

Dear Dr. Taleyarkhan,

I am writing to see if you might have a few minutes to talk on the phone regarding the report to the ONR that was made public last week. As you know, the report found evidence to conclude that there were two separate instances of research misconduct. They also did not reach such a conclusion in several other instances. Might you have a couple of minutes to share your thoughts about these findings? I am also wondering whether you plan to appeal the determinations.

Thanks as always for your help.

Bob

Robert Service
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[Note: From the following e-mail from Taleyarkhan, Service published only the following:

In an e-mail to Science, Taleyarkhan says that the new report "is flawed from various perspectives and incorporates factual errors," though he does not spell them out. He adds: "The current state of matters represents a major setback for university faculty members in general--this sort of selective victimization to meet political-funding priorities of a huge institution (with relatively incomparable resources vs the sole individual) could happen to any other faculty member."

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

From: Rusi Taleyarkhan [mailto:rusi@purdue.edu]
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 1:35 PM
To: Robert Service
Cc: rusi@purdue.edu; John Lewis
Subject: Re: A few minutes? (rpt->r.service;Science.7.21.08)

Dear Mr. Service:

I have just returned from travel and was surprised at this development and the fact that Purdue thought it even appropriate to issue a Press Release at this stage considering that I have the right to appeal both to ONR and to Purdue to correct factual errors and mis-statements. At this stage I must state that the misconduct conclusions of the Inv.C Report (Purdue) is flawed from various perspectives and incorporates factual errors - perhaps due to the inability to adequately digest the information base in the time limits they were given?!

The two issues on which it concludes misconduct were already investigated and dismissed in detail during 2006 by a duly appointed committee (but one that did not feel the political pressure brought to bear in 2007 from Congressman Miller). See the tone and wording of the Jan. 2007 Press Release and compare that with the current July 18, 2008 vitriol-laced Press Release. Why is it that two duly constiuted committees looking at the same facts and data draw such diametrically opposite conclusions? Perhaps someone ought to talk with the 2006 Inv.C members to get their inputs on why they exonerated.

The current state of matters represents a major setback for university faculty members in general - this sort of selective victimization to meet political-funding priorities of a huge institution (with relatively incomparable resources vs the sole individual) could happen to any other faculty member.

I'm in discussions with my counsel (Mr. John Lewis of Lewis and Wilkins, LLP of Indy, IN) to evaluate my options. Appealing to Purdue administration (which acts as judge, jury, and prosecution all in one) is one option that we will be considering. The fact that Purdue issued its Press release and released the non-final findings, and the threats of punishment they've conveyed for non-cooperation can only be prejudicial but we'll see. I'll be able to provide to you further information after I have spoken with my counsel.

Thx for your understanding.

Rusi Taleyarkhan

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Subject: RE: A few minutes? (rpt->r.service;Science.7.21.08)

Date: Mon, 21 Jul 2008 13:44:59 -0400

From: "John Lewis" <Lewis@lewisandwilkins.com>

To: "Rusi Taleyarkhan" <rusi@purdue.edu>, "Robert Service" <rservice@aaas.org>

Mr. Service - Please contact me to discuss. After two investigations, one in which Purdue exonerated Dr. Taleyarkhan, we are left with 2 issues not involving the research itself but post research issues that many, many people completely disagree with the findings of Purdue.

There is much to do here but Purdue has gone out of it's way to prove itself worthy of academic integrity at the expense of Dr. Taleyarkhan, and thus has fallen short by the means to get there.

John

John H. Lewis
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