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September 11, 2008

Dr. Jerry Baker, Executive Director
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society
3106 East NC Highway 54
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Baker:

Thank you for meeting with the Executive Committee of the NC State University Chapter of Sigma Xi (“NCSU Chapter”) on Wednesday morning, September 3rd. The meeting was held for two reasons. First, we wanted to make your acquaintance and welcome you to the area. Second, we wanted to discuss face-to-face with you what we as a Chapter regard as a totally unsatisfactory action as a response to our recent submittal of Resolutions for the upcoming Assembly of Delegates in Washington.

We appreciate having had a full discussion of our position. Lest there be any misunderstanding of our position we suggested we commit our position to writing and submit that document to you for your use in further discussing the matter with the Board. This letter is provided as that written statement of our position.

In short, the NCSU Chapter membership and Executive Committee, acting in accord with both the National and NCSU Chapter Constitutions and Bylaws developed and submitted (in timely fashion) two Resolutions. These Resolutions were submitted to full Chapter membership discussion and approved, then submitted to Board as specifically detailed in the National Bylaws and Constitution. The response we received was in effect a pat on the back and an assurance that “we (the Board and its designees) are taking care of it”. A clear reading of the Constitution and Bylaws shows the Board and its designees not only are not charged to “take care of it”, but that the Board and its designees can only bring properly submitted Resolutions to the Assembly and before or simultaneously can disparage, attack, discourage, or respond favorably to Resolutions. . . . in no way can the Board make properly submitted Resolutions disappear into an *ad hoc* haze or temporized Committee warren.

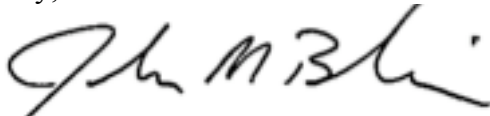
In our view not only were the Resolutions subjected to an attempted pocket veto, that attempt is actually a nullity because that attempt had no validity under the current Constitution and Bylaws. This means the putative action is in fact no action at all and the Resolutions have yet to be considered. Much as one cannot contract to perform an illegal act, any sleight of hand masquerading as due process in a Constitutional Proceeding is invalid *ab initio*. This means we

have yet to have our Resolutions acted upon and means they MUST be submitted to the Assembly on the floor because the Board and its Committee(s) failed to respond to a timely submittal thereby triggering an automatic calendaring our Resolutions. This is because the Board, having defaulted in its duties can only correct the default by allowing the originally requested and Constitutionally directed floor discussion.

Let us be clear. A resolution on Society governance was submitted as was a resolution on fund management. Under signature of Ann Williams a letter dated August 13, 2008 conveyed a statement of Board handling of our Resolutions....a handling so beyond the pale of consideration as to shock the conscience as well as ignore the Society Constitution. Indeed the letter to us reports submittal of our Governance Resolution to a Taskforce to Revise the Constitution and Bylaws". Ignoring the fact that our Governance Resolution MUST be submitted to the Assembly if filed in timely fashion, the Board overrode the Constitutional and Bylaws imperatives of the Society and (assuming a Task Force secretly appointed is a valid organ) shunted our request to the Task Force, an entity unknown to the Constitution. Of course the Resolution on Endowment matters was treated in similar shabby fashion.

Finally it "boggles the mind" that a Society administration claiming to need increases in membership would take secretive, unconstitutional, and membership-hostile actions in interactions with vigorous, Society supportive Chapters. At a minimum these Board actions seem inimical to Society existence. What is the harm the Board sees in having a membership debate its governance? Since "things are being taken care of", are other matters being disposed of in unconstitutional and secretive actions?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Blondin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John M. Blondin, President
NCSU Chapter of Sigma Xi