

Peter E. Dunn, Ph.D.  
Associate Vice President for Research  
Research Integrity Officer  
Hovde Hall of Administration, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
610 Purdue Mall  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2040

April 20, 2007

Dear Dr. Dunn:

I am replying to your request by letter of April 10, 2007. Because Purdue's handling of allegations against Dr. Taleyarkhan has led to two separate (and ongoing) federal investigations of Purdue itself, I regretfully do not believe it is appropriate for me to respond as requested at this time.

Executive Memorandum C-22, promulgated by President Beering and in effect ever since, requires formation of a committee to conduct an inquiry into research misconduct. It does not contemplate an inquiry by a single Associate Vice-President acting as Research Integrity Officer. I am unaware of such a committee currently being in existence on the Taleyarkhan matters, and your letter does not claim that there is such a committee at whose behest you are requesting information of me.

I am particularly sensitive to the appropriate procedures because, consistent with the principle of Executive Memorandum C-22 that all members of the Academic Committee have a responsibility to report research misconduct, I began in February of 2006 cooperating with members of an "Examination Committee" looking into bubble fusion (sonofusion) research at Purdue. I aired my concerns pretty thoroughly over the next seven months.

But having cooperated in good faith with the Examination Committee for seven months, I received from Dr. Rutledge on September 5, 2006, a letter insisting that I make written allegations if I wanted an investigation. Although puzzled about what the purpose of the prior seven months had been, I responded that same day with such written allegations covering what I considered the main points that had been before the examination committee over the preceding seven months. I assume a copy is available to you.

Thereupon, a C-22 committee was formed in the College of Engineering under the University's Policy on Integrity in Research to consider allegations regarding sonofusion. As formally announced on February 7 of this year, the committee determined that the evidence did not support the allegations of research misconduct and that no further investigation of the allegations was warranted. Purdue has resolutely refused to discuss any details of this secret investigation, which was treated as its final word. Your instant inquiry is an anomalous and unexplained departure from Purdue's very public stance.



*School of Nuclear Engineering*

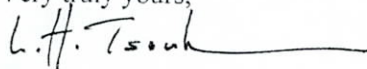
The House Committee on Science and Technology subsequently initiated an investigation of Purdue's investigation, which is ongoing. Further, the Inspector General for the Office of Naval Research appears to be involved in an independent second investigation, and she has expressed concerns about identifying sources except to refer inquiries to her, Holly Adams (holly\_adams@onr.navy.mil) as the official who initiated the investigation.

I will cooperate fully with the House Committee on Science and Technology and with the Inspector General for the Office of Naval Research in their respective investigations.

If a new Purdue C-22 committee is formed to investigate Dr. Taleyarkhan's "falsification, fabrication or plagiarism," as your letter puts it, I will consider fully cooperating, though I will need to weigh such circumstances, then present, as the status of the House Committee and ONR investigations, the wishes of the Inspector General and Purdue's reason why its former final word no longer is final.

Having sought legal counsel, I am comfortable that this is an appropriate response at this time. I regret that, but the chronology recited above justifies my position, especially with federal investigators involved and concerned about the integrity of their own investigations.

Very truly yours,



Lefteri H. Tsoukalas, PhD  
*Professor of Nuclear Engineering*