

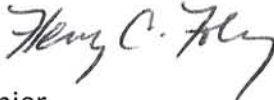


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From: Henry C. Foley 

To: Graham B. Spanier

Subj.: Decision on alleged research misconduct by Professor Michael E. Mann

On March 4, 2010, in my capacity as the Vice President for Research, I charged a committee under Penn State Policy RA-10 to carry out an investigation of alleged research misconduct in the case of Professor Michael E. Mann. The charge to the committee was to determine whether or not Dr. Mann had engaged in, or participated in, directly or indirectly, any actions that seriously deviated from accepted practices within the academic community for proposing, conducting or reporting research or other scholarly activities.

The committee consisted of the following faculty members:

1. Dr. Sarah M. Assman, Waller Professor, Department of Biology
2. Dr. Welford Castleman, Evan Pugh Professor and Eberly Distinguished Chair in Science, Department of Chemistry and Department of Physics
3. Dr. Mary Jane Irwin, Evan Pugh Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering
4. Dr. Nina G. Jablonski, Department Head and Professor, Department of Anthropology
5. Dr. Fred W. Vondracek, Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies

In their final report to me, they found as follows:

- Dr. Mann had not seriously deviated from accepted practices in proposing his research activities. They noted that his record of proposing and securing research funding in the period from 1999 to 2010 "clearly places Dr. Mann among the most respected scientists in his field. Such success would not have been possible had he not met or exceeded the highest standards of his profession for proposing research."

- Dr. Mann had not seriously deviated from accepted practices within the academic community for conducting research or other scholarly activities. The committee concluded that “the manner in which Dr. Mann used and shared source codes has been well within the range of accepted practices in his field.” They also state that the many prestigious awards and recognitions that Dr. Mann has won “serve as evidence that his scientific work, especially the conduct of his research, has from the beginning of his career been judged to be outstanding by a broad spectrum of scientists.” The committee noted that had his conduct been outside the range of accepted practices “it would have been impossible for him to receive so many awards and recognitions, which typically involve intense scrutiny from scientists who may or may not agree with his scientific conclusions.”
- Dr. Mann had not engaged in any actions that seriously deviated from accepted practices within the academic community for reporting research or other scholarly activities. They considered his scholarly record and concluded that “Clearly, Dr. Mann’s reporting of his research has been successful and judged to be outstanding by his peers. This would have been impossible had his activities in reporting his work been outside of accepted practices in his field.”
- On the issue of whether Dr. Mann distributed privileged information to others to gain some advantage for his interpretation of climate change the committee considered “Dr. Mann’s actions in sharing unpublished manuscripts with third parties, without first having received express consent from the authors of such manuscripts, to be careless and inappropriate.”
- In sum, the Investigatory Committee found that “after careful review of all available evidence, there is no substance to the allegation against Dr. Michael E. Mann, Professor, Department of Meteorology, The Pennsylvania State University.” They note in the report that the decision to find Dr. Mann not guilty of the allegation of research misconduct was reached unanimously.

Having conducted the preliminary inquiry in the charge of research misconduct alleged against Dr. Mann in late 2009 and early 2010; having read this investigative report, a report that includes testimony from experts in the field of climate science; and after careful consideration of all the facts in this matter, I uphold the finding and recommendations of this committee concluding that Dr. Mann is not guilty of research misconduct.

This decision shall be reported to Dr. Mann pursuant to RA 10.

cc: Rodney A. Erickson
Cynthia A. Baldwin