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Senate of Pennsylvania

December 3, 2009

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Graham Spanier, President
Penn State University
201 Old Main Building
University Park, PA 16802

Dear President Spanier:

Some legislators have been contacted by organizations and constituents that have requested the Commonwealth further withhold Penn State's funding until appropriate action is taken by the university against associate professor Michael E. Mann – Director of the Earth System Science Center. As you know, Dr. Mann is one of several international scientists who have been alleged to conceal and/or possibly destroy significant evidence that contradicted his and other scientists' work on the international Climatic Research Unit (CRU).

Although I do not believe at this time that Penn State's pending appropriation should be jeopardized as a result of allegations against one professor, I do believe the university must deploy its fullest resources to conduct an investigation of this case. The allegations of intellectual and scientific fraud like those made against Dr. Mann are serious against anybody involved in academics, but the impact in this case is significantly elevated. The work of Dr. Mann and other scientists at the CRU is being used to develop economic and environmental policies in states and countries across the world. Considering the saliency of the work being conducted by the CRU, anything short of the pursuit of absolute science cannot be accepted or tolerated.

Please inform me of the results of Penn State's internal investigation of this matter. Depending on the results of this review, the Senate Education Committee may consider further investigation at that time should it be warranted. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JEFFREY E. PICCOLA', written over the typed name.

JEFFREY E. PICCOLA

JEP/ams

cc: All Republican Senators
cc: Senator Dinniman, Minority Education Committee Chair
cc: PSU Government Affairs