



PURDUE

UNIVERSITY


School of Nuclear Engineering

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Dr. France Córdova, President
Purdue University
1031 Hovde Hall of Administration, Room 200
610 Purdue Mall
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1031

January 17, 2008


Dear President Córdova:



Thank you for your letter of January 4, 2008. We are deeply grateful for your kind words of encouragement and support. Our determination to defend the reputation of our school and prepare the best nuclear engineering leaders of the future has sustained us through the recent period of unprecedented suffering and hardship befallen our school.

As we have briefly informed you in the letter dated November 30, 2007, we are facing enormous difficulties at the School of Nuclear Engineering because of Dean Jamieson's harmful decisions and unwarranted interventions. Surrounding Dr. Taleyarkhan's alleged bubble fusion fraud, Dr. Jamieson presided over a long episode of intimidations and harassment of the faculty and students that came forward to promote the ethical standards of research at Purdue. We consider that she has demonstrated appalling lack of academic professionalism and impartiality; disrespect for faculty autonomy; disregard for health and safety; and promoted uncertainty regarding the future of our school, its function and existence.

Despite all these, we are strongly committed to keep our tradition as one of the World's leading programs in nuclear power engineering. We are determined to build on the record of excellence and fulfil our mission of educating tomorrow's nuclear engineering leaders and maintain our prominent role in nuclear power engineering research. However, in order to accomplish these goals, it is absolutely necessary that the current conditions at our school should be drastically changed.



With your strong support and Provost Lechtenberg's help we are hoping that we can get our

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school back to a healthy condition. As a first step to recovery we would like to submit the following requests to empower our school and redress the unfortunate events and unfair treatment that have taken place over the past two years at the School of Nuclear Engineering:

1. With respect to Dr. Taleyarkhan's alleged bubble fusion fraud, we would like to request that, if Purdue finds any instance of research or any other misconduct, he should be removed from our school. Dr. Taleyarkhan has been very disruptive to the relations and the performance within the school. He was partially responsible for the forced resignation of Prof. Tsoukalas as the Head. He promoted false allegations of research misconduct against the members of the Faculty who raised concerns against him (Profs. Tsoukalas, Clikeman, Bertodano and Jevremovic) through his research collaborator, Dr. Revankar. These counter allegations were found groundless by the Inquiry Committee which furthermore stated, among other things, that "In effect, the degree of discussion suggested to us the diligence with which the respondents were attempting to pursue the truth" and "It appeared to us that, at each step of the process, the respondents were making their best effort to identify all possible sources of error and correct for them."
2. We also would like to regain for our school the independence in the internal decisions granted by the Purdue policy and that we once enjoyed. At present we are under the intervention of the office of the Dean of Engineering that dictates almost every aspect of our school's operations and decision making. The Interim Head of the school has been assigned by the Dean without consultation with the faculty and she has refused for nearly a year and half to proceed with a head search. The Dean has also intentionally interfered with the membership and the proceedings of the primary committee in order to promote Dr. Revankar as if she wants to reward Dr. Revankar's suspicious conduct related to the bubble fusion research of Dr. Taleyarkhan (Dr. Revankar published a paper confirming the claims of Dr. Taleyarkhan). She has finally taken action last week about our request to do a head search. The faculty of our school, once again, was not consulted at all and it appears that the faculty may be a small minority in the committee. Astonishingly, the Chair of the Search Committee is not a nuclear engineering faculty. This is unprecedented and needs to be changed.
3. We have a near-crises problem in our School related to the operation of the Business Office which seriously degraded our research performance in the last one and a half years. The causes of this major operational problem are the inexperienced business manager and the incapable business clerk who were assigned to our School by the Dean's Office after the bubble fusion problem started. Both of them are not up to the job at a very small School where no other experts can help the daily operation. We cannot afford to have this type of situation where the research accounting for many projects is completely mixed up for the past year and where the faculty often need to prepare monthly expense reports to the sponsors. Many of the contractual matters, equipment procurement and placement of personnel to projects have been delayed, often almost indefinitely. We request that immediate action be taken to change the business office staff in order to reverse these unacceptable conditions imposed by the Dean's Office.

4. Finally, we would like to request a review of the decision to remove Prof. Tsoukalas as the Head because the process was flawed due to the following reasons. In Summer 2006, Dr. Jamieson, then Interim Dean of Engineering, initiated a series of actions to pressure the Head of Nuclear Engineering out (Dr. Taleyarkhan appears to have requested that). On May 11, 2006 she decided that Dr. Taleyarkhan would directly report to her and at the same time initiated head review in which Dr. Taleyarkhan participated. The review was conducted during the summer despite numerous complaints from the faculty that the timing was inappropriate and they would not participate. Dr. Jamieson ignored faculty objections and conducted a review that only charitably can be characterized as biased and unfair. She enlisted for the review disgruntled faculty who had sided with Dr. Taleyarkhan and were leaving Purdue after failing to make tenure or to pursue opportunities elsewhere. In early Fall 2006, several nuclear engineering faculty, including distinguished and emeritus professors, sought to meet with her to voice their concerns about her treatment of the school, the biased review, and the pressures on the head to resign. (It should be noted that Dr. Tsoukalas was appointed for an indefinite term, not a five-year term.) Dr. Jamieson completely ignored their plea and instead removed Dr. Tsoukalas from the headship.

We are requesting your support and above corrective actions based on the following brief summary of difficulties encountered in the School of Nuclear Engineering:

- a) Dr. Jamieson continues a pattern of engagement with the alleged bubble fusion fraud that involves possible obstruction of justice, apparent collusion with protagonists/confidants, and apparent retaliations against those who came forward to protect the reputation of the School of Nuclear Engineering and Purdue University. There is evidence pointing to Dr. Jamieson's collaboration with Dr. Revankar to bring malicious and patently retaliatory allegations against faculty members of the School of Nuclear Engineering (i.e., faculty directly involved in scientifically challenging Dr. Taleyarkhan's allegedly fraudulent bubble fusion claims). It should be noted that the faculty members although exonerated by an inquiry committee are burdened with hardship, mounting legal fees and growing anxiety about what the future may bring under a leadership that has demonstrated such appalling bias against them.
- b) Dr. Jamieson has interfered with school process and faculty rights and privileges including academic committee functions and decisions. The most recent example of this is an egregious attempt on October 30, 2007 to request for an unplanned Nuclear Engineering Primary Committee meeting and exclude Distinguished Professor M. Ishii from an *ad hoc* promotion review of Dr. Revankar (a junior faculty accomplice in Dr. Taleyarkhan's alleged bubble fusion fraud). Dr. Jamieson has exempted Dr. Downar from Purdue's rule of not granting leave of absence for faculty members that have accepted a tenured position and are working at another university. Apparently she invited him to participate while on leave in this particular meeting of the Nuclear Engineering Primary Committee in order to support Dr. Revankar's promotion case.

- c) Dr. Jamieson authorized an improper and possibly illegal transfer of Purdue laboratory property to Prof. McDeavitt at Texas A&M, who left our School because he could not get tenure. The property in question is a valuable component of our school's technical infrastructure. The transfer authorization was done without consulting with the faculty of the school. In April of 2007 the faculty discovered the loss and requested clarifications from the Dean's Office. We were told that the property was given to Texas A&M because it had been "contaminated" with radioactivity and would have been too expensive to clean. Transfer of radioactively contaminated equipment across state lines without proper procedure is in violation of federal regulations.

- d) Dr. Jamieson authorized the illegal employment of Mr. Subarrao Buddhi who appeared to have worked at the School of Nuclear Engineering for Dr. Taleyarkhan and was paid from Purdue University. Mr. Buddhi was given full access to computer accounts and key privileges to the building and facilities of the School of Nuclear Engineering in spite of the fact that he was here on a visitor's visa and for the purpose of participating in the legal defense of his son (who has been tried and convicted in federal court). Mr. Buddhi has no background and credentials fitting our school's or Purdue's mission. His presence in the school was noted and concerns about security were raised with her administration, but completely ignored.

- e) Dr. Jamieson has shown callous disregard for the well being of Professor Jevremovic, who has suffered harassment from Dr. Downar (a key ally of Dr. Taleyarkhan and apparent confidant of Dr. Jamieson) that includes, plagiarizing her work, taking away her students without her consent or the Graduate Chair's approval and engaging in apparently unprofessional activities to diminish her reputation. Dr. Downar was mysteriously exonerated despite incontrovertible evidence for plagiarism. When Prof. Jevremovic expressed concerns and fears for her future at Purdue, Dr Jamieson refused to explain the reason for the exoneration and told Prof. Jevremovic that she can "file a [new] grievance."

The damage to our school is enormous and ongoing. Routine school functions and activities are in disarray. Our students are confused and bewildered while the faculty has grown increasingly demoralized. Vivid examples of the disarray are the collapse of the Nuclear Engineering Business Office and a precipitous decline in new applications for our graduate program.

Supportive documentation for the above can be supplied to you.

We are grateful for your attention and your immediate intervention.

Sincerely,



Martin de Bertodano, PhD
Associate Professor of Nuclear Engineering



Mamoru Ishii, PhD
Walter Zinn Distinguished Professor of
Nuclear Engineering



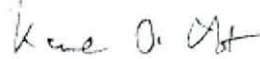
Chan K. Choi, PhD
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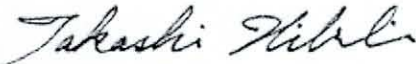
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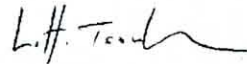
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Cc. Provost Victor Lechtenberg

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