

Date: 16 October 2013

Candice Yekel,
Research Integrity Officer (RIO),
Assistant Vice President for Research, and Director,
Office for Research Protections
cay3@psu.edu or (814) 865-1775

Dear Dr Yekel,

This memorandum documents the basis for a complaint that I am lodging against Dr. Michael E. Mann, an employee of your University, under Penn State Policies RA-10, AD47 and HR64.

For context, I am Chair of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology and President of Climate Forecast Applications Network LLC. My c.v. can be found at <http://curry.eas.gatech.edu/files/currycv.pdf>. My Georgia Tech website can be found at <http://curry.eas.gatech.edu>, and the website for my company is <http://www.cfanclimate.com>.

I am being damaged personally and professionally by Michael Mann by his ongoing defamation of me, in particular malicious and incorrect statements about me, that are being made on Twitter, on Mann's Facebook page, an op-ed published in the Guardian and Huffington Post. These defamatory statements include the following.

On September 11, Mann made a series of defamatory statements, first accusing me of "deceiving" readers.

[Michael E. Mann @MichaelEMann 11 Sep #JudithCurry](#) once again deceives on [#ArcticSeaIce](#) decline:
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323864604579067243988516908.html> ... Contrast her statement w/ truth:
<http://www.skepticalscience.com/graphics.php?g=64> ...

Then Mann accused me of "spewing denialist nonsense":

[Michael E. Mann @MichaelEMann 11 Sep](#)
Does [#JudithCurry](#) believe the [#climatechange](#) denialist nonsense she is spewing? Or is she intentionally trolling?
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323864604579067243988516908.html> ...

Then of falling for a hoax:

[Michael E. Mann @MichaelEMann 11 Sep](#)
So did [#climatechange](#) denier [#JudithCurry](#) actually fall for the "Lakos" ("SOKAL" spelled backwards) hoax? <http://judithcurry.com/2012/10/17/pause->

[waving-the-italian-flag/#comment-256680 ...](#)

On Sep 22, Mann promised readers that a forthcoming op ed would impugn my integrity: ^[1-1]_[SEP-SEP]

Michael E. Mann [@MichaelEMann22 Sep](#)

[@cousincat](#) Will be writing about this [Curry op ed in The Australian] in a few days. If anyone thought [#JudithCurry](#) has any credibility/integrity, this should dispell...

On Sep 27, Mann published an op ed in the Huffington Post http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-e-mann/climate-change-report_b_3999277.html and Guardian, which contained the following defamatory text:

On the other hand, serial climate disinformers Judith Curry (Georgia Tech), in a commentary for the same outlet five days later, announced, "Consensus distorts the climate picture." ^[1-1]_[SEP]

Mann announced his defamatory article in his Twitter feed as follows:

Michael E. Mann [@MichaelEMann 27 Sep](#)

"The IPCC, Climate Change and Bad Faith Attacks on Science" [@HuffPostLive](#)
[@HuffingtonPost](#) [#IPCC](#) [#AR5](#) <http://fb.me/1oWNhjEt4>

Mann's defamatory article was included in the daily news feed from Georgia Tech that is emailed daily to all Georgia Tech personnel including faculty, staff, and students. The timing of this particular article could not have been worse, as I was under active consideration for two positions (an internal position at Georgia Tech and Dean of a College at another University).

These do not constitute an exhaustive list of Mann's defamatory statements, only the most recent.

Apart from the widespread dissemination of Mann's op-ed through the mainstream media, Mann has more than 12,000 followers on twitter, a large portion of whom are climate scientists (who may be involved in evaluating my papers for publication and my proposals for funding, and nominations of me for external recognition by professional societies); and also bloggers and journalists (who may be influenced by this in whether they interview me and how they report about me).

This defamation is affecting my academic reputation and my ability to conduct business. I note that I am far from the only person being attacked and libeled by Dr. Mann.

Penn State Policy AD47 (General Standards of Professional Ethics) states that professors have obligations as members of the "community of scholars" and are required to "respect and defend" free inquiry by other members of the community and to show "due respect" for the opinions of others:

IV. As colleagues, professors have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. They respect and defend the free inquiry of their associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas they show due respect for the opinions of others.

The policy also states that researchers are required to be “open-minded when evaluating the work of others” even if that may “contradict their own findings”:

III.... As open-minded researchers, when evaluating the work of others, they must recognize the responsibility to allow publication of theories or experiments that may contradict their own findings, as only by free inquiry and dissemination of all facts will the fruits of the labor of the whole community be allowed to mature.

Policy HR64 says (my bold) that faculty members have “special obligations” as persons of learning and as educators and are obliged to “exercise appropriate restraint” and “to show respect for the opinions of others”

Faculty members are citizens, members of learned professions, and representatives of this University. When the faculty member speaks or writes as a citizen, the faculty member shall be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but **the special position in the community held by the faculty member imposes special obligations**. As a person of learning and an educator, the faculty member is expected to remember that the public may judge the profession and institution by his/her utterances. Hence, **the faculty member agrees at all times to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, to show respect for the opinions of others**, and to make every effort to indicate that he/she is not an institutional spokesperson.”

Policy RA-10 clearly asserts the importance of high ethical standards and cites Policy AD47 as a statement of general standards of professional ethics:

Public trust in the integrity and ethical behavior of scholars is essential if research and other scholarly activities are to play their proper role in the University and in society. The maintenance of high ethical standards is a central and critical responsibility of faculty and administrators of academic institutions. Policy AD47 sets forth statements of general standards of professional ethics within the academic community.

It is my belief that Dr Mann’s statements and actions are gross violations of Penn State policies RA10, AD47 and HR64. I therefore request that you initiate an investigation pursuant to Policy RA10.

Thank you for your consideration

Judith Curry,
Chair and Professor
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