

Rectenbaugh, Leisa

From: provmail@purdue.edu
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 2:27 PM
To: tsoukala@purdue.edu
Subject: Message from the Provost

Attachments: Nature.pdf; NYTimes.pdf



Nature.pdf



NYTimes.pdf

Colleagues,

I am writing to share with you two letters that Charles Rutledge, Vice President for Research, and I have submitted to Nature magazine and The New York Times. The attached letters express our concern with the coverage by these two highly esteemed publications of an inquiry into allegations of research misconduct in Purdue's School of Nuclear Engineering.

Some of our faculty have urged the University to present its side of this story more aggressively. Because our own policies and federal guidelines on the investigation of cases related to integrity require a high degree of confidentiality, Purdue has refrained from responding in detail to the numerous questions presented by certain members of the media. Although this stance has led to negative coverage for the University, we have been — and remain — committed to paying that price if necessary in order to remain true to our policies and our ideals. I want to assure each of you that we have adhered meticulously to University policy and federal guidelines in carrying out this procedure. We have endeavored to provide all the parties involved with the degree of confidentiality that we believe each of you would want and deserve if you were to become part of a case in which integrity was the central issue.

I believe the two letters I am sharing express Purdue's position without violating our policy on research integrity. I hope they help you understand the University is on solid moral and legal ground in this unpleasant situation.

Sincerely,

Sally Mason, Provost