

Facts Regarding the Xu/Butt 2005 Paper Press Release

Source: Taleyarkhan's C-22 Appeal/Rebuttal, Exhibit 1, Page 1

Corrections of facts and for errors in the 4.18.08 Report from Purdue University are presented in the body of that report itself so ONR can directly review the rebuttal on a one-on-one basis. All comments, corrections of fact, modifications and rebuttal input are marked in "red" with independent witness/affidavit quotations in "blue" lettering. Disagreements with the as-stated verbage in the Purdue Report is indicated with ~~strikethrough~~ lines.

Source: Taleyarkhan's C-22 Appeal/Rebuttal, Exhibit 1, Page 11

Conclusion

While the findings for this section bear heavily on the conclusions of the next section, the Committee concludes that the information in the press release is true in a technical sense, even though it is crafted by Purdue's Press Office with input and approvals from several individuals and Purdue's administration in what by some may be viewed as in a very misleading somewhat incomplete way. It is also not clear that a press release is part of the scientific record, being aimed at the general public. Thus, we conclude that the manipulation, if any, of the press release does not constitute research misconduct.

Source: Taleyarkhan's C-22 Appeal/Rebuttal, Exhibit 1, Page 12

- The decision to approach Purdue's Press Office writer (E.Venere) was made not by Dr. Taleyarkhan but by Dr. Tsoukalas (then Head of School of Nuclear Engineering) who was first appraised of the impending NED publication and it was Dr. Tsoukalas thereafter who requested Dr. Taleyarkhan's assistance in communication with Purdue's Press Office on behalf of the School of Nuclear Engineering. This is Ref. 46 (Venere 2007 submission).
- It was Purdue's Press Office writer E. Venere (Ref. 46) who initiated the question of who provided direction and sponsorship for the work of Dr. Xu in NED. It was Purdue's Press Office writer E. Venere who requested the assistance of Dr. Taleyarkhan to help answer questions due to language difficulties with Dr. Xu.
- It was Dr. Taleyarkhan who proactively offered tempering advice to Purdue's Press Office (Ref.46) on the question of supervision by suggesting "NO – not accurate to say supervised .." since he was unsure of the extent of supervision provided by Dr. Tsoukalas and wanted to leave that to Dr. Tsoukalas.
- Dr. Taleyarkhan's note was over-ruled by the Dr. Tsoukalas who deliberately specified and requested credit for providing oversight and sponsorship (Ref. 46).
- Dr. Tsoukalas himself asked to convey the response to the specific question on sponsorship and direction from Purdue's Press Office and provided final approval for the as-crafted Press Release by Purdue's writer E. Venere (Ref. 46).

It is important note that the 2008 Inv.C has failed to point out the facts highlighted above.

Source: Purdue's C-22 Final Report, page 15

FF2. When Dr. Taleyarkhan learned that NED's online publication of the Xu paper was imminent, Dr. Taleyarkhan organized a press release that came out on July 12, 2005 from the Purdue University News Service.⁴⁶

Source: Taleyarkhan's C-22 Appeal/Rebuttal, Exhibit 1, Page 35

FF2. When Dr. Taleyarkhan learned that NED's online publication of the Xu paper was imminent, Dr. Taleyarkhan **proactively approached Dr. Tsoukalas and per Dr. Tsoukalas's request and the specific request from Mr. E. Venere (the Press Office writer) facilitated** a press release that came out on July 12, 2005 from the Purdue University News Service.⁴⁶ **The Press Release organization was performed by Mr. E. Venere of Purdue's Press Office in consultation with his superiors.**

FF3. The July 12, 2005 release written **by Press writer Mr. E. Venere** includes the following statements:

Source: Taleyarkhan's C-22 Appeal/Rebuttal, Exhibit 1, Page 38

FF8. Dr. Xu appeared for **a July 8, 2005 teleconference** interview with the reporter who wrote the press release. Mr. Butt was also invited to do so, but did not. Drafts of the press release circulated to Dr. Xu, Mr. Butt, and Dr. Tsoukalas, thus keeping them informed of the details of the press release and giving them ample opportunity to object to any inaccuracies.⁵⁶ However, given their status as Dr. Taleyarkhan's **and Dr. Tsoukalas's** subordinates, Dr. Xu and Mr. Butt were **hardly** in a position to influence the press release significantly. **Notably, Dr. Tsoukalas was the senior-most member of the School of Nuclear Engineering and was given every opportunity to influence the Press Release. In his 2007 ONR IqC 2007 070731 EVenere.1 submission⁵¹, the Press Writer states**

“we consulted extensively with Lefteri Tsoukalas... In fact, Lefteri enthusiastically approved this news release.”

Source: Taleyarkhan's C-22 Appeal/Rebuttal, Exhibit 1, Page 39

between Mr. Venere and Drs. Tsoukalas and Taleyarkhan, it was Dr. Tsoukalas who took the initiative and called Dr. Taleyarkhan via telephone to request him to specifically contact Mr. Venere and convey (ONR IqC 2007 070731 EVenere.15 submission⁵¹):

“Lefteri just called me to say he is quite occupied .. but wanted to communicate that it is OK with him if you wrote that Yiban Xu and Adam Butt conducted their .. work under direct sponsorship and oversight from Lefteri Tsoukalas (Head of the School of Nuclear Engineering).”

Therefore, Dr. Tsoukalas himself deliberately over-ruled Dr. Taleyarkhan’s input to Mr. Venere. Dr. Tsoukalas, therefore, bears responsibility for the accuracy of this statement. The Press Office replaced the word “oversight” with “direction” of their own volition.

FF10.3 At the end of the day on July 11, 2005, after Dr. Taleyarkhan transmitted the message from Dr. Tsoukalas to Mr. Venere cc to Dr. Tsoukalas, and Mr. Venere acknowledged with cc to Dr. Tsoukalas, Dr. Tsoukalas then wrote the final email of final approval at 8:50pm on July 11, 2005 exclaiming (ONR IqC 2007 070731 EVenere.15 submission⁵¹)

“Dear Emil,
Thanks. This is a great story and you did a great job.
Cheers.
Lefteri”

Source: Taleyarkhan's C-22 Appeal/Rebuttal, Exhibit 1, Page 42

The fact is that the Press Release was crafted by Purdue’s seasoned Press writer, E. Venere with full knowledge and approval and input from Dr. Tsoukalas himself. E. Venere deliberately requested assistance from Dr. Taleyarkhan who only responded when asked (see ONR IqC 2007 070731 EVenere pg.1 submission⁵¹). There is no evidence, whatsoever, from E. Venere that Dr. Taleyarkhan was less than forthcoming. Finally, the Press Release does not state that the work of Xu et al. as published in NED was independent. In fact, Dr. Taleyarkhan is prominently acknowledged as a source and affiliation for the July 11, 2005 the Press Release. Therefore, to draw a demonized connection of this July 2005 Press Release to the 2006 PRL 96 paper by Dr. Taleyarkhan et al. is bizarre, desperate measure to find something wrong.