hear and take part in the testimony as if the witness were in the room. It is the responsibility of the chair to see to it that witnesses are given a fair opportunity to be heard and to explain their statements in order to give the committee the benefit of their knowledge regarding the matter under investigation. The rules of civil procedure and evidence as recognized in Texas do not apply to this proceeding. The governing standard for all evidence shall be fundamental fairness.

#### 5. EXAMINATION OF RECORD

Upon request, the respondent shall be provided with copies of the record of any recorded meeting of the committee, all documents, and other tangible evidence considered by the committee and bearing directly upon its decision.

#### 6. PROCEEDINGS

All proceedings of the committee shall be closed in accordance with applicable regulations.

#### 7. STANDARD OF PROOF

The standard of proof in proceedings under this policy shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.

#### 8. RECORDS

All tape recordings, written documents, computer records, photographs, and other fixed information generated by or reviewed in the course of an inquiry or investigation shall be treated as confidential and shall not be released to any party other than the respondent, complainant, and officials having a need to know, including officials of the state and federal governments. Improper release of such information may be cause for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, as well as action under Article 6252-17a, V.A.C.S.

#### 9. FINDINGS

The findings of the committee, along with any recommended sanction or sanctions, shall be forwarded in writing to the designated officer and the respondent in accordance with the time limits established by this policy.

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

Office of the Vice President for Research and Associate Provost for Graduate Studies  
College Station, Texas 77843-3121  
E-mail: rak@rgs.tamu.edu  
(409) 845-8585 FAX (409) 845-1855

Robert A. Kennedy  
Vice President and  
Associate Provost

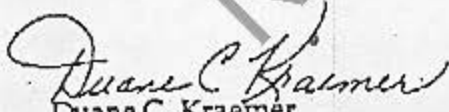
January 31, 1994

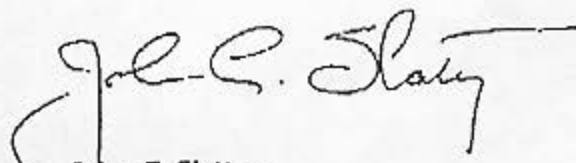
Dear Dr. Kennedy,

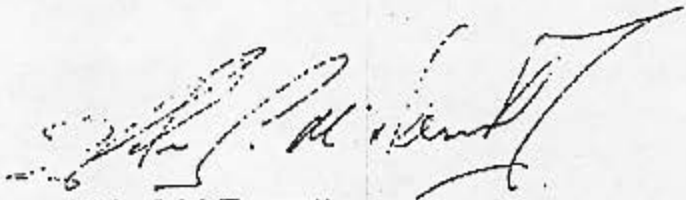
Attached is the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Scientific Misconduct charges brought against Dr. John O'M. Bockris regarding the "Philadelphia Project."

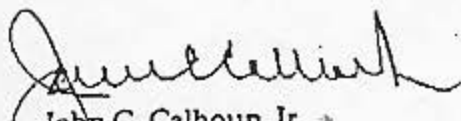
It is the unanimous decision of this committee that a Committee of Investigation is not warranted.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Duane C. Kraemer  
Associate Dean  
College of Veterinary Medicine.

  
John C. Slattery  
Professor  
Chemical Engineering

  
John J. McDermott  
Distinguished Professor  
Philosophy

  
John C. Calhoun, Jr.  
Distinguished Professor, Emeritus  
Petroleum Engineering

