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From: "Mason, Sally K." <sfmason@purdue.edu>
To: <tsoukala@ecn.purdue.edu>
Sent: Sunday, July 09, 2006 1:58 PM
Subject: RE: Concern

Lefteri,

I appreciate your concern, and the kind words.

We're entering the stage of formal investigation into this work as outlined under executive memorandum C-22. It's extremely important that we follow our procedures to a T. This will make the reporters very unhappy, because we guarantee confidentiality while the investigation is ongoing. However, we will get to the bottom of what has happened. My hope is that we will also demonstrate the integrity of our institution. For integrity to be maintained we need to allow the process to work. I know the committee will be contacting you at some point for input. You can be most helpful by sharing with them, and only with them, what you understand to be the facts of this case. I will continue to withhold any judgment until the committee is prepared to issue a report.

Again, thank you for the offer to discuss this. There may come a time when it would be appropriate for me to have such a discussion, and I will hold your offer in reserve.

Sally

-----Original Message-----

From: Lefteri H. Tsoukalas [mailto:tsoukala@purdue.edu]
Sent: Sunday, July 02, 2006 3:32 PM
To: Mason, Sally K.
Subject: Concern

Personal and Confidential

Dear Sally,

I am writing to you out of deep concern for the Taleyarkhan affair.

I have been a strong and tireless supporter of your Provostship and you personally (the attached review captures some of this), you have been an excellent Provost and I strongly believe that you will make an outstanding Purdue President. I realize that you have given me opportunities and at times I have brought you headaches and I have deep regrets about this. But my commitment to you personally and your efforts has been, is, and will be deep and strong.

Taleyarkhan produced outstanding bibliographical evidence for thermonuclear fusion taking place in imploding bubbles. He published in

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very prestigious journals (Science, Phys. Review E, Phys. Review Letters). The publications were touted as Nobel-level work. On the basis of that we brought him to Purdue.

For a scientific fact to hold peer-review is necessary but not sufficient. What makes it sufficient is independent replication. Our own research (see attached paper) and that of others raises serious questions about what was put in the peer-reviewed prestigious journals. But this is not so important, in my mind. In time, science shows. What is very important, crucial I would say, is that he faked replication. And this he did here at Purdue, and Purdue can be harmed because of this. Let us be no less than MIT, Bell Labs, or, Seoul National University in showing the world that as a premier research university we can handle research integrity in an exemplary manner.

Taleyarkhan has brought harm to my School. I do not wish a similar thing to be done to our university. Call me any time if you wish to discuss things (765-463-0689 home, 765-404-9911 cell, 765-494-5742). I

have been mostly in bed with a kidney stone last couple days, but will be happy to come and see you anywhere and anytime convenient for you.

Lefteri

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