

TTU Faculty Senate Business Meeting
January 29, 2018

Members present: Douglas Airhart, Ismet Anitsal, Deborah Ballou, Tammy Boles, Troy Brachey, Chris Brown, Debra Bryant, Andrew Callender, Corinne Darvennes, Ahmed

Comments by Mr. Tom Brewer:

Mr. Brewer said his background is in

2. Senator Ballou asked Dr. Mohr: What year were these engines you tested? Dr. Mohr said he didn't have this data here. Mr. Brewer said the new engines had less than 50 miles, and were all EPA certified engines. Remanufactured engines were also documented.
3. Senator Ojo asked Mr. Brewer: Who has the data? Where was it done? Why believe the data? Why did you draw the conclusions you did? Who wrote the letter to the President? Mr. Brewer said he wrote the letter for the President to sign. Congresswoman Diane Black asked Fitzgerald for the summary data for Phase I. Fitzgerald also asked us to do an Environmental Impact Study. A graduate engineering student did the tests.
4. Senator Geist asked Dr. Mohr: Who was the PI? Tom Brewer was named PI, too. So where/when did the PIs change? Dr. Mohr said he didn't know of the change along the way, and was never notified of a change.
5. Senator Darvennes asked Mr. Brewer: Ben Mohr and Mark Davis are listed on the original proposal, so why did you take data even though you weren't listed on proposal? Mr. Brewer said because he brought the request to the University and is the University representative, but was not part of the activation. Dr. Mohr was used as the engineering credential for the project. Mr. Brewer said he was at all the tests. Data was analyzed by a graduate engineering student, a first-year student. It is unknown if an advisor was working with this student.
6. Senator Ballou asked Mr. Brewer: There is a chasm between the study and the content of the letter with your name on it. One should not overstate the evidence that has been done. The letter is a gross overstatement. What did the President ask of you before he signed the letter? Was there sufficient caution about no particulate data being collected? The claims in the letter have conclusions that are exaggerated. Mr. Brewer said he reviewed the letter, but doesn't recall the President asking any questions. Dr. Soni said the same description given to Senators today was the same given to the President. Mr. Brewer continued by saying the particulate matter was measured with an approved hand-held device from EPA. Tests were based on 5 states of load of a vehicle, with 75% as the representative load. Fitzgerald turned over some, but he's not sure if all information, was turned over to EPA. Dr. Soni said most of the criticism is "from the 2-page stupid letter."
7. Troy Smith asked Mr. Brewer: Can you tell us what your educational background is? Mr. Brewer said his background is a Bachelor's degree in business administration, but also engineering work.
8. Rand asking Mr. Brewer and Dr. Soni: There are very specific standards. This research did not engaged an academic unit, but research was done in the name of the University. Is this common practice? There is a relationship of research done related to the funding. How's this all related? There's an appearance of conflict of interest. Mr. Brewer

responded by saying that we did not do research for EPA, only Fitzgerald. The conflict of interest timeline started in December 2016 with a report given to Fitzgerald. In March 2017, Millard Oakley was on campus talking with President Oldham, and he knew of our study with Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald said he had acreage by Sparta airport with which we could develop an automotive center. This was offered to us by Fitzgerald about 2 months after the report submitted, and had nothing to do with our research work for them.

9. Senator Stretz asked Dr. Soni: Who decided on the Phase II report? How did you decide whose name to put on it? Dr. Soni said he didn't have an answer today, and it will be answered later in process.
10. Senator Ojo asked Mr. Brewer: Who is the student's advisor? Who was supposed to do the calculations? Mr. Brewer said Steve Idem is now. Senator Idem said he is only serving as an academic advisor, and had nothing to do with the data reduction.
11. Troy Smith asked Mr. Brewer: Someone must have been responsible and realized the project research followed by the land offer, as a conflict of interest. Mr. Brewer said that Dr. Soni, himself, Dr. Saltsman, and the President were involved. We never thought there was a correlation.
12. Senator Ballal asked Mr. Brewer: We have a good reputation in engineering. How did you end up here, from Spring Hill? Mr. Brewer said he retired from General Motors, and then worked at the Northfield Building in Spring Hill, TN to re-train employees until it became idle, but not closed. Maury County had highest unemployment in the State at that time. A workforce development center was established at this old site, and Mr. Brewer helped build this program. Tech looked at it as a satellite campus a few years ago. Mr. Brewer was also President of TAMA (Tennessee Automotive Manufacturers Association) for Tennessee. He was asked to externalize the University in the automotive industry. Dr. Soni said that Mr. Brewer is an industry liaison for us.
13. Julia Gruber, AAUP representative asked if we can we rely on faculty expertise in the future. For external review, who at Tech benefited from this whole study?

16. Senator Groundland asked Dr. Soni: He considers Tech to have a stellar reputation in engineering, and is thinking about damage control moving forward. With an external review in place, w

The Senate further discussed the resolution. We feel this needs to be an external review, not an internal one as Dr. Soni wants. Suggestions were made to tighten up the language in the resolution. Senator Geist made a MOTION to table a vote on the resolution until next week, and it was seconded by Senator Airhart. Ms. Barbara Fleming thanked everyone for this meaningful discussion, and wants to be sure we don't throw Tech under the bus. Be 100% sure we are upholding this with Tech. Senator Airhart expressed concern with Senator O'Connor's comments about whether or not we are jumping to conclusions based on editorials. This resolution doesn't address the process, only the misconduct in research. This can go public if passed, and sent to the President. Senate Secretary Lee will work with Senators Stretz and Ballou to clean up parts of the r