

Strange Inquiries at George Mason University ...and even stranger comments

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Executive Summary

This report chronicles the progress of academic misconduct complaints by UMass Amherst Professor **Raymond S. Bradley** against Professor **Edward J. Wegman** of George Mason University (GMU). The complaints included near-verbatim plagiarism in a high-profile Congressional report led by Wegman, recently covered by Dan Vergano in USA Today:

www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2010-11-21-climate-report-questioned_N.htm

A university official would most likely examine this obvious complaint, then quickly appoint an **inquiry committee** (or equivalent) to evaluate the substance and either rapidly clear the respondent or recommend an **investigation**. Rice University received a similar complaint and acted quickly. Rice reached the equivalent of GMU stage E below in 9 days and cleared David Scott, via evidence that Wegman had taken responsibility.

- GMU has now spent almost 10 months without clearly reaching stage E. At least, Bradley has not received a report as of this writing.
- Bradley was essentially told (C?) that it could take a while, was given no expected timeframes, then was sent no updates for almost 4 months.
- The **inquiry** committee first met (D) 5 months after complaint to VP.
- Explanations changed, sometimes inconsistently. Dates slipped.

The chart below is from §2, which explains the history, excerpting key passages from the full copies in Appendix A.2. The first line shows GMU policy intervals adequate for complex cases, unlike this relatively-simple one. The rest chronicle letters and emails, plus a few other sources.

Most people might read only the first 17 pages of this report. Keen students of this topic may find Appendices A.2 and A.3 worth more study.

V2.0 UPDATE: §3 is added to discuss Wegman emails forwarded to Bradley or Vergano by Donald Rapp, in Rapp's efforts to get re-affiliated with USC. **These are surprisingly informative of Wegman's views.** To complete the collection of comments, A.3 is added to analyze recent public statements by Wegman and others.

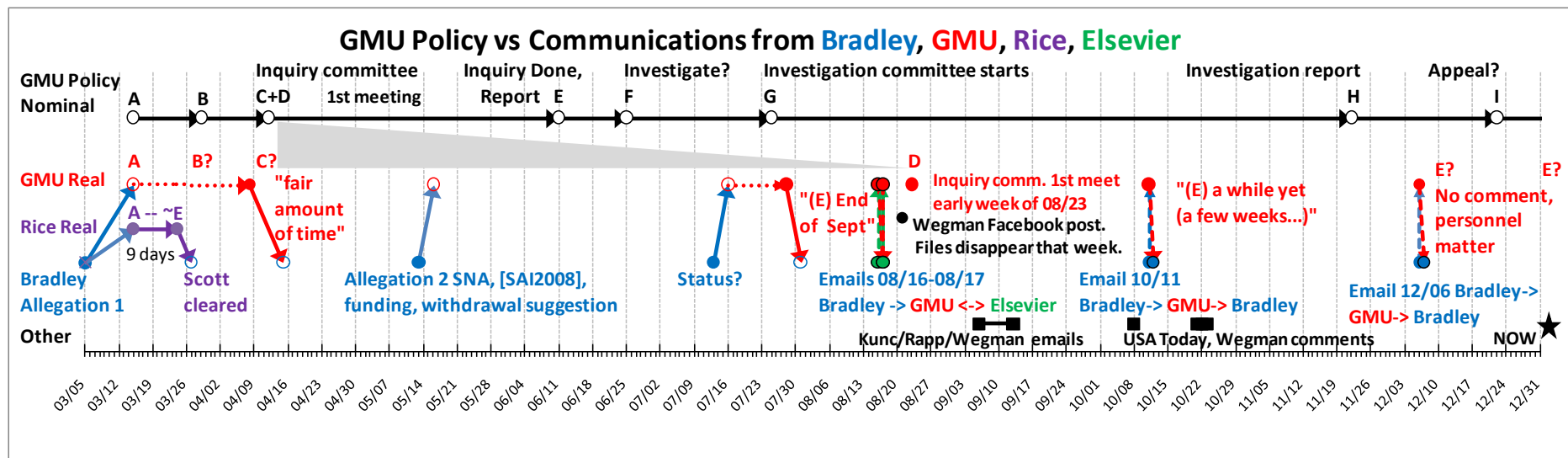


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Given names and titles are generally omitted for brevity, no discourtesies intended to any. Opinions are *Italicized*, **Emboldening** in quotes is usually mine.

Glossary

AGW

Anthropogenic Global Warming

DC

Canadian blogger “Deep Climate” (the person)
deepclimate.org, “Deep Climate” (the website)

DHHS

US Department of Health and Human Services

DoD

US Department of Defense

GMI

George C. Marshall Institute

GMU

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

NIAAA

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

NSWC

Naval Surface Weapons Center

ORI

Office of Research Integrity (part of DHHS)

SSWR

Strange Scholarship in the Wegman Report

SWSR

Said, Wegman, Sharabati, Rigsby (2008)

USC

University of Southern California

WR

“Wegman Report” (2006)

Acknowledgements.

Thanks to Canadian blogger “Deep Climate” (DC) for finding the key plagiarism cases in the first place and for suggestions on this report.

Thanks several anonymous reviewers for comments.

Thanks to Ray Bradley for providing most of the source materials for **A.2**.

Any errors are mine alone, please report if found.

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1 Plagiarism in and around the Wegman Report

The “Wegman Report” (WR hereafter) is the common name for: **Edward J. Wegman, David W. Scott, Yasmin H. Said**, “AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE ‘HOCKEY STICK’ GLOBAL CLIMATE RECONSTRUCTION” (2006).¹

Statisticians unfamiliar with climate science attacked not only the work of researchers **Michael Mann, Raymond Bradley** and **Malcom Hughes**, but much of paleoclimatology, the study of climate before modern instruments. Their report was presented in high-profile US House of Representatives hearings. It is still used often in OpEds, articles and books trying to discredit climate science,² but rarely cited in peer-reviewed science.

In late 2009, Canadian blogger “**Deep Climate**” (DC) was studying the WR and found plagiarism and distortions³ of Bradley(1999).⁴ The WR version was further re-adapted in a textbook by **Donald Rapp, §3**. DC also showed uncredited use of Wasserman and Faust(1994),⁵ a textbook on social network analysis. DC soon created side-by-side comparisons of several pages of the WR with Bradley’s text.⁶

Bradley later learned of DC’s findings.⁷ On 03/05 he wrote letters to Rice University for Scott and GMU for Wegman, the senior authors. Rice acted quickly, inquired and satisfactorily cleared Scott in 9 days.

¹ republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/108/home/07142006_Wegman_Report.pdf

² deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report

³ deepclimate.org/2009/12/17/wegman-report-revisited

⁴ Raymond S. Bradley, *Paleoclimatology – Reconstructing Climates of the Quaternary, 2nd Edition*, Elsevier, 1999. This is a famous textbook

⁵ Stanley Wasserman and Katherine Faust, *Social Network Analysis – Methods and Applications*, Cambridge, 1994. This is also a famous book.

⁶ deepclimate.org/2009/12/22/wegman-and-rapp-on-tree-rings-a-divergence-problem-part-1

deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/wegman-bradley-tree-rings.pdf

deepclimate.org/2010/01/06/wegman-and-rapp-on-proxies-a-divergence-problem-part-2

deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/wegman-bradley-ice-cores-corals1.pdf

⁷ Although with some initial confusion of source between DC and myself.

On 04/22, DC showed plagiarism of de Nooy, et al,⁸ which combined with Wikipedia, Wasserman and Faust accounted for 5 more pages, on social networks analysis. DC again showed side-by-side comparisons,⁹ and noted that a later article, **Said, Wegman, Sharabati, Rigsby (2008)**¹⁰ re-used much of the same text.¹¹

Bradley passed this along to GMU 05/13.¹² He also mentioned the issue of possible contract funding oversight, given:

“The work of Dr. Yasmin Said was supported in part by the **National Institutes on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism** under grant 1 F32 AA015876-01A1. The work of Dr. Edward Wegman was supported in part by the **Army Research Office** under contract W911NF-04-1-0447. The work of Dr. Said and Dr. Wegman was also supported in part by the **Army Research Laboratory** under contract W911NF-07-1-0059.”

The first contract is covered by the Dept of Health and Human Services (DHHS), whose watchdog is the Office of Research Integrity (ORI). ORI can **debar** individuals or even larger entities, i.e., forbid them from obtaining **any** Federal grants for years, not just those from DHHS:¹³

“Both individuals and entities may be subject to debarment. In the area of grant and cooperative agreement supported research, this includes anyone who participates in the research: the principal investigators, researchers, contractors, students, and technical and support staff. To date, all ORI debarments have involved individuals, not institutions or other entities.”

The next page illustrates the relative simplicity of this case.

⁸ Wouter de Nooy, Andrej Mrvar, Vladimir Batagelj, *Exploratory Social Network Analysis with Pajek*, Cambridge, 2005.

⁹ deepclimate.org/2010/04/22/wegman-and-saids-social-network-sources-more-dubious-scholarship

deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/wegman-social-networks1.pdf

¹⁰ Yasmin H. Said, Edward J. Wegman, Walid K. Sharabati, John T. Rigsby, “Social networks of author–coauthor relationships,” *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis* 52 (2008) 2177 – 2184. Received 8 July 2007; accepted 14 July 2007. CSDA normally averaged ~200 days from Received to accepted.

web.ics.purdue.edu/~wsharaba/SNA/Author-Coauthor%20Relationships.pdf

Like some other relevant files, this has recently disappeared.

¹¹ deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/said-et-al-social-networks1.pdf

¹² Anyone can report plagiarism, not just the plagiarized author.

¹³ ori.hhs.gov/misconduct/inquiry_issues.shtml#12

Shown below is a small sample of DC's early side-by-side presentations, followed by the same texts with July's color updates. Near-verbatim plagiarism is easily recognizable even with no specific knowledge.¹⁴

This style of plagiarism does not claim invention or ideas, but adapts near-verbatim text to present an illusion of expertise. Of the WR's 91 pages, 35 were eventually found to resemble this with cut-and-paste, trivial changes and modest paraphrasing.

Deep Climate Original presentation:

Wegman – para 1

A cross section of a temperate forest tree shows variation of lighter and darker bands that are usually continuous around the circumference of the tree. *These bands are the so-called tree rings and are due to seasonal effects.* Each tree ring is composed of large thin-walled cells called early wood and smaller more densely packed thick walled cells called late wood. The average width of a tree ring is

Bradley – 10.2

A cross section of most temperate forest trees will show an alternation of lighter and darker bands, each of which is usually continuous around the tree circumference. *These are seasonal growth increments produced by meristematic tissues in the tree's cambium.* When viewed in detail (Fig. 10.1) it is clear that they are made up of sequences of large, thin-walled cells (earlywood) and more densely packed, thick-walled cells (latewood). *Collectively, each couplet of*

Deep Climate July presentation of same text:

A cross section of a temperate forest tree shows variation of lighter and darker bands that are usually continuous around the circumference of the tree.

These bands are the so-called tree rings and are due to seasonal effects. Each tree ring is composed of large thin-walled cells called early wood and smaller more densely packed thick walled cells called late wood.

A cross section of most temperate forest trees will show an alternation of lighter and darker bands, each of which is usually continuous around the tree circumference.

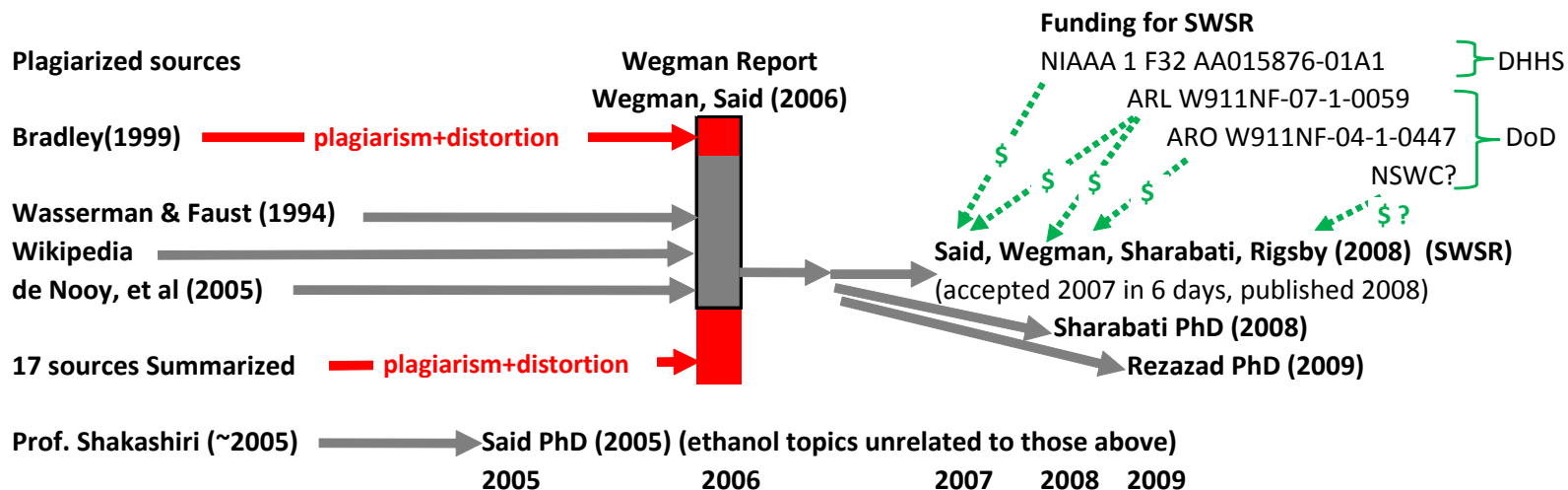
These are seasonal growth increments produced by meristematic tissues in the tree's cambium. When viewed in detail (Fig. 10.1) it is clear that they are made up of sequences of large, thin-walled cells (earlywood) and more densely packed, thick-walled cells (latewood). Collectively, each couplet of earlywood and latewood comprises an annual growth increment, more commonly called a tree ring.

As seen on the next page, the early findings comprised a tiny fraction of the complex plagiarism flow that has since emerged, unusual enough to surprise even experienced publishing people. Additional examples have been found recently, but too late to integrate here.

¹⁴The earlier versions are certainly clear, but color highlighting of identical words (cyan) and trivial changes (yellow) makes the copy and edit processes even clearer.
deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/07/wegman-bradley-tree-rings-v20.pdf
deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/07/wegman-bradley-ice-cores-corals-v2.pdf

Summary of plagiarism flows at GMU in/around Wegman Report

Simplified from A.0 of *Strange Scholarship in the Wegman Report*



The Said, Wegman, Sharabati, Rigsby(2008) article was very strange. Walid Sharabati had helped with Wegman’s reply to questions in 2006. Rigsby had completed his MS under Wegman in 2005 and was working at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC). This article used plagiarized text and low-quality social network analysis to make baseless attacks on paleoclimate peer review. It was accepted in 6 days at a statistics journal for which Said was an Associate Editor and Wegman a 20-year advisor. It seems unrelated to any missions of the 3 funding agencies or NSWC.

In July, DC updated all side-by-sides, added more pages with plagiarism, for a total of 10 pages (pp.13-22) of the WR.¹⁵ DC later found some social networks text in Sharabati’s 2008 dissertation and **Hadi Rezazad**’s (2009). Unrelated plagiarism of U Wisconsin Professor Shakhshiri’s ethanol web page was later discovered in Said’s dissertation (2005). DC consolidated this work in September.¹⁶

¹⁵ deepclimate.org/2010/07/29/wegman-report-update-part-1-more-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour

¹⁶ deepclimate.org/2010/09/15/wegman-report-update-part-2-gmu-dissertation-review

All 3 Wegman PhD students received departmental “best dissertation of year” awards.

My 250-page report¹⁷ referenced all this, added 25 more WR pages with plagiarism to DC’s 10 and exposed pervasive other kinds of problems. The chart above shows simplified plagiarism flows,¹⁸ a small fraction of the scholarship problems, some of which might even be considered distortion, falsification or fabrication. Since then, “andrewt” and others found a separate plagiarism flow that seems to include at least a 4th dissertation, a patent, and a 1996 Wegman-led article with 7 authors and funding by various Federal agencies.¹⁹

Discussion now shifts from plagiarism itself to GMU’s handling of it.

¹⁷ deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report

¹⁸ Plagiarized texts included 16 papers, a dissertation, 5 books, and Wikipedia pages. Some were minor, not shown. McShane, Wyner (2010) is separate.

¹⁹ deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style/#comment-6606

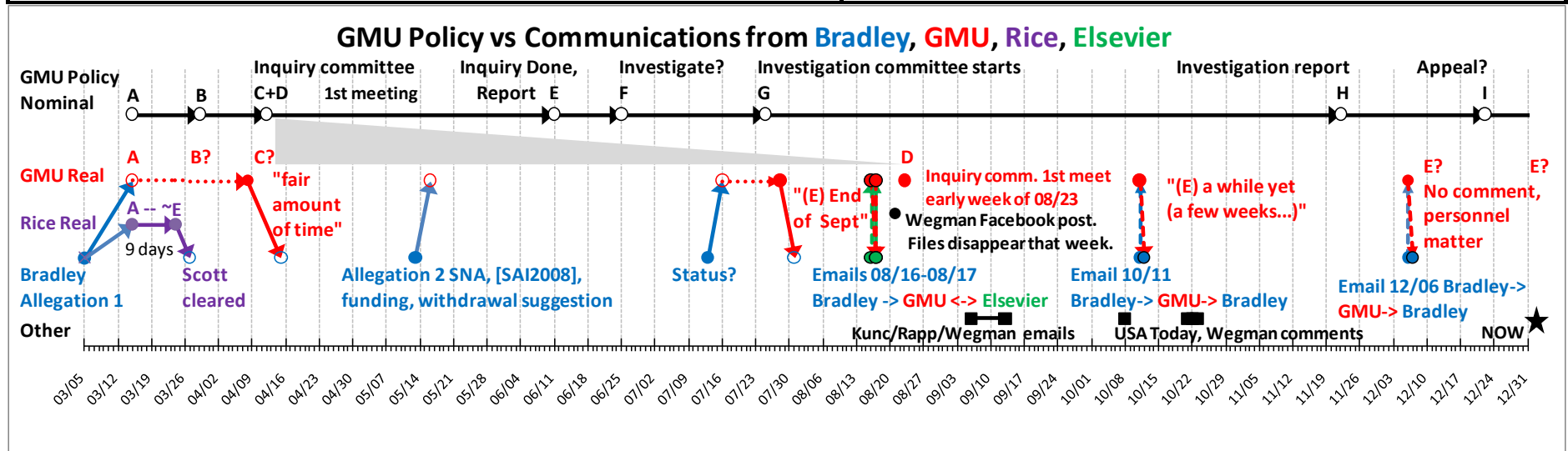
deepclimate.org/2010/12/02/wegman-et-al-miscellany

2 GMU nominal timeline vs real chronology

This section compares the nominal GMU process from **A.1** with the real chronology detailed on the next pages. As of 01/03/11, the status of GMU stage **E** was still unclear. GMU allows ~300 days more beyond, even ignoring challenges. **Rice handled equivalent stages A-E in 9 days.**

Bradley wrote 3 letters, was finally told 07/28 that inquiry would finish by end of September. No visible concrete progress occurred until Elsevier's John Fedor wrote firm emails 08/16-08/17, was told that **1st meeting of inquiry committee** would be held the following week, 5+ months after 1st letter. Wegman seemed surprised, posted an unusual Facebook note 08/21. Several key long-static files disappeared sometime 08/16-08/23.

Derived Date	Elapsed Days	Nominal Interval	Stage	GMU policy timeline, approximate, given (as soon as possible) everywhere, challenges.	Date	Elapsed Days	Stage	GMU Real chronology Events
03/15/10	0	0	A	Allegation	03/05/10	-10		Letters sent to GMU, Rice
03/29/10	14	14	B	See if inquiry warranted	03/15/10	0	A	Allegation 1 received by Rice (+GMU)
04/12/10	28	14	C	If so Provost appoints committee; challenge?	03/24/10	9		Rice inquiry done (E), cleared Scott
04/12/10	28		D	First meeting of inquiry committee	04/08/10	24	B?	GMU acknowledges
06/11/10	88	60	E	Inq. Com. completes report. Investigate? (Y/N)	04/12/10	28	C?	Inquiry committee formed, April ??
06/25/10	102	14	F	Dean/Director determines. Investigate? (Y/N)	04/27/10	43		Allegation 2 - SNA, [SAI2008], funding
07/25/10	132	30	G	VP convenes investigation committee	07/28/10	135		GMU: done by end of Sept
11/22/10	252	120	H	Invest. Comm reports, try 120 days; VP Y/N	08/16/10	154		emails 08/16-08/17, Elsevier (John Fedor)
12/22/10	282	30	I	Possible appeal	08/23/10	161	D	First inquiry meeting, early in week
04/01/11	382	100	J	President writes decision on appeal	09/30/10	199		Promised on 07/28
					10/11/10	210		Email: "a few weeks"
					01/03/11	294	E?	Unknown ; no report to Bradley yet



The following chronology is extracted from material provided mostly by Bradley over the last few months. Full texts are given in **A.2**.²⁰

A university **inquiry** is intended to be fairly quick. If a complaint has no substance, it is quickly rejected, else a real investigation is recommended. One short inquiry meeting might suffice to handle near-verbatim cut-and-paste plagiarism shown in side-by-side comparisons. GMU seems to have been unable to give Bradley an inquiry report in ~10 months.

Because GMU procedures seem to make complainant notification optional (**A.1**), theoretically GMU might follow their procedures and never notify Bradley of anything. My sample of 6 other universities in **A.1** showed all essentially required notification, but that is a small sample. Perhaps more schools make notification optional, or maybe GMU is unusual.

Chronology

12/19/09

DC showed earliest plagiarism in Wegman Report using Bradley(1999) on tree-rings, Wikipedia and Wasserman & Faust(1994).²¹

12/22/09

DC showed side-by-side comparisons of WR vs Bradley on tree rings.²²

01/06/10

DC showed side-by-side WR plagiarism of Bradley on ice cores, corals.²³

03/05/10 A.2.1 Bradley letter →President of GMU

Bradley letter →President of Rice University

Bradley wrote equivalent letters to GMU President **Alan C. Merten** regarding Wegman and Rice President **David W. Legron** regarding Scott, the senior authors at those schools. (Junior) author Said was also at GMU.

²⁰ Unlike “ClimateGate,” no email servers have been hacked in making this report.

²¹ deepclimate.org/2009/12/17/wegman-report-revisited

²² deepclimate.org/2009/12/22/wegman-and-rapp-on-tree-rings-a-divergence-problem-part-1

deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/wegman-bradley-tree-rings.pdf

²³ deepclimate.org/2010/01/06/wegman-and-rapp-on-proxies-a-divergence-problem-part-2

deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/wegman-bradley-ice-cores-corals1.pdf

03/15/10 [Day 0] A A A

The Rice letter was forwarded to VP Research **James Coleman** the same day, Day 0 common to the timelines. Given a simple complaint based on public information about a high-profile report, a university owes respondents rapid inquiry to clear them, as here when obvious plagiarism has ambiguous authorship. If a complaint has substance, a university owes many people a rapid process, not least for its own credibility. Approximate intervals are shown as [+X] days .

03/24/10 [+9] A.2.2 E Rice letter →Bradley

Rice replied to Bradley, having completed its inquiry.²⁴

“**During the Inquiry, persuasive evidence was obtained** that one of the other authors, **Dr. Edward J. Wegman, has taken full responsibility for preparing the allegedly plagiarized text** described in the materials you sent to President Leebron. The evidence further indicates that **Dr. Scott played no role in preparing or editing the sections that you suggested were allegedly plagiarized and had no knowledge of any such alleged plagiarism**, although he was a co-author of the overall report.”

Rice acted with alacrity, honor and integrity for both Bradley and Scott.

04/08/10 [+24] A.2.3 GMU letter → Bradley

Dr. Roger Stough (GMU VP for Research) replied to Bradley, receipt slowed slightly by unspecific address. His reply included:

“I have initiated our policy for handling such matters. **This process may have several states and each of these take a fair amount of time unless the initial state comes to an unequivocal conclusion.** If the latter occurs I will be in touch with you on the outcome much sooner than if it goes through the **full inquiry and investigation stages** that of course involve forming peer working groups for completion.

I thank you for bringing this our attention. **I will communicate the outcome when the process has run its due course.**”

Given nominal intervals shown earlier, a complex case could easily last a year or more. A simple case should go faster. Since the only quick unequivocal answer is “complaint rejected,” Stough seemed to tell Bradley to expect to wait “a fair amount of time” to hear anything, but neither referenced a copy of the GMU policy nor requested confidentiality.

²⁴ professor.rice.edu/professor/Research_Misconduct.asp

The Rice process is more streamlined, expects inquiry completion in 60 days.

04/22/10

DC showed side-by-side comparisons of WR-plagiarized social networks analysis text from Wikipedia, Wasserman & Faust, and De Nooy, Mrvar, and Batelgj. DC also showed re-use of some of that text in Said, Wegman, Sharabati, and Rigsby (2008), which cited research contracts from 3 agencies whose relevance to this topic is unobvious.²⁵

05/13/10 [+59] A.2.4 Bradley letter → GMU

Bradley wrote 2nd letter to Stough, cited the 04/22 post above and mentioned the funding oversight issue (Allegation 2). He also wrote:

‘Please note that my address is “*Dept of Geosciences, Morrill Science Center...etc*” so that future correspondence will not be delayed.’

“Let me state that I do not wish to perpetuate this matter unnecessarily or to have it vetted publicly if this can be avoided. I therefore would consider withdrawing my request for further action on this matter if Dr. Wegman would make a formal written request to Congressmen Waxman and Barton (Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, respectively) requesting that the report formally be withdrawn due to these technical errors which seriously compromise its credibility and value in the context of temperature reconstruction and paleoclimatology. **I believe strongly that the report no longer should be part of our Nation’s Congressional Record without some explanation of these technical errors.”**

Bradley kept the complaint quiet, although under no legal obligation to do so, especially as it was based on public information. Bradley on 05/13 made a collegial offer akin to those for similar problems with journals.²⁶ *His letter did not ask GMU to ignore the plagiarism internally, but offered not to push this or the copyright issue. Of course WR withdrawal would have been very awkward, but likely nowhere near as awkward as the actual sequence of events that have since developed.*

²⁵ deepclimate.org/2010/04/22/wegman-and-saids-social-network-sources-more-dubious-scholarship

deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/wegman-social-networks1.pdf
deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/said-et-al-social-networks1.pdf

²⁶ www.elsevier.com/wps/find/intro.cws_home/Article%20Withdrawal
 This describes typical withdrawal procedures. Since the report had been published, “Retraction” would be the most apt. Of course, reports to Congress are not the same as journals.

In October, some bloggers, having seen a brief description of this offer, vilified Bradley for deal-making or even “blackmail,” eagerly applauded by many posters.²⁷

07/13/10 [+120] A.2.5 Bradley letter → GMU

Bradley wrote 3rd letter to Stough, inquiring of progress, 4 months after original complaint, still having heard nothing beyond 04/08 letter.

07/28/10 [+135] A.2.6 GMU letter → Bradley

Stough replied (although again to the less-specific address):

“The committee was formed April 2010. **Its work was slowed** with the checkerboard absence of the faculty members constituting the **inquiry committee** from campus. I expect the committee to complete their work by the end of September 2010.”

*This seems inconsistent. Wegman should have been informed in April and not seemed surprised in August. When such committees are formed, near-term availability is thought important. **As seen later, the inquiry committee had not yet actually met for the first time.***

07/29/10

DC found more plagiarism, updated the side-by-side comparisons with colored highlighting, making it even easier to recognize.²⁸ By then, DC had shown 10 WR pages containing substantial plagiarism.

08/03/10

In a comment at Deep Climate, “terry” alleged some plagiarism in Said (2005) dissertation,²⁹ of which 5 pages were confirmed the next day.

²⁷ climateaudit.org/2010/10/21/bradley-tries-to-deal-wattsupwiththat.com/2010/10/21/blackmail-or-lets-make-a-deal

These followed similarly-bizarre claims of plagiarism of Fritts’ book by Bradley: climateaudit.org/2010/10/18/bradley-copies-fritts/
climateaudit.org/2010/10/20/bradley-copies-fritts-2/

Another odd fantasy appeared. Bradley posted a straightforward explanation, for which he was fiercely attacked (of many examples, Sean Peake’s “Fix bayonets”): wattsupwiththat.com/2010/11/24/dr-ray-bradleys-amazing-photo/

²⁸ deepclimate.org/2010/07/29/wegman-report-update-part-1-more-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour

²⁹ deepclimate.org/2010/08/03/what-have-wegman-and-said-done-lately/#comment-4755

08/16/10 [+154] A.2.7 Bradley email → Stough → Fedor (Elsevier)

- ① Bradley emailed to Stough, copying Fedor, ② Stough replied, “we plan to have a report on this by the end of September.”
- ③ Fedor pressed the issue and emailed to Stough: “unattributed use of Ray Bradley’s content is obvious,” “I will need updates prior to September 30 indicating progress is being made with regard to a response directly from Edward Wegman regarding this issue.”

08/17/10 [+155] A.2.8 Stough email → Fedor → Stough → Fedor → Bradley

- ④ (evening of 08/16) Stough replied to Fedor: “I will get back to you in a few days after discussing with Mason’s legal department. The issue is that it will be difficult for us to complete our **inquiry** as prescribed by our policy if Dr. Wegman is having communication with you while the **inquiry** is in progress.”
- ⑤ Fedor emailed to Stough: “As long as I have confirmation that progress is being made, that will suffice. I don’t need direct contact with Dr. Wegman at this point.”
Apparently Fedor wanted to be sure of actual inquiry progress, for which there yet had been zero visible concrete evidence. Stough seemed to have interpreted that as a request for direct communication with Wegman, but Fedor explained otherwise. However, Wegman’s 08/21 post seems to show that Wegman was newly surprised.

- ⑥ Stough emailed to Fedor: “Our process involves initially a review by the Dean of the College of Science, the home of Dr. Wegman. The Deans review resulted in a **call for an inquiry**. **Following that a committee was formed but it was not possible to get the very highly qualified team of three on the committee together even for an initial formative meeting due to end of semester congestion and the fact that at least one of the members was away from campus at all times until the end of this week. The initial meeting of the Inquiry meeting is being scheduled for early next week** at which time the Committee will go to work on this matter. The committee has been asked to prepare a report on the **inquiry** with recommendations **before the end of September and sooner if at all possible. So we are moving with dispatch at this point.**”

Stough wrote **inquiry** 3 times, never **investigation**. The “work slowed” status of 07/28 was now clarified precisely as “not yet really started.”

08/20/10

(Friday) Said’s unwittingly-informative 09/07/07 presentation, found long ago by DC,³⁰ was edited out of the GMU seminar history. Sometime between 08/16 and 08/23, that presentation, her PhD dissertation and Wegman’s C.V. disappeared from the GMU server.³¹

08/21/10 A.2.9 First public disclosure of plagiarism complaint

(Saturday) Wegman wrote on his Facebook wall, open to anyone there:³²

“Edward J. Wegman Want to know a bad week? All in the same week. 1) **accused of plagiarism**, felony, anti-science, misleading Congress because of your climate science testimony, 2) have a rule made up, which only applied to you, that **blocks you from mentoring graduate students**, 3) have a friend tell you he was not happy with you because you were awarded a patent.
August 21 at 4:17pm”

That hinted at an August surprise. He should have been informed in April.

1) Bradley’s complaints covered plagiarism. *The others may have come from my March report that urged investigation of such issues.*³³

2) *If the inquiry committee met for the first time next week, it seems odd that GMU would have already barred Wegman from student supervision, unless for some other independent reason. Perhaps someone had noticed the 08/03-08/04 discussion at Deep Climate on plagiarism in the Said dissertation or 2) may just be coincidence from some unrelated action.*

3) *The mysterious patent comment seems unconnected with any of the rest.*

08/23/10 [+161] D

This was the earliest possible “initial formative meeting.”
From complaint receipt to 1st **inquiry** meeting had now taken 5+ months.

³⁰ deepclimate.org/2010/02/08/steve-mcintyre-and-ross-mckitrick-part-2-barton-wegman/

³¹ deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report, A.11.

³² www.facebook.com/edward.j.wegman/posts/153860524630171, retrieved 10/28/10. This is available to any in Facebook, so might as well be a blog post.

³³ www.desmoglob.com/crescendo-climategate-cacophony 17 March 2010.

09/15/10

DC consolidated scattered discussions of 3 separate Wegman-supervised PhD dissertations:³⁴ Said (2005) had plagiarized ethanol text. Sharabati (2008), Rezazad (2009) again re-used the social networks text.

09/26/10

*Strange Scholarship in the Wegman Report*³⁵ was posted, to show 25 more pages with plagiarism of a now-familiar style, among a long list of issues.

09/30/10 [+199]

As of 07/28 and 08/16 Stough had promised end of September for an inquiry report (E), but this date passed with no further notice to Bradley.

10/08/10 [+207]

For 7 months, this had been kept collegially quiet, except for Wegman's Facebook post. USA Today's Dan Vergano researched and wrote: "University investigating prominent climate critic"³⁶

His story included a later comment that has confused some people:

"Walsch clarified on Sunday that Bradley's complaint is under a formal investigation by the university, and has moved past a preliminary "inquiry" to a committee effort.

*GMU policies say: preliminary assessment, inquiry committee and investigation committee, A.I. Stough had many times specified **inquiry** not investigation. Perhaps he and Walsch were not communicating.*

10/11/10 [+210] A.2.14 Bradley email → GMU → Bradley

Bradley inquired of status. Stough replied the same day:

"...our process has taken a bit longer than expected. So it will be a while yet (a few weeks I would guess) before we have completed the review of your plagerism (sic) allegation."

³⁴ deepclimate.org/2010/09/15/wegman-report-update-part-2-gmu-dissertation-review

A fourth dissertation problem (plus articles and patent) has recently appeared: deepclimate.org/2010/12/02/wegman-et-al-miscellany

³⁵ deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report

³⁶ content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2010/10/wegman-plagiarism-investigation-/1

12/06/10 [+266] Bradley email → GMU → Bradley

Bradley asked again. Stough said he could not comment as it was a personnel matter. Hence, an inquiry report promised for end of September and then end of October had evolved into "no comment."

Under the circumstances, it would seem strange to switch silently from inquiry to investigation, but GMU rules do allow zero notification, one of the reasons for writing this report.

The **inquiry** committee just needed to check a few pages of side-by-side comparisons. Wegman was ultimately responsible as lead author, so a GMU **inquiry** need not determine the roles of Wegman, Scott, Said or anyone else, merely recommend investigation. In some ways, a GMU **inquiry** should have been simpler than the equivalent effort at Rice, which needed to contact Scott and see the evidence that cleared him. Of course, no further investigation was needed at Rice. It is still unclear when Wegman learned of Scott's clearing and its rationale.

If an inquiry committee were formed in April, Wegman should have been told then. *But the combination of Facebook comment and file removals in mid-August seems evidence of surprise. Perhaps the 07/28 letter was incorrect in saying the committee had been formed in April or if it had, and Wegman properly informed, perhaps he did not take any notice seriously.*

Allegation 2 included a Federal contract covered by ORI, although **an institution need not notify ORI until it completes an inquiry** and determines an investigation is needed.³⁷ *That makes sense to avoid wasting time on frivolous complaints, although a 7-month **inquiry** for obvious near-verbatim plagiarism might raise questions.*

This story is obviously not yet complete, but the next section adds useful background on Wegman's views from outside the main communication flows. This features **Donald Rapp**, whose Springer-Praxis book's similarity with the WR boosted DC's investigations in 2009, and **Joseph Kunc**, Director of USC Space Engineering Research Center (SERC), who wished to get Rapp reappointed to a position there.

³⁷ ori.dhhs.gov/misconduct/inquiry_issues.shtml section (11)

3 Kunc/Rapp/Wegman emails **NEW**

Donald Rapp forwarded Wegman's emails (2 sections in grey highlight) to Bradley or Elsevier's John Fedor and also posted some at a widely-read blog. These illustrate Wegman's views and show that he was communicating about this in September. **Warning: In quoting Rapp, this section includes language not usually found in formal communications.**

In 2009, after a brief early mis-step corrected with apologies in <2 days, DC demonstrated Rapp's plagiarism of the WR and other sources,³⁸ which also removed citations from near-verbatim copies and made heavy use of grey literature.³⁹ Rapp replied with strongly-worded criticism, which DC edited,⁴⁰ but also published in full.⁴¹ It offered insight into Rapp's views, filled with inventively-colorful phrases such as:

"But the donkeys on deepclimate.org are the Taliban of climate change ..."

"janitors, trash collectors and hash slingers" (twice)

In Summer 2010, Elsevier started pursuing plagiarism with Springer.

Vergano's 11/21/10 USA Today article⁴² reported

"In an earlier e-mail Wegman sent to Joseph Kunc of the [University of Southern California](#), however, he called the plagiarism charges "**wild conclusions that have nothing to do with reality.**"

That originated with the following email sequence, which Rapp forwarded⁴³ to Vergano on 10/11/10, telling him "You can do anything you want with this. Spread it over the Internet if you please." I asked, so here it is.

³⁸ Donald Rapp, *Assessing Climate Change: Temperatures, Solar Radiation, and Heat Balance*, Springer Praxis, 2008 and 2nd Edition 2010.

deepclimate.org/2009/12/22/wegman-and-rapp-on-tree-rings-a-divergence-problem-part-1
deepclimate.org/2010/01/06/wegman-and-rapp-on-proxies-a-divergence-problem-part-2

³⁹ deepclimate.org/2010/01/07/donald-rapp-more-divergence-problems
deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/rapp-soon-proxies-quotes.pdf

⁴⁰ deepclimate.org/2009/12/17/wegman-report-revisited/#comment-1807

⁴¹ deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/rapp-comment-2010-01-01.pdf

⁴² www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2010-11-21-climate-report-questioned_N.htm

⁴³ ①, ②... show chronological sequence in email forward/reply chains. Obviously this email was sent to me by Vergano, not Bradley.

09/06/10 A.2.10 Kunc email → Wegman → Kunc → Rapp → Vergano

① SERC Director Kunc wrote to Wegman:

"Dr. Donald Rapp ... had become (after his retirement from JPL) a Research Professor in my department. About the time of renewal of his appointment for the next term, **an unknown person, seemingly associated with a Web Site called DeepClimate.org**, has sent a letter to USC Administration charging Dr.Rapp with plagiarism in his book ...

It seems to me and my colleagues that no plagiarism took place...

It seems to me and my colleagues that plagiarism is when someone purposely uses the results of others, claiming to be the author or originator of the material, for personal gain."

Kunc then asked Wegman his opinions.⁴⁴

② Wegman replied next morning. ③ Kunc forwarded his reply to Rapp:

"The web blog deepclimate.org is, in my opinion, a totally unsavory operation. ① They have developed conspiracy theories and have consistently made charges of plagiarism not only against Dr. Rapp, but against me and my colleagues in our report to Congress. They have never spoken with me and **have jumped to wild conclusions that have nothing to do with reality.** ① Interestingly enough, they have posted copyrighted material from my website on theirs without acknowledgement. ② What is even worse is that they hide ③ behind anonymity. It is my opinion that Dr. Rapp has not plagiarized anything and I hold him harmless. **This web blog seems to have been developed in retaliation for the enquiries associated with the climategate email releases and the obvious misconduct made clear by those email releases.**" ④

DC had provided substantial, well-documented examples, clear enough to elicit immediate action from Rice via Bradley's complaint. ①

Wegman may want to learn more about "fair use." ②

A plagiarism complaint based entirely on published information stands or falls on its own merits, regardless of the complainant, whose identity is normally kept confidential by universities to avoid reprisals. ③

DC started the blog in October 2008,⁴⁵ more than a year before

"climategate," whose relationship to plagiarism complaints is unclear. ④

Rapp, Kunc and Wegman were certain the complaint was meritless, but Rapp later revealed in other email that he had not yet seen it(!)

⁴⁴ The meaning of "associated with DeepClimate.org" is unclear. The Deep Climate website is DC's alone. As do many others, I had posted comments in discussion threads there and DC has kindly hosted a few files for me.

⁴⁵ deepclimate.org/2011/01/03/looking-back-and-looking-forward

09/08/10 A.2.11 Rapp email → Fedor, Bradley

Rapp sent: Subject: “**Your ridiculous unfounded accusations**”.

He complained of Elsevier letter to Springer, defended his book and wrote:

‘I am warning you now that if you persist in spreading the idea that I committed plagiarism, **I will sue you for all you are worth. If I ever find out who the asshole is who put this on deepclimate.org, I will sue his ass for all it is worth. I also plan to contact Wegman in case he feels that he should sue Ray Bradley who is clearly at fault here.** By the way, this is what Wegman had to say in a recent email: “It is my opinion that Dr. Rapp has not plagiarized anything and I hold him harmless” and claims that these are “wild conclusions that have nothing to do with reality”.

Rapp seemed to think that substantial use of near-verbatim unquoted text was fine and that a plagiarism victim was at fault for reporting it.

It seemed odd enough to send Elsevier and Bradley threatening email, but on 10/09, Rapp also posted it on a widely-read blog, with postscript:

“Evidently that jerk John Mashey has nothing better to do with his time than read books and reports line by line and pounce on instances when authors may have inadvertently forgotten to give attribution. The deepclimate.org website is full of malicious and probably illegal charges against me and they have refused to print my rebuttals.⁴⁶ **They are not a science organization but a bunch of donkeys braying to the great god CO2.** In addition to claiming I committed plagiarism, they also accused me of using the “gray literature” implying my book is based on material not passing peer review . As it turns out, there are 400 references in my book, and 93% are from peer reviewed journals. By the way, with Jones, Mann, Schmidt, Santer, and the rest of the Junta controlling what gets published, **some of the best articles are in the gray literature.** This whole program is an attack on those who do not pray to the god CO2. **I am happy to say that I subscribe fully to the Wegman Report which shows unequivocally that the “hockey stick” is fallacious.** I note that those making wild claims of plagiarism have no rebuttal for the technical arguments in the Wegman Report.”⁴⁷

⁴⁶ This claim is untrue. DC published both an edited version and Rapp’s original.

⁴⁷ wattsupwiththat.com/2010/10/08/on-wegman-who-will-guard-the-guards-themselves/#comment-503683 Of course, plagiarism was only a fraction of the problems described in my 250-page report. The (weak) WR technical arguments had been contradicted by peer-reviewed research the WR cited, but avoided. Problems keep appearing any time someone looks more closely: deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style

One 10/10/10, Rapp sent me the 09/08 email, prefaced by:

“Dear Mr. Mashey:

I note that you have not yet actually accused me of plagiarism but you have widely circulated references to articles on deepclimate.org which has accused me of plagiarism. You are on the edge of a fine legal line. Be careful! If you do defame my reputation, I will bring legal action against you. Same for “DC” if I ever find out who the sonofabitch is.

You might be interested in this email I sent to Ray Bradley and Elsevier:”

(followed by text of 09/08 email).

Rapp has now threatened lawsuits against Bradley, Fedor, DC and me.⁴⁸ *I had thought SSWR was clear in passing about Rapp, but perhaps not.*

09/12/10 A.2.12 Rapp email → Fedor, Bradley, 3 Springer / Praxis

Rapp forwarded the 09/08 email to a wider list, added more comments:

“These publications, collectively, described the pattern of global temperatures over the past 2,000 years as hardly varying, with a rather sudden rise in the 20th century. This pattern was given the name “hockey stick” by the “climateaudit.org” website, and that term has been widely used by the **anticlimategate community. The hockey stick has been one of the main pillars upon which the climategateists have built their claims that rising CO2 in the 20th century was primarily responsible for global warming.**

Unfortunately, climateaudit.org and separately, a team led by Professor Ed Wegman, investigated the mathematical procedures used by MBH98 and concluded that they were invalid. They concluded that in fact, there was no hockey stick when the data are processed properly. **This was a great blow to the climategate-ists** and they fought back by preventing these results from being published and by attacking (in every way possible) those who disagreed with them.”

(followed by text of 09/08 email).

This introduced to me the term “climategate-ists.”

⁴⁸ This illustrates a reason for confidentiality of complainant identity, especially in plagiarism of public texts in a published book. The respondent would not normally ever need to know the complainant’s identity and in normal university proceedings, would not be so informed. As becomes clear later, Rapp had not actually seen the complaint, and even if he had, would not have been given the complainant’s identity.

09/13/10 A. 2.13 Rapp email →Shapiro (U Southern California);
Copy to 2 Springer people, Kunc, Fedor (who sent to Bradley)
 Shapiro is Director, Research Administration Compliance.⁴⁹ Rapp had
 emailed to Wegman, forwarded that email and Wegman's next-day reply to
 6 people, including Elsevier's John Fedor. As Rapp wished to get a USC
 appointment renewed, *the following might not have been prudent:*

5 From: Donald Rapp [mailto:RAPP EMAIL]
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 2:02 PM
To: Daniel Shapiro
Subject: FW: Charges of Plagiarism by the Climategate Folks

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

This message from Ed Wegman shows that in addition to going after Wegman
 and myself, the **climategate-ists** also went after David Scott of Rice University
 who was a co-author of the Wegman Report. **Rice University has already
 concluded that the charges against David Scott have no merit.**

**USC has two choices: continue this charade and play into the hands of the
 climategate-ists, or turn up the sensitivity on your bullshit detector and
 recognize it for what it is.**

Donald Rapp

----- Forwarded Message

4 From: Edward Wegman <...>
Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2010 13:36:10 -0400
To: Donald Rapp <...>
Subject: Re: Charges of Plagiarism by the Climategate Folks

Dear Dr. Rapp,

Thank you for your recent email. It is at least some comfort to know that the
 zealots aren't targeting me alone. **My Dean and Vice President for Research
 have asked my not to comment** **1** until the charges leveled against me have
 been resolved. However, **the official definition of plagiarism** **2** involves
 copying the ideas or words of someone else and presenting them as your own.
 Of course, in the so-called Wegman report, we make it clear that we were not
 trying to represent ourselves as the inventors of paleoclimate reconstruction via
 tree rings as Bradley implies. Indeed, we explicitly say that these materials
**were included so as to give the Congressional audience a balanced
 picture** **3** of the area. The deepclimate website is full of crackpot conspiracy
 theories. I avoid reading it in order to keep a semblance of normalcy. **I believe**

**the GMU inquiry will vindicate me and my co-authors. (Rice University
 has already concluded that the charges against David Scott have no
 merit.)** **4** In any case, I have been in touch with counsel and subsequent to the
 GMU resolution, **perhaps we can meet and decide further actions.** I do
 agree that this is a **shabby attempt at a smear campaign that attempts to
 deflect scrutiny from the real misconduct revealed by the climategate
 emails.** **5**
 All the best,
 Ed Wegman”

3 On Sun, Sep 12, 2010 at 10:26 AM, Donald Rapp <...> wrote:
 Dear Professor Wegman: You may be interested in this. Some time ago, the
 deepclimate.org <deepclimate.org> website came out with an article claiming
 that I had ghost-written the “Wegman Report”. Soon after, about 80 entries
 appeared on their blog by donkeys braying in unison. About a few weeks later,
 after I wrote to them, they changed their story and now claimed that I had
 plagiarized the Wegman Report. That brought on another 80 entries on their
 blog by donkeys braying in unison. I wrote back pointing out the many times
 that I had given due credit to the Wegman Report in my book (see specifics
 below) but they refused to show that on their blog. Then, they claimed that my
 book was based on the “gray literature” implying that I did not utilize peer-
 reviewed references. I made a list of the references in my book (about 350)
 showing that 93% were for peer reviewed articles. (By the way, some of the
 best references, like your report, were from the gray literature). They refused to
 show this on their blog. I wrote back to deepclimate.org <deepclimate.org>
 and called them “a bunch of assholes”. **After that, they went after me,
 sending accusations of plagiarism to USC and to my publisher
 Praxis/Springer. Right now, USC wants to appoint me as Research
 Professor but the appointment is being held up by the accusation of
 plagiarism.** The USC bureaucracy seems unable to fathom this situation
 properly. **My publisher stands behind me all the way. You, also, have been
 very helpful.** You should note in the correspondence below that Ray Bradley
 of MIT (one of the infamous trio: Mann, Bradley and Hughes who published
 the first “hockey stick” and who is also a figure in “climategate”) is now
 accusing you of plagiarizing his book published by Elsevier (see red bold
 sentence below). I have already informed Ray Bradley and Elsevier to cease
 and desist claims that I committed plagiarism or I will bring suit against them
 (which I will do if necessary). If there is any way that I can assist you, I would
 be glad to do so.
 With great respect, I remain,
 Donald Rapp”

⁴⁹ www.usc.edu/directories/dept/compliance.html

Wegman had been asked not to comment, ① but emailed to both Kunc and Rapp, seemingly new acquaintances. He mentioned plagiarism charges, which he had revealed on Facebook 08/21, all preceding any public comment by Bradley. His view of plagiarism strongly contradicted normal academic practice. ② A balanced picture was hardly created by total novices who plagiarized and distorted an expert's work. ③ He seemed unaware why Scott had had been cleared. ④ He seemed to think "Climategate" was relevant, ⑤ *consistent with other recent actions.*⁵⁰

Rapp included 09/ 11 email ❶ to Shapiro asking questions about the inquiry process,⁵¹ followed by other topics:

(1) The details of the accusation

Appendix 2, Section A2.1 says "**At the time of or before beginning the Preliminary Inquiry, the Dean or his or her designee will make a good faith effort to notify the subject of the allegations against them...**"

In this connection, who is the Dean, and what is your role in this? Further, I interpret this to mean that the **details of the allegation, including the name of the person bringing the charges, will be made known to me. I am waiting for someone at USC (the Dean or designee) to do this.**

(2) The Process for Preliminary Inquiry

The first step in the process is for the Vice Provost for Research Advancement to determine whether the allegation "falls within the scope of this policy and is sufficiently credible and specific" that a Preliminary Inquiry is called for. Has the Vice Provost done this? ... **If the Vice Provost thinks that a Preliminary Inquiry is called for, isn't the first step to meet with me and discuss it with me (implied in Sec. A2.1)?** ' "

(3) The Matter of "Climategate"

Are you aware of the public release of emails between the clique of climatologists (mostly professors in top universities and research establishments) who have committed a wide range of violations of professional ethics in promulgating the CO2 theory of global warming while viciously attacking all those who think otherwise? These have been reported and discussed in several recent best selling books. ...

(4) The charge of plagiarism made to my publisher

As the saying goes, "you don't have to be paranoid" to know they are out to get you". **The party who wrote to USC also wrote to my publisher**

⁵⁰ deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report, A.6.4.

⁵¹ policies.usc.edu/policies/scientificmisconduct070108.pdf is USC policy, about which Rapp seems confused. As per section 4.1.1, p.3, the complainant's identity is especially irrelevant in a plagiarism case of this sort and is kept confidential.

Praxis/Springer Books with the same charge. It is now revealed that the person bringing the charge to my publisher is Ray Bradley, MIT, (sic) who now claims that I plagiarized Wegman, and Wegman plagiarized Bradley...

(6) The support of the USC faculty in astronautics

The USC faculty in astronautics is aware of the charges of plagiarism and dismisses them, and still wants to bring me on board at USC.⁵²

(7) Summary

It is clear that the religious zealots for CO2 are on a campaign to smear and discredit all those who oppose their views – as revealed in "**climategate**"... (*much more, termed "an excellent summary" by Kunc*)

The combination of emails shows that when these emails were sent:

- Rapp was not a USC employee in September 2010.⁵³
- Despite strenuous efforts by Kunc and Rapp, USC was blocking Rapp's contract renewal, due to a plagiarism complaint USC took seriously.
- But from (1) at left, **the actual complaint had not yet been seen by Rapp, and thus, not by Kunc or Wegman.**
- From (4) above, **Rapp was sure that Bradley was the complainant and the complaint was the same charge as Elsevier's to Springer.** In fact, Rapp's book has many plagiarism examples besides Bradley/Wegman, more than sufficient to pursue a complaint without even mentioning Wegman.
- Kunc and Rapp seemed certain there was no plagiarism and could push quickly for an Inquiry. No such inquiry seemed in progress. EITHER
 - *An inquiry began later and is now in progress, as would certainly occur if Rapp were a current employee OR*
 - *An inquiry has not begun. How could that be? Since Rapp is not a current employee, to get rehired, he needs to cooperate with an inquiry, but perhaps is unwilling to do so.*

Outside USC, one cannot really know what is happening, but the next page offers some relevant background history for Kunc, Rapp, and SERC.

⁵² Academic misconduct cases do not work this way. Neither Wegman nor the USC astronautics faculty gets to decide this case.

⁵³ Universities may pursue academic misconduct cases for work done by someone then affiliated, who later leaves, but Rapp wrote his book before joining USC. Under such circumstances it seems unlikely USC would pursue the Rapp case, unless he wants to be rehired.

Some history of Kunc, Rapp, SERC.

- Rapp's personal web page is instructive:⁵⁴
"Brief Summary:
 I have 50 years of post-doctoral experience. **I am a true generalist.** I am 50% scientist and 50% engineer. I have worked on an extremely wide variety of technical problems over the years and I have broad knowledge of things technical. I have a solid grounding in chemistry and physics and did fundamental work in these sciences for many years. In the second half of my career I worked on more applied problems, particularly in space technology and space mission design. I am an expert in requirements, architectures and transportation systems for space missions, with particular emphasis on impact of in situ resource utilization, and water resources. **I have surveyed the wide field of global climate change energy and I am familiar with the entire literature of climatology.** I am known far and wide in the NASA community as for my abilities to plan, organize and lead studies of broad technical systems. My services have been often sought in writing and reviewing major proposals for space ventures. ...
 2008- Research Professor, Viterbi School of Engineering, (USC)
 2003-2009, JPL Consultant
 1979-2002, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, ... Retired February, 2002"
- Willie Soon spoke 11/26/07 on "The Secondary Role of CO2 and CH4 Forcing in Climate Change"⁵⁵ Kunc had been Soon's PhD advisor.
- With NASA-JPL affiliation, Rapp spoke at USC 03/06/08:⁵⁶
"Climate alarmists are certain that warming due to greenhouse gas emissions poses a severe and immediate threat to mankind, and naysayers claim that we are merely undergoing a natural fluctuation in climate. Many on both sides appear to have made up their minds in advance, picking and choosing isolated data to support their preconceived conclusions. I have found the data and models to be lacking in many respects, so that it is difficult to be certain about the causes and future evolution of global warming. **Nevertheless, the limited evidence available at this time does not support the alarmist position.**"⁵⁷ *Rapp totally rejected the mainstream science position held by almost all relevant science societies and national academies.*

⁵⁴ home.earthlink.net/~drdrapp/ or www.webcitation.org/5oA4NPqjG

⁵⁵ astronautics.usc.edu/news/announcements/announcement_20080226137448.htm

Soon was quite well-known for climate anti-science papers.

⁵⁶ astronautics.usc.edu/news/announcements/announcement_20080226.htm

<https://web-app.usc.edu/ws/eo3/dashboard/calendar/32/865623>

⁵⁷ www.usc.edu/schools/sppd/events/calendar.php/event/865887

- USC Climate Change Research Group web page was dated 03/16/08.⁵⁸
 It was run by Kunc and promoted Rapp as a key member of an Astronautics Engineering-led effort to gain funding for climate research: "Two members of the CCRG are directly involved in national and international "climate change research" activities. These two are Dr. Donald Rapp of the Space Engineering Research Center (former Chief Technologist of JPL, and the author of the books "Solar Energy" and "Assessment of Global Warming")."⁵⁹
- Rapp spoke at USC NSF workshop, 07/09/08,⁶⁰ still labeled NASA-JPL. *Rapp may have started at SERC by 03/16, or perhaps that was anticipation of hiring later in 2008. Kunc clearly wanted Rapp at USC.*
- In 2009, SERC's Kunc, Rapp and Michael Gruntman signed a petition to the American Physical Society, essentially to nullify its fairly standard position statement on climate change.⁶¹
 Of course, academics should be free to speak as they wish, sign petitions, etc. *One might question spending Federal or California tax money on climate research by **astronautics** faculty who repeatedly reject the basics of mainstream climate science. One might also hope that university professors understand simple rules of research conduct and apply them.*

As discovered earlier in 2010, **John Mason**, series editor for Springer-Praxis, had handled 6 books containing seemingly-dubious discussions of climate science, including Rapp's books.⁶² It is puzzling that Springer seems to support Rapp, but this pattern might contribute.

After this strange, but enlightening excursion with Rapp, Kunc, and Wegman, the discussion now returns to GMU for further context.

⁵⁸ astronautics.usc.edu/research/climatechange.htm, accessed 11/05/10.

⁵⁹ The other person was a well-published climate researcher, but unaffiliated with these people. His name may well have been mis-applied to build credibility.

⁶⁰ www.usc.edu/dept/chemistry/loker/NSF_Workshop.pdf
www.usc.edu/dept/chemistry/loker/ReversingGlobalWarming.pdf

⁶¹ www.desmogblog.com/another-silly-climate-petition-exposed Gruntman, Kunc and Rapp all have entries.. They had all signed the OISM petition described there.

⁶² www.desmogblog.com/crescendo-climategate-cacophony, p.137.

The 2009 Rapp discussion is also expanded, pp.147-149.

4 Possible concerns with GMU academic integrity in past

The following includes (good) GMU advice from 2001:

"The major conclusion of the Task Force was that large segments of both students and faculty ignore the Code's provisions. We need to remedy this. George Mason is, and will remain, an honor code university. The university maintains an active Honor Code committee, and it does take action after appropriate inquiry. ... Finally, it is essential the faculty themselves set a high standard in academic integrity. We are periodically reminded that researchers and teachers do not always live up to the norms we urge on our students."⁶³

"Foreign students should be given guidance/direction on the criteria surrounding plagiarism. Explain the differences between plagiarism and reciting. ... One way to assist the international student population is to carefully educate them early in their first semester about American definitions of plagiarism, cheating and academic dishonesty. Teaching students to paraphrase, and to cite all sources, including work found on the Internet, should reduce plagiarism charges."⁶⁴

Accreditation agency SACS' next on-site GMU accreditation review is Spring 2011.⁶⁵ The handling of complaints may be an issue. A review of PhD supervision practices also seems in order.⁶⁶

5 Possible concerns raised by GMU connections

GMU graduates⁶⁷ Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and assistant Wesley Russell are driving attacks on the University of Virginia and climate researchers, with the most recent relying heavily on the WR.⁶⁸

⁶³ provost.gmu.edu/integrity/index.html

⁶⁴ provost.gmu.edu/integrity/reports.html 35 pages of the WR, and 3 Wegman-supervised dissertations violated this good suggestion.

⁶⁵ provost.gmu.edu/accredit

⁶⁶ deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report, W.5.2, W.5.7, W.5.10, It also seems strange to have a postdoc co-supervising a dissertation.

⁶⁷ politics.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/john-farrell/2010/05/18/Virginia-AG-Cuccinellis-Questionable-Campaign-Contributions.html See Terry Wolfe.

⁶⁸ voices.washingtonpost.com/virginiapolitics/New%20Mann%20CID.PDF
www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2010/10/cuccinelli-goes-fishing-again

GMU and its institutes are well-connected⁶⁹ with climate anti-science funders and advocates, especially the **Koch** brothers,⁷⁰ who have also provided some funds for Cuccinelli.⁷¹ **Richard Fink** is the President of the Charles G. Koch Foundation, Co-founder of GMU's Mercatus Center, Director of GMU's Institute for Humane Studies, among others.⁷⁴ Koch's **Kevin Gentry** was also involved.⁷⁵ **Walter E. Williams** of the GMU Economics Department promotes climate anti-science⁷⁶ and is heavily involved with Koch-funded groups.⁷⁷

Many organizations and people are covered in *Crescendo to Climategate Cacophony*,⁷⁸ which can be consulted for details on any of the following. Foundations controlled by **Richard Mellon Scaife** and the Kochs fund many organizations involved in climate anti-science advocacy. Table A.6.1(a) includes CEI and GMI,⁷⁹ whose efforts led to the WR.

Table A.6.1 includes major funding for GMU itself, its Center for Media and Public Affairs, its Institute for Humane Studies (with which **Fred Singer** was associated), the Mercatus Center, and STATS. **Pat Michaels** taught a GMU Public Policy course last summer.⁸⁰ *The visibly-slow process may be normal at GMU or may not.*⁸¹ *A simple case has taken far longer than a similar one at Rice, or even the much more complex case at Penn State.*⁸²

⁶⁹ mediamattersaction.org/transparency/organization/George_Mason_University/funders
mediamattersaction.org/transparency/organization/Mercatus_Center/funders
mediamattersaction.org/transparency/organization/Institute_for_Humane_Studies/funders

⁷⁰ www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/08/30/100830fa_fact_mayer?currentPage=all

⁷¹ www.vpap.org/committees/profile/money_in_industry2/2038?end_year=2010&filing_period=all&lookup_type=year§or=6&start_year=2008 Energy -> Gas

⁷⁴ www.cgkfoundation.org/about/foundation-staff/14/

⁷⁵ www.cgkfoundation.org/about/foundation-staff/15/

⁷⁶ econfaculty.gmu.edu/wew/ accessed 11/05/10.

⁷⁷ www.everydaycitizen.com/2010/01/under_melting_ice_with_walter.html

⁷⁸ www.desmogblog.com/crescendo-climategate-cacophony, March 15, 2010.

⁷⁹ As of 10/05/10, GMI still had a "Koch Foundation Summer Associate."

⁸⁰ policy.gmu.edu/portals/0/syllabi/2010_2/PUBP710.pdf

⁸¹ Napoleon gave good advice on malice versus incompetence, but both happen.

6 GMU Budget, research funding, organization

About \$100M of \$887M budget⁸³ is sponsored research,⁸⁴ of which \$83M seems from Federal government, p.2. The largest funder is the DHHS, for \$20M, followed by Department of Defense (DoD), \$13M, p.3.

DHHS includes the NIAAA, which Said thanked for support. ORI is its research watchdog.⁸⁵ The DoD certainly includes the others, ARL and its ARO. No NSF funding was cited in any of this, but GMU⁸⁶ does receive funds from NSF, which may want to review GMU processes.

Assuming websites up to date, some key GMU people are listed below, showing Wegman twice due to joint appointment.

Those marked (→) seem required to be involved in the process:

Board of Visitors⁸⁷ is led by Rector Ernst Volgenau⁸⁸

→President **Alan G. Merten**⁸⁹

→Provost **Peter Stearns**⁹⁰

→VP for Research and Economic Development **Roger R. Stough**⁹¹

→Dean, College of Science, **Vikas Chandhoke**⁹²

Dept. Hd, Computational and Data Sci, **D. Papaconstantopoulos**⁹³

→Professor **Edward Wegman**⁹⁴

Dean, Volgenau School of Info. Tech. and Engr, **Lloyd J. Griffiths**⁹⁵

Department Chair, Statistics, **William F. Rosenberg**⁹⁶

Professor **Edward Wegman**⁹⁷

⁸² www.research.psu.edu/orp/Findings_Mann_Inquiry.pdf

⁸³ irr.gmu.edu/factbooks/0910/Factbook0910_Budget.pdf

⁸⁴ irr.gmu.edu/factbooks/0910/Factbook0910_Sponsored.pdf

⁸⁵ ori.hhs.gov/about/index.shtml

⁸⁶ www.nsf.gov/statistics/profiles/institu.cfm?fice=3749

⁸⁷ bov.gmu.edu/

⁸⁸ bov.gmu.edu/volgenau.html

⁸⁹ www.gmu.edu/resources/visitors/bio.html

⁹⁰ provost.gmu.edu/stearns; provost.gmu.edu/index.php;

provost.gmu.edu/integrity/index.html

⁹¹ research.gmu.edu/ovprecd.html

⁹² cos.gmu.edu/about/administration

⁹³ cds.gmu.edu/node/15

⁹⁴ cds.gmu.edu/node/40

⁹⁵ volgenau.gmu.edu/about_ite/dean.php

⁹⁶ statistics.gmu.edu/pages/people.html

7 Conclusion

This investigation was actually revealed by Wegman in August. Bradley had kept it collegially quiet until October and showed *amazing* patience. That does not last forever and he finally OK'd release of this information.

No over-generalization should be made about GMU as a whole,⁹⁸ but GMU administrators seemed likely to be aware of this complaint early:

- President Merten may or may not have read the original letter, but it certainly went through his office and he was copied by Stough 04/08.
- VP Stough has been the primary contact.
- One of the Deans, presumably Papaconstantopoulos, needed to recommend an inquiry. See Stough's 08/17 email.
- Provost Stearns needed to form the inquiry committee.
- GMU Assistant Attorney General **Thomas Mancure** was CC'd, **A.2.14**.

Academics need to evaluate this whole process, *but GMU's response to a complaint seems strikingly different from that of Rice. Most puzzling is the seeming lack of action on Allegation 2, covered by ORI.*

Interesting questions remain unanswered:

Did GMU actually form an inquiry committee in April?

- If so, Was Wegman notified according to procedure?
 - If so, did he take it seriously at that time?
 - Why then did August events seem to be a surprise?
 - If not informed, why not? That would seem a GMU rules violation.
- If not in April, was the committee really formed in August?

When did Wegman first learn about the complaints to GMU?

Scott was cleared in March. When did Wegman learn that?

Did Wegman learn about the reason for Rice's clearing Scott?

How long will this continue? It could easily run 300 days more beyond an **inquiry** report that has not yet been provided to Bradley.

How would this process be viewed by experienced academics elsewhere?

How would this process be viewed by ORI and funding agencies?

How would this process be viewed by accreditation agency SACS?

⁹⁷ statistics.gmu.edu/people_pages/wegman.html

⁹⁸ Unlike the WR, no guilt-by-association whatsoever is implied here. I have communicated with highly-credible GMU people and have heard of many others.

A.1 GMU University Policy 4007, nominal timeline

The text⁹⁹ is annotated with event labels [A] and nominal elapsed days [+N days], ignoring the many “as soon as possible” notes and possibilities of challenges. For something as simple as a few pages of obvious cut-and-paste plagiarism, one would expect this to go much faster. The rest should be assumed as quoted except for annotations in [brackets]. Bold is mine.

Under “Results of Inquiry” is found:

“(f) A recommendation as to whether the complainant should be notified of the results of the inquiry...”

And under “The committee then prepares a final investigation report to the Vice President” is found:

“(h) Includes a recommendation as to whether the complainant should be notified of the results of the investigation”

Hence, GMU procedures seem to allow zero notification to a complainant.

All policies in a quick sample of 6 other universities required that the complainant/whistleblower be notified of the results at each of those stages.¹⁰⁰

“**Subject:** Misconduct In Research and Scholarship

Responsible Parties: Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Deans and Institute Directors, Provost, President

“Research misconduct” means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

- (a) Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

⁹⁹ universitypolicy.gmu.edu/4007res.html

¹⁰⁰ guru.psu.edu/policies/Ra10.html Pennsylvania State U
www.upenn.edu/almanac/v49pdf/030506/misconduct.pdf U Pennsylvania
orc.osu.edu/documents/Misconduct_Policy.pdf Ohio State U
www.research.northwestern.edu/ori/misconduct Northwestern U
<https://policy.itc.virginia.edu/policy/policydisplay?id=%27res-004%27> U Virginia
www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/III-110A.pdf U Maryland

- (b) Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.
- (c) Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.’

‘Notifying Federal agencies as required

For proceedings that involve Federal support and research misconduct as defined by the funding agency, the university meets the reporting requirements of the funding agency relating to the decision whether an investigation is warranted. The university may be required to provide the research records and evidence reviewed during the inquiry, transcripts or recordings of any interviews, and copies of all relevant documents, among other materials.

The university also meets the reporting requirements of the funding agency pertaining to –

- (a) Any plans to close a case at the inquiry, investigation, or appeal stage on the basis that the respondent has admitted guilt, a settlement with the respondent has been reached, or for any other reason than a finding that an investigation is not warranted or that no misconduct occurred; and
- (b) The outcome of the investigation and any administrative actions against the respondent.’

2. Conduct of research misconduct proceedings.

Making an allegation [A] [0 assumed when complaint reaches correct person, can take a week or so]

An allegation of research misconduct may be made by disclosing the alleged misconduct to the respondent’s Dean or Institute Director, the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, or any other member of the university’s administrative or professional faculty (or, if the allegation involves Federal support and research misconduct as defined by the funding agency, to an official of that agency) through any means of communication. Allegations received by a person other than the respondent’s Dean or Institute Director should be promptly referred to the Dean or Director.

The complainant has a duty to make the allegation in good faith. Bad faith allegations will be treated seriously. If at any point in a research

misconduct proceeding the Vice President or the respondent's Dean or Institute Director believes that the allegation was not made in good faith, that official refers the matter for appropriate handling under existing university procedures. In addition, if the respondent is a member of the faculty, he or she may bring a grievance under the grievance provisions of the Faculty Handbook.

Eligibility to conduct a research misconduct proceeding

Only university employees may serve on an inquiry or investigative committee in a research misconduct proceeding. However, the university may obtain the advice of non-employees with relevant expertise at any stage of the proceeding, including the preliminary assessment of the allegation. Except in extraordinary circumstances, the majority of a committee's members are tenured faculty.

Preliminary assessment of allegation

Within 14 days of receiving an allegation of research misconduct (or as soon as possible if this time limit cannot be met), the respondent's **Dean or Institute Director assesses the allegation to determine if an inquiry is warranted** and notifies the Vice President and the Provost of his or her determination.

[B][+14 days]

Except in extraordinary circumstances, an allegation that is not made in writing or subsequently reduced to writing and supported by specific evidence does not warrant an inquiry. An inquiry is warranted if the alleged conduct meets the definition of research misconduct in this policy and is sufficiently credible and specific so that potential evidence of research misconduct may be identified. If the alleged conduct fails to meet these criteria, no inquiry is conducted. If the alleged conduct meets these criteria, the Dean or Director determines if it involves Federally-supported research, as described in the regulations of the funding agency, or other support under an agreement between the university and another party. **A research misconduct proceeding is not discontinued as a result of the termination of a respondent's employment or the respondent's refusal to cooperate in the conduct of the proceeding.**

Initiation of inquiry

The purpose of an inquiry is to conduct an initial review of the evidence to determine whether to recommend that an investigation be conducted.

Within 14 days of receiving a determination that an inquiry is warranted (or as soon as possible if this time limit cannot be met), the **Provost appoints an inquiry committee and a chair of that committee** from among individuals who do not have real or apparent conflicts of interest in the case, are unbiased, and have the necessary expertise to evaluate the evidence and issues related to the allegation. **The Dean or Institute Director then makes a good faith effort to provide notice to the presumed respondent, if any.** This notice includes a statement of the allegation, a description of the inquiry process, the identities of the members of the inquiry committee, and all applicable university policies. **[C][+28 days]**

The respondent may challenge a member of the inquiry committee on the basis of conflict of interest or bias by submitting the challenge in writing to the Provost within five days of receiving the notification. The Provost determines whether and with whom a challenged member is replaced. The respondent may challenge the replacement in the same manner. If the inquiry subsequently identifies additional respondents, the Dean or Director promptly provides notice to them in the same manner.

Inquiry process

[D] [+28 days]At the inquiry committee's first meeting, the Dean or Institute Director reviews the charge with the committee and discusses the allegations, any related issues, the appropriate procedures for conducting the inquiry, and the timeframe for completing it. The committee reviews the evidence and may interview the complainant, the respondent, and others with knowledge of relevant circumstances. After completing its initial review of the evidence, the committee prepares a draft inquiry report and gives the respondent a reasonable opportunity to provide written comments on it. **The inquiry committee completes the inquiry, including the preparation of a final inquiry report that includes any comments received from the respondent, within 60 days of the committee's first meeting** unless the Dean or Director determines, and documents in the inquiry record, that the circumstances warrant a longer period.

[E] [+88 days]

Results of inquiry

The inquiry committee prepares an inquiry report to the Dean or Institute Director in which it recommends whether an investigation should be conducted. An investigation is warranted if there is a reasonable basis for concluding that the alleged conduct falls within the definition of research misconduct under this policy and preliminary information-gathering and preliminary fact-finding from the inquiry indicates that the allegation may have substance. The committee's inquiry report contains the following:

- (a) The name and position of the respondent;
- (b) A description of the allegations of research misconduct;
- (c) Any Federal or other external support involved, including, for example, grant numbers, grant applications, contracts, and publications listing that support;
- (d) The basis for recommending that the alleged actions warrant an investigation;
- (e) Any comments on the report by the respondent;
- (f) **A recommendation as to whether the complainant should be notified of the results of the inquiry and, if so, which parts of the report, if any, should be included in the notification and whether the notification should require that the information be maintained confidentially;** and
- (g) Any recommendations the committee may have to refer any of its findings to other university officials for appropriate action, if the committee does not recommend that an investigation be conducted.

University determination based on inquiry

Within 14 days of receiving the inquiry report (or as soon as possible if this time limit cannot be met), the Dean or Institute Director determines whether to conduct an investigation, provides notice to the respondent of this determination, provides the respondent a copy of the inquiry report and this policy, acts on the other recommendations of the inquiry committee, and notifies the Vice President of the determination and provides the Vice President with a copy of the documentation. The university counsel reviews the determination for legal sufficiency.

[F] [+102 days]

Initiation of Investigation

The purpose of an investigation is to determine whether research misconduct, as defined in Part II, occurred and, if so, by whom and to what extent. A finding of research misconduct requires that –

- (a) The misconduct be committed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly; and
- (b) The allegation be proven by a preponderance of the evidence; and
- (c) There be a significant departure from accepted practices of the relevant research community.

The university has the burden of proof in making a finding of research misconduct. The respondent has the burden of going forward with, and proving by a preponderance of the evidence, any affirmative defenses and any mitigating factors relevant to a decision to impose administrative actions.

Within 30 days after determining that an investigation is warranted, the Vice President begins the investigation by convening the first meeting of an investigation committee.

[G] [+132 days]

The Vice President appoints the investigation committee and a chair of that committee from among individuals who do not have real or apparent conflicts of interest in the case, are unbiased, and have the necessary expertise to evaluate the evidence and issues related to the allegation.

Members of the inquiry committee may not serve on the investigation committee unless their expertise is essential.

The Vice President provides notice of the commencement of the investigation to the respondent within seven days after determining that an investigation is warranted. This notice includes a statement of the allegation, a description of the investigation process, and the identities of the members of the investigation committee. The respondent may challenge a member of the investigation committee on the basis of conflict of interest or bias by submitting the challenge in writing to the Vice President within five days of receiving the notification. The Vice President determines whether and with whom a challenged member is replaced. The respondent may challenge the replacement in the same manner.

Investigation process

At the investigation committee's first meeting, the Vice President reviews the following: the allegations, the findings of the inquiry, the procedures and standards for conducting the investigation, confidentiality obligations, the need for an investigation plan, the possible penalties for a finding of misconduct, and the timeframe for completing the investigation.

The university counsel accompanies the Vice President at the first meeting of the investigation committee and remains available to advise the committee during its investigation. If the investigation discloses any allegation against the respondent not addressed during the inquiry or in the initial notice of the investigation or any allegation against an additional respondent, the committee reports the allegation to the Vice President, who refers it to the respondent's Dean or Institute Director for a preliminary assessment of the allegation and other appropriate steps as provided in this policy. If that officer finds that the allegation meets the definition of research misconduct in this policy and is sufficiently credible and specific, he or she provides the respondent against whom the allegation is made notice of the decision to pursue the allegation within a reasonable time.

In conducting the investigation, the committee –

(a) Uses diligent efforts to ensure that the investigation is thorough and sufficiently documented and includes examination of all research records and evidence relevant to reaching a decision on the merits of the allegations;

(b) Interviews each respondent, complainant, and any other available person who has been reasonably identified as having information regarding any relevant aspects of the investigation, including witnesses identified by the respondent; and

(c) Pursues diligently all significant issues and leads discovered that are determined relevant to the investigation, including any evidence of additional instances of possible research misconduct, and continues the investigation to completion.

The committee ensures that any interview conducted during the investigation is recorded, that a transcript of the recording is prepared, that the interviewee is provided a copy of the transcript for correction and the opportunity to comment on its contents, and that the transcript and any comments of the interviewee are included in the record of the investigation. The respondent may attend interviews of the complainant and witnesses and direct questions to them. The committee notifies the

respondent at least 14 days in advance of the scheduling of his or her interview and any interview he or she is entitled to attend so that the respondent may prepare for the interview and arrange for the attendance of legal counsel or another authorized representative to advise the respondent at the interview, if the respondent wishes.

Results of investigation

After gathering and examining the relevant evidence, the investigation committee –

(a) Prepares a draft investigation report;

(b) Gives the respondent a copy of the draft report, and, concurrently, a copy of, or supervised access to, the evidence on which the report is based; and

(c) Provides notice to the respondent of his or her opportunity to provide written comments on the draft report within 30 days of the date on which he or she received it.

The committee ensures that any comments submitted by the respondent are considered and included in the final investigation report. The committee also gives the university counsel a copy of the draft investigation report to review for legal sufficiency.

The committee then prepares a final investigation report to the Vice President. In the report, the committee –

(a) Describes the nature of the allegations of research misconduct;

(b) Describes and documents any Federal or other external support, including, for example any grant numbers, grant applications, contracts, and publications listing that support;

(c) Describes the specific allegations of research misconduct considered in the investigation;

(d) Includes the university policies and procedures under which the investigation was conducted;

(e) Identifies and summarizes the research records and evidence reviewed, identifies any evidence taken into custody but not reviewed, and summarizes the reasons why any evidence was not taken into custody;

(f) Provides a finding as to whether research misconduct did or did not occur for each separate allegation of research misconduct identified during the investigation, and if misconduct was found, (i) identifies it as falsification, fabrication, or plagiarism and whether it was intentional,

knowing, or in reckless disregard; (ii) summarizes the facts and the analysis supporting the conclusion and considers the merits of any reasonable explanation by the respondent and any evidence that rebuts the respondent's explanations; (iii) identifies the specific Federal or other external support, if any; (iv) identifies any publications that need correction or retraction; (v) identifies the person or persons responsible for the misconduct; and (vi) lists any current support or known applications or proposals for support that the respondent or respondents have pending with any Federal agency;

(g) Includes and evaluates any comments made by the respondent on the draft investigation report;

(h) **Includes a recommendation as to whether the complainant should be notified of the results of the investigation and, if so, which parts of the report, if any, should be included in the notification;**

(i) Includes any recommendations it may have for administrative actions relating to the conduct found; and

(j) Includes any recommendations it may have to assist the complainant or any other person who was harmed by the conduct found.

The committee uses its best efforts to complete the investigation within 120 days of the date on which it began. For proceedings that involve Federal support and research misconduct as defined by the funding agency, if the committee is unable to complete the investigation within the time prescribed by the funding agency, the Vice President communicates with the agency regarding any requirements relating to an extension. For other proceedings, the Vice President grants an extension for good cause.
[H] [+252 days]

University determination based on investigation

Upon receiving the final investigation report, the Vice President reviews the report and makes a determination on behalf of the university as to whether research misconduct occurred and, if so, by whom, and whether the university accepts the findings of the investigation. The Vice President recommends to the Provost what administrative actions, if any, the university should take against the respondent, taking account of the recommendations in the final investigation report. The university counsel reviews the determination and the recommendation of the Vice President for legal sufficiency. **The**

Provost determines what administrative actions, if any, the university takes against the respondent, except that the provisions of the Faculty Handbook regarding a dismissal for cause apply to that action.

The Vice President provides a copy of the final investigation report and the university's decision to the respondent. If the decision is that the respondent committed research misconduct, the Vice President provides notice to the respondent that he or she may appeal the decision by filing a request for reversal or modification of the decision and grounds for that request with the President within 30 days of receiving the university's decision.

[I] [+282 days]

The President generally issues a written decision on the appeal, including the reasons for the decision, **within 100 days** of the date the appeal is filed. If the university is unable to complete the appeal within the time prescribed by a funding agency, the Vice President communicates with the agency regarding any requirements relating to an extension. The Vice President provides notice of the President's decision to the respondent.

[J] [+382 days]

A.2 Communications

This Appendix gathers various letters and emails primarily involving UMass Amherst Professor Raymond Bradley and George Mason University (GMU), with a few others that help illuminate this process. This was compiled mostly from material provided by Bradley over last few months. Unlike “climategate,” no email servers were hacked in the process of doing this, and legitimate recipients gave me copies to publish.

In §2 and §3 excerpts are discussed in chronological order.

Communications below are given in chronological order, but individual emails include nested chains of forwarded emails, keeping their general appearance and context. They are marked ① upwards in local chronological order, so the reader may easily find the first in the local chronology and read messages in reverse order. Email addresses are elided, as are most mail addresses. Redundant addresses and repeated forwarding’s of earlier long emails are removed as well for brevity. Bold within emails exists in the originals. Some images have white space removed to help them fit. The goal is faithful portrayal of communications and sequences of replies and forwarding, with minimal editing, even at expense of readability. **Accurate portrayal requires quoting comments of Rapp not usually found in formal communications.**

A few annotations are included, and my embedded notes are in *Italics*. Bradley’s complaints were based entirely on Deep Climate’s work.¹⁰¹

Date Description

- 03/05/10** **Bradley letter → President of GMU, Alan C. Merten**
Equivalent letter sent to **Rice University** (not shown)
Allegation 1, plagiarism of Bradley(1999)
Includes attachments already public at Deep Climate blog
- 03/24/10** **James S. Coleman (Rice VP Research) letter → Bradley**
Clears Scott because Wegman had taken responsibility.
- 04/08/10** **Roger R. Stough (GMU VP Research) letter → Bradley**
“each of these take a fair amount of time”

¹⁰¹ I often post at Deep Climate and have written reports referencing DC’s work. Bradley did not communicate with me until much later, as this was kept very quiet. Some comments have incorrectly mis-ascribed DC’s work to me or Richard Littlemore.

05/13/10 **Bradley letter → Stough**

Allegation 2, notes social networks plagiarism, funding oversight

07/13/10 **Bradley letter → Stough**

07/28/10 **Stough letter → Bradley**

08/16/10 **Bradley email → Stough → John Fedor (Elsevier)**

08/16/10- **Stough email → Fedor → Stough → Fedor**

08/21/10 **Screenshot from Wegman’s public Facebook page**

“Want to know a bad week” - plagiarism complaint made public

The next 4 emails are new in V2.0, discussed in §3.

09/06/10 **Kunc email → Wegman → Kunc → Rapp → Vergano**

Kunc emails Wegman, gets reply, forwards to Rapp

09/08/10 **Rapp email → Fedor, Bradley**

Quotes message from **Fedor** → Springer.

Quotes email Wegman → Rapp.

On 10/09/10 Rapp posts this email, plus more.¹⁰²

09/12/10 **Rapp email → Fedor, copy to Bradley, 3 Springer / Praxis**

Copies previous email, also makes incorrect claims, such as DC unwillingness to post.¹⁰³

09/13/10 **Rapp email → Daniel Shapiro (USC)**

Copy to 2 Springer people, Joseph Kunc (USC SERC), Fedor

Rapp includes other items, such supportive email from Kunc.

Quotes informative email from Wegman that same day:

“have asked me not to comment until the charges ... resolved.”

“deepclimate website is full of crackpot conspiracy theories.”

“I believe the GMU inquiry will vindicate me and my co-authors.”

“already concluded the charges against David Scott have no merit.”

“deflect scrutiny from the real misconduct ... climategate emails.”

10/08/11 **Dan Vergano writes first article for USA Today.**

10/11/10 **Bradley email (not shown) → GMU → Bradley**

“A few more weeks.”

12/06/10 **Bradley email → Stough → Bradley**

Replied that could he could not comment, personnel matter.

¹⁰² wattsupwiththat.com/2010/10/08/on-wegman-who-will-guard-the-guards-themselves/#comment-503683

Other comments may have been edited at WUWT, but this still existed 11/19/10.

¹⁰³ deepclimate.org/2009/12/17/wegman-report-revisited/#comment-1807
deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/rapp-comment-2010-01-01.pdf

A.2.1 Bradley letter →President of GMU, Alan C. Merten



UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS at Amherst
Morrill Science Center
611, North Pleasant Street
AMHERST, MA 01003-9297

Prof. Raymond S. Bradley

DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES

Tel: -
Fax: -

March 5th, 2010

Alan G. Merten, President
Office of the President
George Mason University
4400 University Dr. MSN 3A1
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear President Merten,

I am writing to lodge a formal complaint of plagiarism by a senior member of your faculty, Professor Edward Wegman, the Bernard J. Dunn Professor of Information Technology and Applied Statistics, Chair of the Data Sciences Program in the School of Computational Sciences, and the Director of the Center for Computational Statistics.

Dr Wegman was the author of the "Ad Hoc Committee Report on the "Hockey Stick" Global Climate Reconstruction", which was submitted to the United States Congress and entered into the Congressional Record on July 17th 2006, at a hearing of the Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives (109th Congress, 2nd Session). The document states clearly that "This report was authored by Edward J. Wegman, George Mason University, David W. Scott, Rice University, and Yasmin H. Said, The Johns Hopkins University".

It is clear from a comparison of the text in Dr Wegman's report with the text of my book, *Paleoclimatology* (Academic Press, 1999) that large sections of my book were plagiarized (see enclosed document that compares my text with that of the Wegman report). By closely paraphrasing without any attribution entire paragraphs from my book, *Paleoclimatology*, and by copying, *verbatim*, many phrases and words from this work, it is clear that Professor Wegman and his co-authors plagiarized my work.

I note that your [Faculty Handbook](#) adopts the American Association of University Professors [Statement on Plagiarism](#), which proscribes that,

"in his or her own work, the professor must scrupulously acknowledge every intellectual debt for ideas, methods, and expressions by means appropriate to the form of communication."

The Statement on Plagiarism further states that

"taking over the ideas, methods, or written words of another, without acknowledgment and with the intention that they be taken as the work of the deceiver, is plagiarism. It is theft of a special kind, for the true author still retains the original ideas and words, yet they are diminished as that author's property and a fraud is committed upon the audience that believes those ideas and words originated with the deceiver. Plagiarism is not limited to the academic community but has perhaps its most pernicious effect in that setting. It is the antithesis of the honest labor that characterizes true scholarship and without which mutual trust and respect among scholars is impossible."

Given the unequivocal stance which you have correctly adopted on this matter, and the unequivocal evidence I have presented in the enclosed document, I have no doubt that you will investigate this matter expeditiously and with due care. I will look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Raymond S. Bradley
Distinguished Professor
Director, Climate System Research Center

cc. Peter Fontaine Esquire: Cozen, O'Connor
Clare Truer, Rights Manager, Elsevier Ltd.

A comparison of *Ad Hoc Committee Report* (Wegman, Scott, Said) section 2.1, p.13-4
and *Paleoclimatology: Reconstructing Climates of the Quaternary* (Bradley) section 10.2

Regular font indicates substantially close wording between the two sources, *italic* represent paraphrased sections, **bold** represents significant departures of Wegman et al from Bradley, and ***bold italic*** represent points of outright contradiction between the two. Paragraphs have been reformatted for easy comparison.

Wegman – para 1

A cross section of a temperate forest tree shows variation of lighter and darker bands that are usually continuous around the circumference of the tree. *These bands are the so-called tree rings and are due to seasonal effects.* Each tree ring is composed of large thin-walled cells called early wood and smaller more densely packed thick walled cells called late wood. The average width of a tree ring is a function of many variables including the tree species, tree age, stored carbohydrates in the tree, nutrients in the soil, and climatic factors including sunlight, precipitation, temperature, wind speed, humidity, **and even carbon dioxide availability in the atmosphere.** **Obviously there are many confounding factors** so the problem is to extract the temperature signal and to distinguish the temperature signal from the noise caused by **the many confounding factors.**

Temperature information is usually derived from interannual variations in the ring width as well as interannual and intra-annual density variations. Density variations are valuable in paleoclimatic temperature reconstructions because they have a relatively simple growth function that, in mature trees, is approximately linear with age. The density variations have been shown empirically to contain a strong climatic temperature signal. Two values of density are measured within each growth ring: minimum density representing early wood and maximum density representing late wood. *Maximum density values are strongly correlated with April to August mean temperatures in trees across the boreal forest from Alaska to Labrador, Schweingruber et al., (1993).* Both tree ring width and density data are used in combination to extract the maximal climatic temperature

Bradley – 10.2

A cross section of most temperate forest trees will show an alternation of lighter and darker bands, each of which is usually continuous around the tree circumference. *These are seasonal growth increments produced by meristematic tissues in the tree's cambium.* When viewed in detail (Fig. 10.1) it is clear that they are made up of sequences of large, thin-walled cells (earlywood) and more densely packed, thick-walled cells (latewood). *Collectively, each couplet of earlywood and latewood comprises an annual growth increment, more commonly called a tree ring.* The mean width of a ring in any one tree is a function of many variables, including the tree species, tree age, availability of stored food within the tree and of important nutrients in the soil, and a whole complex of climatic factors (sunshine, precipitation, temperature, wind speed, humidity, and their distribution throughout the year). The problem facing dendroclimatologists is to extract whatever climatic signal is available in the tree ring data and to distinguish this signal from the background noise.

Climatic information has most often been gleaned from interannual variations in ring width, but there has also been a great deal of work carried out on the use of density variations, both inter- and intra-annually (densitometric dendroclimatology). ... It has also been shown empirically that density variations contain a strong climatic signal and can be used to estimate long-term climatic variations over wide areas (Schweingruber et al., 1979,1993). ... Density variations are particularly valuable in dendroclimatology because they have a relatively simple growth function (often close to linear with age). ... Generally, two values are measured in each growth ring: minimum density and maximum density (representing locations within the earlywood and latewood layers, respectively), *although maximum density values seem to be a better climatic indicator than minimum density values.* For example, Schweingruber et al. (1993) showed that maximum density values were strongly correlated with April-August mean temperature in trees across the entire boreal forest, from Alaska to Labrador, whereas minimum and mean density values and ring widths had a much less consistent relationship with summer temperature at the sites sampled (D'Arrigo et al.,1992). ... However, optimum climatic reconstructions may be achieved by using both ring widths and densitometric data to maximize the climatic signal in each sample (Briffa et al., 1995).

Wegman, para 2

Climate signal is strongest in trees that are under stress. Trees growing in sites where climate does not limit growth tend to produce rings that are uniform. Trees that are growing close to their extreme ecological range are greatly influenced by climate. Climate variations strongly influence annual growth increments.

Two types of stress are commonly recognized, moisture stress and temperature stress. Trees growing in semiarid regions are limited by water availability and thus variations in ring width reflect this climatic moisture signal. Trees growing near to their ecological limits either in terms of latitude or altitude show growth limitations imposed by temperature and thus ring width variations in such trees contain a relatively strong temperature signal.

However, the biological processes are extremely complex so that very different combinations of climatic conditions may cause similar ring width increments.

Photosynthetic processes are accelerated with the increased availability of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and, hence, it is conjectured that ring growth would also be correlated with atmospheric carbon dioxide; see Graybill and Idso (1993). In addition, oxides of nitrogen are formed in internal combustion engines that can be deposited as nitrates also contributing to fertilization of plant materials. It is clear that while there are temperature signals in the tree rings, the temperature signals are confounded with many other factors including fertilization effects due to use of fossil fuels

Bradley - 10.2.1 Sample Selection

In conventional dendroclimatological studies, where ring-width variations are the source of climatic information, trees are sampled in sites where they are under stress; commonly, this involves selection of trees that are growing close to their extreme ecological range. In such situations, climatic variations will greatly influence annual growth increments and the trees are said to be sensitive. In more beneficent situations, perhaps nearer the middle of a species range, or in a site where the tree has access to abundant groundwater, tree growth may not be noticeably influenced by climate, and this will be reflected in the low interannual variability of ring widths (Fig. 10.3)...

In marginal environments, two types of climatic stress are commonly recognized, moisture stress and temperature stress. Trees growing in semiarid areas are frequently limited by the availability of water, and ring-width variations primarily reflect this variable. Trees growing near to the latitudinal or altitudinal treeline are mainly under growth limitations imposed by temperature and hence ring-width variations in such trees contain a strong temperature signal.

However, other climatic factors may be indirectly involved. Biological processes within the tree are extremely complex (Fig. 10.4) and similar growth increments may result from quite different combinations of climatic conditions. Furthermore, climatic conditions prior to the growth period may "precondition" physiological processes within the tree and hence strongly influence subsequent growth (Fig. 10.5). For the same reason, tree growth and food production in one year may influence growth in the following year, and lead to a strong serial correlation or autocorrelation in the tree-ring record....

Wegman – para. 3

Wider rings are frequently produced during the early life of a tree. Thus the tree rings frequently contain a low frequency signal that is unrelated to climate or, at least, confounded with climatic effects such as temperature. In order to use tree rings as a temperature signal successfully, this low frequency component must be removed. This is typically done by a nonlinear parametric trend fit using a polynomial or modified exponential curve.

Because the early history of tree rings confounds climatic signal with low frequency specimen specific signal, tree rings are not usually effective for accurately determining low frequency, longer-term effects.

[Note: Wegman fails to distinguish here between individual sample and site chronology.]

Once there is reasonable confidence that the tree ring signal reflects a temperature signal, and then a calibration is performed using the derived tree ring data and instrumented temperature data. The assumption in this inference is that when tree ring structure observed during the instrumented period that is similar to tree ring structure observed in the past, both will have correspondingly similar temperature profiles. As pointed out earlier, many different sets of climatic conditions can and do yield similar tree ring profiles. Thus tree ring proxy data alone is not sufficient to determine past climate variables. See Bradley (1999) for a discussion of the fitting and calibration process for dendritic-based temperature reconstruction.

Bradley 10.2.3

...It is common for time series of ring widths to contain a low frequency component resulting entirely from the tree growth itself, with wider rings generally produced during the early life of the tree. In order that ring-width variations from different cores can be compared, it is first necessary to remove the growth function peculiar to that particular tree. Only then can a master chronology be constructed from multiple cores. Growth functions are removed by fitting a curve to the data and dividing each measured ring-width value by the "expected" value on the growth curve (Fig. 10.9). Commonly, a negative exponential function, or a lowpass digital filter is applied to the data. ...

... The resulting "regional curve" provided a target for deriving a mean growth function, which could be applied to all of the individual core segments regardless of length (Fig. 10.13). Averaging together the core segments, standardized in this way by the regional curve, produced the record shown in Fig. 10.12b. This has far more low frequency information than the record produced from individually standardized cores (Fig. 10.12~) and retains many of the characteristics seen in the original data (Fig. 10.12a).

10.2.4

Once a master chronology of standardized ring-width indices has been obtained, the next step is to develop a model relating variations in these indices to variations in climatic data. This process is known as calibration, whereby a statistical procedure is used to find the optimum solution for converting growth measurements into climatic estimates. If an equation can be developed that accurately describes instrumentally observed climatic variability in terms of tree growth over the same interval, then paleoclimatic reconstructions can be made using only the tree-ring data. In this section, a brief summary of the methods used in tree-ring calibration is given.

*The following is an example of source confusion:*¹⁰⁴

The comparison of texts shown above was kindly provided by Richard Littlemore:
<http://deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/wegman-bradley-tree-rings.pdf>

In addition, the following highlighted sections in the Wegman et al (2006) report are directly plagiarized, from R.S. Bradley's **Paleoclimatology** (Academic Press, 1999). (Note that much of the text which is *not* highlighted is also closely paraphrased from **Paleoclimatology**, without attribution).

+++++
Corals – The term “coral” refers to the biological order *Scleractinia*, which have hard calcium-based skeletons supporting softer tissues. An important subgroup for paleoclimate studies is the reef-building corals in which the coral polyp lives symbiotically with single-celled algae. These algae produce carbohydrates by means of photosynthesis and are affected by water depth, water turbidity, and cloudiness. Much of the carbohydrates diffuse away from the algae providing food to the coral polyp, which in turn provide a protective environment for the algae. Reef-building corals are strongly affected by temperature and, as temperature drops, the rate of calcification drops with lower temperature potentially presaging the death of the colony. Coral growth rates vary over a year and can be sectioned and x-rayed to reveal high- and low-density bands. High density layers are produced during times of higher sea surface temperatures. Thus not unlike tree rings, data on corals also can be calibrated to estimate (sea) surface temperatures.

Ice Cores – The accumulated past snowfall in the polar caps and ice sheets provide a very useful record for paleoclimate reconstruction. We shall refer to ice cores in this section even though strictly speaking there is a combination of snow and ice. Somewhat compressed old snow is called a firn. The transition from snow to firn to ice occurs as the weight of overlying material causes the snow crystals to compress, deform and recrystallize in more compact form. As firn is buried beneath subsequent snowfalls, density is increased as air spaces are compressed due to mechanical packing as well as plastic deformation. Interconnected air passages may then be sealed and appear as individual air bubbles. At this point the firn becomes ice. Paleoclimatic information derived from ice cores is obtained from four principal mechanisms: 1) analysis of stable isotopes of water and atmospheric oxygen; 2) analysis of other gases in the air bubbles in the ice; 3) analysis of dissolved and particulate matter in the firn and ice; and 4) analysis of other physical properties such as thickness of the firn and ice. The mechanism by which stable isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen carry a temperature signal is as follows. An oxygen atom can exist in three stable forms with atomic weights of 16, 17 or 18. Oxygen with an atomic weight of 16 makes up 99.76% of all oxygen atoms. Similarly, hydrogen can exist in two stable forms with atomic weights of one or two, the latter being called deuterium. Hydrogen with atomic weight of one comprises 99.984% of all hydrogen. Thus water molecules can exist in several heavy forms when compared with normal water, which is made up of two atomic-weight-1 hydrogen atoms and one atomic-weight-16 oxygen atom. The vapor pressure of normal water is higher than the heavier forms of water with evaporation resulting in a vapor that is relatively speaking poor in the heavier forms of water. Conversely, the remaining water will be enriched in water containing the heavier isotopes. When condensation occurs, the lower

vapor pressure of water containing the heavier isotopes will cause that water to condense more rapidly than normal water. The greater the fall in temperature, the more condensation will occur; hence, the water vapor will exhibit less heavy isotope concentration when compared to the original (sea) water. Thus the relative isotope concentrations in the condensate will be a direct indicator of the temperature at which condensation occurred.

In addition to the relative heavy/light isotope ratios, the trapped bubbles in ice cores provide a record of atmospheric concentrations of trace gases including greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. In addition the ice cores contain record of aerosols and dust content resulting from volcanic eruptions and other changes in particulate content in the atmosphere. The relative atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases as well as aerosol and particulate content coupled with other climate information gives insight into both the importance of these as drivers of temperature as well as how these drivers might couple in either a positive or negative feedback sense.

¹⁰⁴ The file mentioned above was part of Deep Climate’s first discovery of plagiarism in the Wegman Report, reported 09/22/09 at:
deepclimate.org/2009/12/22/wegman-and-rapp-on-tree-rings-a-divergence-problem-part-1/

The reference to Richard Littlemore likely arises from Bradley seeing:
www.desmogblog.com/plagiarism-conspiracies-felonies-breaking-out-wegman-file, an early version of:

www.desmogblog.com/crescendo-climategate-cacophony

Littlemore wrote short introductions to my long reports that integrated the DC Wegman Report discussions as parts into more extensive histories. They heavily cited Deep Climate’s work, but that distinction got lost in all this. Of course, plagiarism is obvious enough not to depend on the original discoveries.

The corals and ice cores discussion was likely inspired by DC’s 01/06/10 work, although in different format:

deepclimate.org/2010/01/06/wegman-and-rapp-on-proxies-a-divergence-problem-part-2/

deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/wegman-bradley-ice-cores-corals1.pdf

A.2.2 James S. Coleman (Rice VP Research) letter → Bradley



Office of Research

March 24, 2010

Dr. Raymond Bradley
Distinguished Professor and Director Climate Systems Research Center
Department of Geosciences
Morrill Science Center
611 North Pleasant Street
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01000-9297

Dear Dr. Bradley,

Your letter of March 5, 2010 to President David Leebron was received on March 15, 2010 and on that same date was referred by him to me in my role as Rice University's Research Integrity Officer. In that letter, you allege plagiarism of your text book titled "Paleoclimatology" by Rice University faculty member Dr. David Scott in relation to a report titled "Ad hoc Committee Report on the 'Hockey Stick' Global Climate Reconstruction" that was presented to a Subcommittee of the US House of Representatives' Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 17, 2006. Dr. Scott was a co-author on the report, with Dr. Edward Wegman of George Mason University (lead author) and Dr. Yasmin Said of Johns Hopkins University.

Rice University started an Inquiry into your allegations as outlined in the Rice Research Misconduct Policy [University Policy No. 324 00] (http://professor.rice.edu/professor/Research_Misconduct.asp) including examining your textbook and the report submitted by Drs. Wegman, Scott and Yasmin in order to confirm the information you sent along with your letter. The Inquiry also examined what role Dr. Scott had in preparing the document that was placed into the Congressional Record. During the Inquiry, persuasive evidence was obtained that one of the other authors, Dr. Edward J. Wegman, has taken full responsibility for preparing the allegedly plagiarized text described in the materials you sent to President Leebron. The evidence further indicates that Dr. Scott played no role in preparing or editing the sections that you suggested were allegedly plagiarized and had no knowledge of any such alleged plagiarism, although he was a co-author of the overall report. Therefore, pursuant to Rice University research misconduct policy, Rice University has determined that a formal investigation of the charge against Dr. Scott is not warranted at this time. We will, however, cooperate with research misconduct proceedings that may occur at George Mason University or Johns Hopkins University if asked to do so. Additionally, if we receive new evidence suggesting any misconduct by Dr. Scott with respect to the report in question, or other written materials, we may choose to open an Inquiry.

Page 2 of 2

Thank you very much for your letter. Rice University takes research misconduct seriously and appreciates the concerns you raised.

Sincerely,

James S. Coleman
Vice Provost for Research

Cc: D. Leebron
E. Levy

A.2.3 Roger R. Stough (GMU VP Research) letter → Bradley



Office of the Vice President
Research and Economic Development

April 8, 2010

Professor Raymond S. Bradley
Morrill Science Center
611, North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01003-9297

Dear Professor Bradley:

President Alan Merten sent me your letter in which you make a formal complaint of plagiarism by a member of the faculty at Mason. It was sent to me because I am the senior official responsible for processing complaints of this type.

I have initiated our policy for handling such matters. The process may have several stages and each of these take a fair amount of time unless the initial stage comes to an unequivocal conclusion. If the latter occurs I will be in touch with you on the outcome much sooner than if it goes through the full inquiry and investigation stages that of course involve forming peer working groups for completion.

I thank you for bringing this to our attention. I will communicate the outcome when the process runs its due course.

Sincerely,

Roger R. Stough
Vice President for Research & Economic Development

cc. Alan Merten, President

A.2.4 Bradley letter → Stough



UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS at Amherst
Morrill Science Center
611, North Pleasant Street
AMHERST, MA 01003-9297

DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES

Prof. Raymond S. Bradley

May 13th, 2010

Dr Roger R. Stough
Vice-President for Research & Economic Development
Office of the Vice-President
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MS 6D5
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Vice-President Stough,

Thank you for your letter of April 8th, in response to my formal complaint of plagiarism by Professor Edward Wegman, Bernard J. Dunn Professor of Information Technology and Applied Statistics. Please note that my address is “Dept of Geosciences, Morrill Science Center...etc” so that future correspondence will not be delayed.

I would like to draw your attention to further evidence that other sections of the Wegman Report also appear to have been plagiarized from Stanley Wasserman and Katherine Faust, **Social Network Analysis: Methods and Applications** (New York, Cambridge University Press, 1994): Section 1.3 – Fundamental Concepts in network analysis.

This was reported on the web site:
<http://deepclimate.org/2010/04/22/wegman-and-saids-social-network-sources-more-dubious-scholarship/>

I enclose a copy of their extensive analysis.

The reported plagiarism also points to a number of federal grants that may be implicated in this matter, which raises a whole set of additional oversight concerns of which you should be aware.

Let me state that I do not wish to perpetuate this matter unnecessarily or to have it vetted publicly if this can be avoided. I therefore would consider withdrawing my request for further action on this matter if Dr. Wegman would make a formal written request to Congressmen Waxman and Barton (Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, respectively) requesting that the report formally be withdrawn due to these technical errors which seriously compromise its credibility and value in the context of temperature reconstruction and paleoclimatology. I believe strongly that the report no longer should be part of our Nation’s Congressional Record without some explanation of these technical errors.

Thank you for taking this matter seriously, and I look forward to learning what action you will take.

Sincerely,

Raymond S. Bradley
Distinguished Professor
Director, Climate System Research Center

A.2.5 Bradley letter → Stough



UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS at Amherst
Morrill Science Center
611, North Pleasant Street
AMHERST, MA 01003-9297

DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES

Prof. Raymond S. Bradley

Tel:
Fax:

EMAIL

July 13th, 2010

Dr Roger R. Stough
Vice-President for Research & Economic Development
Office of the Vice-President
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MS 6D5
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Vice-President Stough,

On April 8th 2010, you responded to my formal complaint of plagiarism by Professor Edward Wegman, by saying that an inquiry had been initiated, but that this might involve several steps which could take some time. On May 13th, I sent additional information showing the plagiarism by Dr Wegman is more widespread than I had originally realized.

Can give me an update on where your inquiry now stands and what action you propose to take on this matter?

I appreciate that you are taking this matter seriously.

Sincerely,

Raymond S. Bradley
Distinguished Professor
Director, Climate System Research Center

“Their extensive analysis” references DC’s work.

A.2.6 Stough letter → Bradley



Office of the Vice President
Research and Economic Development

July 28, 2010

Raymond S. Bradley
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Morrill Science Center
611 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01003-9297

Dear Professor Bradley,

Thank you for your letter dated July 13, 2010 in which you ask for an update on Mason's inquiry into your formal complaint of plagiarism.

The committee was formed in April 2010. Its work has been slowed with the checkerboard summer absence of the faculty members constituting the inquiry committee from campus. I expect the committee to complete their work by the end of September, 2010.

Thank you again for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger R. Stough".

Roger R. Stough
Vice President for Research & Economic Development

A.2.7 Bradley email → Stough → John Fedor (Elsevier) → Bradley
For chronological order, read next two messages from ① to ⑦.

③ From: **Fedor, John** (ELS-BUR) <[FEDOR EMAIL](#)>
Date: Mon, Aug 16, 2010 at 7:17 PM
Subject: RE: Wegman, plagiarism & Elsevier
To: [STOUGH EMAIL](#), "raymond s. bradley" <[BRADLEY EMAIL](#)>
Hi Roger,
Thank you for confirming that a report will be submitted to Elsevier by the end of September. However, I will need updates prior to September 30 indicating that progress is being made with regard to a response directly from Edward Wegman regarding this issue. This is extremely important and I will continue to follow up with you until I have evidence that you and your team are looking into this matter. The unattributed use of Ray Bradley's content is obvious, and I will continue to reach out to you until we have an indication that you are taking this matter as seriously as Elsevier.

Best,
John

② -----Original Message-----
From: [STOUGH EMAIL](#) [mailto:[STOUGH EMAIL](#)]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 3:44 PM
To: raymond s. bradley
Cc: Fedor, John (ELS-BUR)
Subject: Re: Wegman, plagiarism & Elsevier

John, yes we plan to have a report on this matter by end of September.
Roger

① raymond s. bradley wrote:
> Dear Dr Stough,
> Please feel free to discuss this matter with John Fedor of Elsevier or
> any member of the Elsevier Legal Department.
> Sincerely
> Ray Bradley

A.2.8 Stough email → Fedor → Stough → Fedor → Bradley

7 From: **Fedor, John (ELS-BUR)** <[FEDOR EMAIL](#)>

Date: Tue, Aug 17, 2010 at 9:50 PM

Subject: FW: RE: RE: Wegman, plagiarism & Elsevier

To: "raymond s. bradley" <[BRADLEY EMAIL](#)>

Hi Ray,

FYI from Roger Stough. I told him I'd remain in contact until the matter is resolved.

Best,

John

6 -----Original Message-----

From: Roger Stough [mailto:[STOUGH EMAIL](#)]

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 9:29 PM

To: Fedor, John (ELS-BUR)

Subject: Re: RE: RE: Wegman, plagiarism & Elsevier

Our process involves initially a review by the Dean of the College of Science, the home of Dr. Wegman. The Deans review resulted in a call for an inquiry. Following that a committee was formed but it was not possible to get the very highly qualified team of three on the committee together even for an initial formative meeting due to end of semester congestion and the fact that at least one of the members was away from campus at all times until the end of this week. The initial meeting of the Inquiry meeting is being scheduled for early next week at which time the Committee will go to work on this matter. The committee has been asked to prepare a report on the inquiry with recommendations before the end of September and sooner if at all possible. So we are moving with dispatch at this point. Roger

=====

Newly published books

1. Acs/Stough (Eds.) Public Policy in an Entrepreneurial Economy (2008), Springer, Heidelberg, Germany.
2. Button/Stough Telecommunications, Transportation, and Location (2006), Edgar Elgar, MA, USA.
3. Rietveld/Stough (Eds.) Barriers to Sustainable Transport(2005), Spon Press, NY, NY.

5 ----- Original Message -----

From: "Fedor, John (ELS-BUR)" <[FEDOR EMAIL](#)>

Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 10:12 am

Subject: RE: RE: Wegman, plagiarism & Elsevier

> Thanks, Roger. As long as I have confirmation that progress is being
> made, that will suffice. I don't need direct contact with Dr.

> Wegman at
> this point.

>
> Best,

>
> John

>

4 > -----Original Message-----

> From: Roger Stough [mailto:[STOUGH EMAIL](#)]

> Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 8:46 PM

> To: Fedor, John (ELS-BUR)

> Subject: Re: RE: Wegman, plagiarism & Elsevier

>

> I will get back to you in a few days after discussing with Mason's
> legal department. The issue is that it will be difficult for us to
> complete our inquiry as prescribed by our policy if Dr. Wegman is
> having communication with you while the inquiry is in progress.

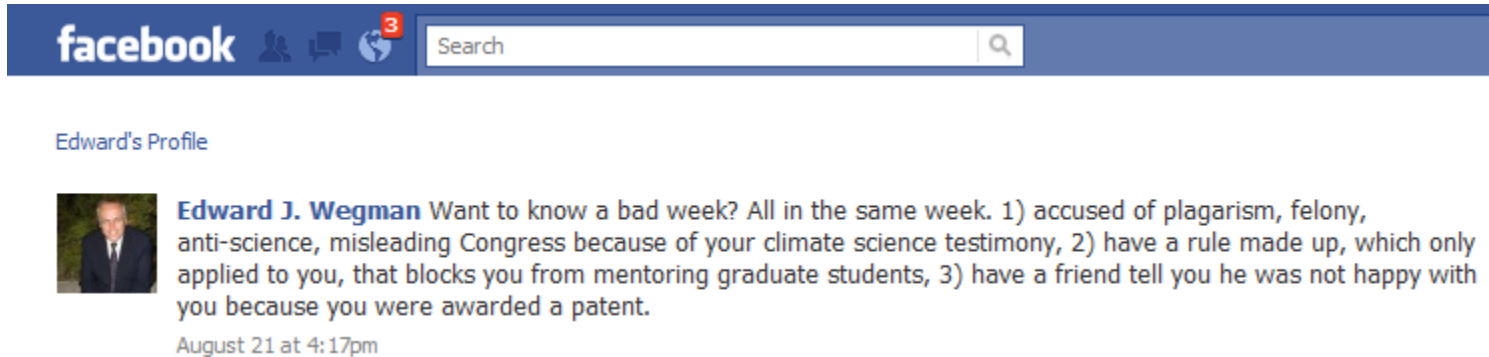
>

> Please advise if you want to talk directly with our legal department
> on this matter. Roger Stough

>

(Forwarded copy of the mail on A.2.7 has been deleted.)

A.2.9 Screenshot from Wegman's public Facebook page



This post was discovered in October.¹⁰⁵

It seems to contradict the 07/28/10 comment by GMU's Roger Stough that an inquiry Committee had been formed in April 2010. GMU Policy 4007 requires that the respondent be notified at that time:¹⁰⁶

“Initiation of inquiry The purpose of an inquiry is to conduct an initial review of the evidence to determine whether to recommend that an investigation be conducted. Within 14 days of receiving a determination that an inquiry is warranted (or as soon as possible if this time limit cannot be met), the Provost appoints an inquiry committee and a chair of that committee from among individuals who do not have real or apparent conflicts of interest in the case, are unbiased, and have the necessary expertise to evaluate the evidence and issues related to the allegation. **The Dean or Institute Director then makes a good faith effort to provide notice to the presumed respondent, if any.** This notice includes a statement of the allegation, a description of the inquiry process, the identities of the members of the inquiry committee, and all applicable university policies.

The respondent may challenge a member of the inquiry committee on the basis of conflict of interest or bias by submitting the challenge in writing to the Provost within five days of receiving the notification.”

¹⁰⁵ Thanks to Derecho64:

deepclimate.org/2010/10/08/wegman-under-investigation-by-george-mason-university/#comment-6005

¹⁰⁶ universitypolicy.gmu.edu/4007res.html

- 1) Plagiarism charges must arise from Bradley's complaint. The other comments likely derive from my March report that suggested such be investigated, as Bradley does not mention them.
- 2) It seems odd that GMU would take this action before an inquiry committee first meets, so this seems unrelated to Bradley's complaint.
- 3) The patent issue seems unrelated, so far.

Sometime between 08/16/10 and 08/23/10, some relevant files disappeared from a GMU server (www.galaxy.edu) and a reference to one was edited out of the Fall 2007 GMU seminar history Friday 08/20/10 at 6:56 AM.¹⁰⁷

IF GMU formed the committee in April, THEN EITHER:

- GMU did not notify Wegman
- OR
- GMU did notify Wegman, but he did not react strongly then.

IF GMU did not form the committee in April, THEN

- perhaps it was actually formed the week of August 16.

From outside GMU, it is of course impossible to know.

¹⁰⁷ This is discussed in detail in Appendix A.11 in:

deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report

A.2.10 Kunc email → Wegman → Kunc → Rapp → Vergano NEW

Rapp forwarded mail to Dan Vergano at USA Today and suggested spreading it around the Internet, despite Kunc disclaimers, so here it is.

④ From: Donald Rapp [[mailto: RAPP EMAIL](mailto:RAPP EMAIL)]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 12:40 PM
To: Vergano, Dan
Subject: FW: Question from Prof. Kunc

Dear Mr. Vergano:

The sonsofbitches perpetrating this phony allegation are so nasty that they actually sent an accusation to the University of Southern California in an attempt to discredit me there. There is a war on, and it has little to do with science. Professor Joe Kunc of USC wrote to Wegman and asked for his opinion. The correspondence is shown below.

You can do anything you want with this. Spread it over the Internet if you please.

In addition, I will send a write-up on this subject in a second email which you can spread that over the Internet as well.

Donald Rapp
www.spaceclimate.net

----- Forwarded Message

③ From: Joseph Kunc <KUNC EMAIL>
Date: Tue, 7 Sep 2010 08:59:20 -0700
To: Donald Rapp <RAPP EMAIL>
Subject: FW: Question from Prof. Kunc

Dear Don:

See below for a correspondence between me and Professor Wegman.

Best regards,
Joe

Joseph A. Kunc, PhD
Professor of Astronautics, Aerospace Engineering, Physics and Astronomy
University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA 90089-1192
<PHONE>
email: KUNC EMAIL <<mailto:KUNC EMAIL>>
web: astronautics.usc.edu <astronautics.usc.edu/>

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② Date: Tue, 7 Sep 2010 09:23:19 -0400
Subject: Re: Question from Prof. Kunc
From: [WEGMAN EMAIL \(NOT AT GMU\)](mailto:WEGMAN EMAIL (NOT AT GMU))
To: KUNC EMAIL

Dear Dr. Kunc,

The web blog deepclimate.org is, in my opinion, a totally unsavory operation. They have developed conspiracy theories and have consistently made charges of plagiarism not only against Dr. Rapp, but against me and my colleagues in our report to Congress. They have never spoken with me and have jumped to wild conclusions that have nothing to do with reality. Interestingly enough, they have posted copyrighted material from my website on theirs without acknowledgement. What is even worse is that they hide behind anonymity. It is my opinion that Dr. Rapp has not plagiarized anything and I hold him harmless. This web blog seems to have been developed in retaliation for the enquiries associated with the climategate email releases and the obvious misconduct made clear by those email releases.

Sincerely,
Ed Wegman

① On Mon, Sep 6, 2010 at 3:32 AM, Joseph Kunc <[KUNC EMAIL](#)> wrote:

Dear Professor Wegman:

Dr. Donald Rapp (formerly Professor of Physics at the University of Texas, and Chief Technologist of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory) had become (after his retirement from JPL) a Research Professor in my department. About the time of renewal of his appointment for the next term, an unknown person, seemingly associated with a Web Site called DeepClimate.org, has sent a letter to USC Administration charging Dr. Rapp with plagiarism in his book "Assessing Climate Change" published by Praxis/Springer. In the letter the person claimed that Dr. Rapp plagiarized your work. It seems to me and my colleagues that no plagiarism took place (even though Dr. Rapp cited verbatim some of your published statements without immediate acknowledgement) since Dr. Rapp extensively quoted from 150 authors with proper attribution, and indeed gave attribution to you in several places, with clearly no intent to use your material as his own (the book was a REVIEW of the existing research on climate change), and there was certainly no personal gain for him to plagiarize someone else work there.

It seems to me and my colleagues that plagiarism is when someone purposely uses the results of others, claiming to be the author or originator of the material, for personal gain. Therefore, we would like to ask the administration to take a closer look at the issue and clear the path for reappointment of Dr. Rapp in our department. It would help to elucidate the issue if we know your opinion on whether you feel that Dr. Rapp indeed plagiarized your work. I will keep such opinion strictly confidential (if you wish so) or I will allow the USC administration to know it (if you allow me to do so) in order to accelerate the renewal of Dr. Rapp appointment in my department.

Best regards,

Joseph A. Kunc, PhD

(Copy of earlier address/disclaimer deleted.)

(end of ①)

A.2.11 Rapp email → Fedor, Bradley **NEW**

① From: Donald Rapp <[RAPP EMAIL](#)>

Date: Wed, Sep 8, 2010 at 6:14 PM

Subject: Your ridiculous unfounded accusations

To: [FEDOR EMAIL](#)

Cc: [BRADLEY EMAIL](#)

Dear Mr. Fedor and Dr. Bradley:

You recently wrote to Praxis/Springer Publishing, the following message:

"Thanks to everyone for your prompt reply. I've copied author Ray Bradley and a couple of representatives from our Legal team on my reply. This is a bit of a complicated scenario. Dr. Edward Wegman (author of the Wegman Report) originally plagiarized from Bradley, and from what we can tell, some of that same content was then used by Rapp without attribution. The details can be found in the links below. Once you've had the opportunity to investigate this further, please let me know how best to proceed. We've yet to hear back from George Mason on the Wegman situation. I've had the misfortune of having to manage plagiarism throughout my career, but this is the first triangular instance. If Rapp did plagiarize, he did it from a report that isn't ours, but some of the content in that report is ours. Bit of a head scratcher."

My book: "Assessing Climate Change" published by Praxis/Springer contains 1,348 specific citations to references giving credit to authors for their work. It also includes 411 specific quotations by authors with their own words included in quote signs. In addition, my book provides the specific attributions to Dr. Wegman:

"A team led by Professor Edward J. Wegman performed an independent examination of the hockey stick controversy (Wegman, Scott, and Said, 2006). They produced a lengthy report, full of details. According to Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006):"

"Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006) performed a calculation..."

"Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006) went on to say..."

"Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006) performed a calculation..."

"The findings of Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006) are quite lengthy and only a very brief summary is given here."

"Adapted from Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006)."

"Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006) have suggested that the field..."

"Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006) also said...:"

"According to Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006)...:"

"A team led by Professor Edward J. Wegman performed an independent examination of the hockey stick controversy (Wegman, Scott, and Said, 2006). They produced a lengthy report, full of details. According to Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006):"

"Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006) have suggested that the field, temperature history of the Earth, is dominated by a cadre (cabal) that is vitally concerned about the potential impacts of global warming, and supports the hockey stick result, as well as the procedure used to derive it. Wegman, Scott, and Said (2006) said:"

It is possible that in a few places, I may have slipped up and used words from a paper and forgot to give attribution. Let's suppose I did this 10 times, or 20; that would be around 0.1% or 0.2%. That was not, is not and cannot be plagiarism.

I am warning you now that if you persist in spreading the idea that I committed plagiarism, I will sue you for all you are worth. If I ever find out who the asshole is who put this on deepclimate.org, I will sue his ass for all it is worth.

I also plan to contact Wegman in case he feels that he should sue Ray Bradley who is clearly at fault here.

By the way, this is what Wegman had to say in a recent email: "It is my opinion that Dr. Rapp has not plagiarized anything and I hold him harmless" and claims that these are "wild conclusions that have nothing to do with reality".

Donald Rapp
(end of ①)

A.2.12 Rapp email → Fedor, Bradley, 3 Springer/Praxis people **NEW**

① From: Donald Rapp <RAPP EMAIL>

Date: Sun, Sep 12, 2010 at 11:11 AM

Subject: Your ridiculous unfounded accusations

To: FEDOR EMAIL

Cc: BRADLEY EMAIL, "Witschel, Christian, Springer <EMAIL>," "Sterritt, Janet, Springer DE" <EMAIL>, Praxis Publishing <BOOKMAN EMAIL>

Dear Mr. Fedor:

Some additional information for you to consider:

[1] Some time ago, the deepclimate.org website came out with an article claiming that I had ghost-written the "Wegman Report". Soon after, about 80 entries appeared on their blog by donkeys braying in unison. About a few weeks later, after I wrote to them, they changed their story and now claimed that I had plagiarized the Wegman Report. That brought on another 80 entries on their blog by donkeys braying in unison. I wrote back pointing out the many times that I had given due credit to the Wegman Report in my book (see specifics below) but they refused to show that on their blog. Then, they claimed that my book was based on the "gray literature" implying that I did not utilize peer-reviewed references. I made a list of the references in my book (about 350) showing that 93% were for peer reviewed articles. (By the way, some of the best references, like the "Wegman Report", were from the gray literature). They refused to show this on their blog. I wrote back to deepclimate.org and called them "a bunch of assholes". After that, they went after me, sending accusations of plagiarism to USC and to my publisher Praxis/Springer.

[2] Back in 1998, a publication appeared:

Mann, Michael E.; Raymond S. Bradley; and Malcolm K. Hughes (1998), "Global-scale temperature patterns and climate forcing over the past six centuries," *Nature* 392, 779– 807. (Often referred to as "MBH98")

This was quickly followed by several extensions:

Mann, M. E.; R. S. Bradley; and M. K. Hughes (1999), “Northern Hemisphere temperatures during the past millennium: Inferences, uncertainties, and limitations,” *Geophys. Res. Letters* 26, 759–762.

Mann, Michael E.; R. S. Bradley; and M. K. Hughes (2004), “Corrigendum: Global-scale temperature patterns and climate forcing over the past six centuries,” *Nature* 430, 105.

Mann, Michael E.; and Philip D. Jones (2003), “Global surface temperatures over the past two millennia,” *Geophysical Research Letters* 30, 1820.

These publications, collectively, described the pattern of global temperatures over the past 2,000 years as hardly varying, with a rather sudden rise in the 20th century. This pattern was given the name “hockey stick” by the “climateaudit.org” website, and that term has been widely used by the anti-climategate community. The hockey stick has been one of the main pillars upon which the climategate-ists have built their claims that rising CO2 in the 20th century was primarily responsible for global warming.

Unfortunately, climateaudit.org and separately, a team led by Professor Ed Wegman, investigated the mathematical procedures used by MBH98 and concluded that they were invalid. They concluded that in fact, there was no hockey stick when the data are processed properly. This was a great blow to the climategate-ists and they fought back by preventing these results from being published and by attacking (in every way possible) those who disagreed with them.

In my book, *Assessing Climate Change*, I examined MBH98 and its successors, as well as the work of climateaudit.org and the team led by Professor Ed Wegman, and I sided with climateaudit.org and the team led by Professor Ed Wegman, which made me an enemy of deepclimate.org and the climategate-ists. Thus, they are intent on attacking Professor Wegman and me in on any pretext that they can find.

It is therefore no surprise that Ray Bradley is also bringing up charges against Wegman and myself, since we have criticized one his major claims

to fame. If Wegman and I are correct, the value of MBH98 would be greatly diminished and I suppose, it would be a blow to Bradley and his co-authors. But the way to resolve this is through technical arguments, not via personal attacks. If Bradley stands by MBH98, he should go through Wegman’s analysis and dispute it point by point, rather than ignoring Wegman’s technical points and making personal attacks on Wegman and me.

Donald Rapp

=====

(end of ①)
 (Deleted: forwarded copy of the entire email of A.2.11).

The comment

“Unfortunately, climateaudit.org and separately, a team led by Professor Ed Wegman, investigated the mathematical procedures”
*is simply wrong. Wegman’s team simply reran McIntyre’s code, which had incorrect statistics, and got the same wrong answers, then applied an amazing 1% cherry-pick for favorable data.*¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁸ deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style/

A.2.13 Rapp email →Shapiro, 3 Springer/Praxis, Kunc, Fedor NEW

⑤ Begin forwarded message:

From: Donald Rapp [mailto:RAPP EMAIL]

Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 2:02 PM

To: Daniel Shapiro

Cc: Witschel, Christian, Springer DE; Sterritt, Janet, Springer DE; Praxis Publishing; Joseph Kunc; Joseph Kunc; Fedor, John (ELS-BUR)

Subject: FW: Charges of Plagiarism by the Climategate Folks

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

This message from Ed Wegman shows that in addition to going after Wegman and myself, the climategate-ists also went after David Scott of Rice University who was a co-author of the Wegman Report. Rice University has already concluded that the charges against David Scott have no merit.

USC has two choices: continue this charade and play into the hands of the climategate-ists, or turn up the sensitivity on your bullshit detector and recognize it for what it is.

Donald Rapp

----- Forwarded Message

④ **From:** Edward Wegman <[WEGMAN EMAIL \(NOT AT GMU\)](mailto:WEGMAN EMAIL (NOT AT GMU))>

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2010 13:36:10 -0400

To: Donald Rapp <RAPP EMAIL>

Subject: Re: Charges of Plagiarism by the Climategate Folks

Dear Dr. Rapp,

Thank you for your recent email. It is at least some comfort to know that the zealots aren't targeting me alone. My Dean and Vice President for Research have asked my not to comment until the charges leveled against me have been resolved. However, the official definition of plagiarism involves copying the ideas or words of someone else and presenting them

as your own. Of course, in the so-called Wegman report, we make it clear that we were not trying to represent ourselves as the inventors of paleoclimate reconstruction via tree rings as Bradley implies. Indeed, we explicitly say that these materials were included so as to give the Congressional audience a balanced picture of the area. The deepclimate website is full of crackpot conspiracy theories. I avoid reading it in order to keep a semblance of normalcy. I believe the GMU inquiry will vindicate me and my co-authors. (Rice University has already concluded that the charges against David Scott have no merit.) In any case, I have been in touch with counsel and subsequent to the GMU resolution, perhaps we can meet and decide further actions. I do agree that this is a shabby attempt at a smear campaign that attempts to deflect scrutiny from the real misconduct revealed by the climategate emails.

All the best,
Ed Wegman

③ On Sun, Sep 12, 2010 at 10:26 AM, Donald Rapp <RAPP EMAIL> wrote:

Dear Professor Wegman:

You may be interested in this.

Some time ago, the deepclimate.org <deepclimate.org> website came out with an article claiming that I had ghost-written the “Wegman Report”. Soon after, about 80 entries appeared on their blog by donkeys braying in unison. About a few weeks later, after I wrote to them, they changed their story and now claimed that I had plagiarized the Wegman Report. That brought on another 80 entries on their blog by donkeys braying in unison. I wrote back pointing out the many times that I had given due credit to the Wegman Report in my book (see specifics below) but they refused to show that on their blog. Then, they claimed that my book was based on the “gray literature” implying that I did not utilize peer-reviewed references. I made a list of the references in my book (about 350) showing that 93% were for peer reviewed articles. (By the way, some of the best references, like your report, were from the gray literature). They refused to show this on their blog. I wrote back to deepclimate.org <deepclimate.org> and called them “a bunch of assholes”. After that, they went after me, sending accusations

of plagiarism to USC and to my publisher Praxis/Springer. Right now, USC wants to appoint me as Research Professor but the appointment is being held up by the accusation of plagiarism. The USC bureaucracy seems unable to fathom this situation properly. My publisher stands behind me all the way. You, also, have been very helpful.

You should note in the correspondence below that Ray Bradley of MIT (one of the infamous trio: Mann, Bradley and Hughes who published the first “hockey stick” and who is also a figure in “climategate”) is now accusing you of plagiarizing his book published by Elsevier (see red bold sentence below). I have already informed Ray Bradley and Elsevier to cease and desist claims that I committed plagiarism or I will bring suit against them (which I will do if necessary). If there is any way that I can assist you, I would be glad to do so.

With great respect, I remain,

Donald Rapp

=====
②----- Forwarded Message
From: Joseph Kunc <KUNC EMAIL>
Date: Sat, 11 Sep 2010 14:13:50 -0700
To: Donald Rapp <RAPP EMAIL <RAPP EMAIL> >
Subject: RE: Plagiarism in "Assessing Climate Change"

Excellent summary!

Best regards,

Joe
Joseph A. Kunc, PhD
Professor of Astronautics, Aerospace Engineering, Physics and Astronomy
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-1192
PHONE, email: <KUNC EMAIL>
web: astronautics.usc.edu <astronautics.usc.edu>

①Date: Sat, 11 Sep 2010 13:48:24 -0700
Subject: Re: Plagiarism in "Assessing Climate Change"
From: RAPP EMAIL <RAPP EMAIL>
To: SHAPIRO EMAIL
CC: KUNC EMAIL

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

I have several items to discuss with you:

- (1) The details of the accusation
(2) The process for preliminary inquiry
(3) The matter of “climategate”
(4) The charge of plagiarism made to my publisher
(5) The recognition of my work by USC Nobel Laureate George Olah
(6) The support of the USC faculty in astronautics
(7) Summary

I will go through these one by one.

(1) The details of the accusation

Appendix 2, Section A2.1 says “At the time of or before beginning the Preliminary Inquiry, the Dean or his or her designee will make a good faith effort to notify the subject of the allegations against them...”

In this connection, who is the Dean, and what is your role in this? Further, I interpret this to mean that the details of the allegation, including the name of the person bringing the charges, will be made known to me. I am waiting for someone at USC (the Dean or designee) to do this.

(2) *The Process for Preliminary Inquiry*

The first step in the process is for the Vice Provost for Research Advancement to determine whether the allegation “falls within the scope of this policy and is sufficiently credible and specific” that a Preliminary Inquiry is called for. Has the Vice Provost done this? Is USC aware that “the scope of this policy” covers a person claiming credit for another’s research, which clearly I did not do, because I claimed no credit for any research? If the Vice Provost thinks that a Preliminary Inquiry is called for, isn’t the first step to meet with me and discuss it with me (implied in Sec. A2.1)?

(3) *The Matter of “Climategate”*

Are you aware of the public release of emails between the clique of climatologists (mostly professors in top universities and research establishments) who have committed a wide range of violations of professional ethics in promulgating the CO2 theory of global warming while viciously attacking all those who think otherwise? These have been reported and discussed in several recent best selling books.

(4) *The charge of plagiarism made to my publisher*

As the saying goes, “you don’t have to be paranoid” to know they are out to get you”. The party who wrote to USC also wrote to my publisher Praxis/Springer Books with the same charge. It is now revealed that the person bringing the charge to my publisher is Ray Bradley, MIT, who now claims that I plagiarized Wegman, and Wegman plagiarized Bradley. Bradley is a well known participant in “climategate” whose name comes up in some of the released emails. My response to this charge by Bradley is shown below the double line at the bottom of this message. My publisher wrote back and said he is convinced the charge has no merit. Neither Bradley nor Elsevier have responded. It is evident that this is a smear campaign aimed at discrediting me because I don’t accept the CO2 theory.

(5) *The recognition of my work by USC Nobel Laureate George Olah*

Earlier this year, I was asked by USC Nobel Laureate George Olah to

present the Carl M. Franklin lecture at USC. See attached USC calendar for February 2010.

I was also invited to give a presentation at a NSF Workshop at USC by George Olah in 2008. See attached pdf for the meeting agenda with Olah’s name and mine on it.

(6) *The support of the USC faculty in astronautics*

The USC faculty in astronautics is aware of the charges of plagiarism and dismisses them, and still wants to bring me on board at USC.

(7) *Summary*

It is clear that the religious zealots for CO2 are on a campaign to smear and discredit all those who oppose their views – as revealed in “climategate”. Not only have they written to USC, but they have written to my publisher. They have one object and that is to attack me on any pretext. The people bringing charges against me have no claims that I stole their work. They found a dozen or so places where I inadvertently did not give credit, whereas in 1,348 cases I did give credit to other authors, and in 411 cases I actually quoted the work of others with due credit. This entire charge is nonsense when viewed in the proper context. Meanwhile, I have been highly recognized by USC. If the USC bureaucracy persists in giving credence to these charges described by Wegman as “wild conclusions that have nothing to do with reality” it is just wasting time and interfering with academic progress.

Donald Rapp

=====my email to Ray Bradley and Elsevier =====

(end of **1**)

(Deleted: another forwarded copy of the entire email of A.2.11).

=====
Following was attached, in support of (5) on previous

University of Southern California

USC College
OF LETTERS, ARTS SCIENCES

Department of Chemistry

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[Seminars by date](#) | [Seminars by division](#) | [Other events](#)

- (Website update) 38th John Stauffer Distinguished Lecture in the Sciences
Images of the event and awards list (including the two inaugural "Burg foundation Postdoctoral Award" and "The Robert Bau Prize") are available on the stauffer website
- **Seventh Annual Carl M. Franklin Lecture on Science and Society**
Dr. Donald Rapp
Senior Research Scientist (Emeritus) Nasa, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
"Energy and Climate Change"
Friday February 26, 2010
Refreshments: 3:30 p.m.
Lecture: 4:00 pm
Seeley G. Mudd 123
- **Frontiers in the Simulation of Macromolecules**
A symposium in honor of Prof. Arie Warshel on the occasion of his 70th birthday.
November 12-14, 2010.

A.2.14 Bradley email (not shown) → GMU → Bradley
Thomas Moncure is an Assistant Attorney General at GMU.

① Subject: Fwd: Re: Wegman, plagiarism & Elsevier

Date: Mon, 11 Oct 2010 15:24:45 -0400

From: Roger Stough <[STOUGH EMAIL](#)>

Subject: Re: Wegman, plagiarism & Elsevier

Sender: [STOUGH EMAIL](#)

To: "raymond s. bradley" <[BRADLEY EMAIL](#)>

Cc: Thomas M Moncure <[MONCURE EMAIL](#)>

Dear Dr. Bradley, our process has taken a bit longer than expected. So it will be a while yet (a few weeks I would guess) before we have completed the review of your plagerism allegation. Thanks, Roger

A.3 Wegman statements reported in the Press **NEW**

Footnotes are used for short comments, longer ones use ①, ②, etc and are gathered in A.3.5. The reader might compare with Wegman quotes in §3.

A.3.1 10/08/10 USA Today, Dan Vergano

“**University investigating prominent climate science critic**”¹⁰⁹

“GMU spokesman Daniel Walsch confirms that the university, located in Fairfax, Va., is now investigating allegations that the Wegman report was partly plagiarized and contains fabrications. ...

I'm very well aware of the report, but **I have been asked by the university not to comment until all the issues have been settled**,¹¹⁰ Wegman says, by phone. "Some litigation is underway." Walsch confirms that the university has asked Wegman not to comment. ...

"Dr. Wegman's status as an employee and faculty hasn't changed at all,"¹¹¹ says Walsch. Walsch clarified on Sunday that Bradley's complaint is under a formal investigation by the university, and has moved past a preliminary "inquiry" to a committee effort."¹¹²

A.3.2 11/22/10 USA Today, Dan Vergano

“**Experts claim 2006 climate report plagiarized**”¹¹³

““The matter is under investigation,” says GMU spokesman Dan Walsch by e-mail. In a phone interview, Wegman said he could not comment at the university's request. In an earlier e-mail Wegman sent to Joseph Kunc of the [University of Southern California](#), however, he called the plagiarism charges **"wild conclusions that have nothing to do with reality."** ①¹¹⁴ ...

¹⁰⁹ content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2010/10/wegman-plagiarism-investigation-/1

¹¹⁰ “Nothing” usually means “no comment.” Wegman had commented on Facebook, §2, 08/21/10 and to Kunc and Rapp, §3, then made further comments.

¹¹¹ This contradicts §2, 08/21/10, item 2, unless the drastic change of status (Wegman not allowed to mentor graduate students) had been undone by October.

¹¹² This is ambiguous and seems to contradict Stough, §2, 10/08/10.

¹¹³ www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2010-11-21-climate-report-questioned_N.htm

¹¹⁴ §3, 09/06/10. Wegman says he cannot comment, but meanwhile makes vague content-free assertions of this sort, rather than pointing at actual errors (which in fact I would be happy to correct) or arguing against the detailed analyses.

Lisa Miller, a spokeswoman for Barton, reiterated the congressman's support of the Wegman report on Monday, saying it "found significant statistical issues" with climate studies.¹¹⁵ ...

In a 2007 presentation at the university, report co-author Yasmin Said of GMU said that a Barton committee staffer, Peter Spencer, provided the background material for the report. **"Although Dr. Said's presentation seemed to imply that we were being coached by the Republicans by being given only their selected materials to look at, this was not true,"**¹¹⁶ ② Wegman said in response to a USA TODAY freedom-of-information act request.

In an updated response that he authorized on Monday, Wegman said, **"In fact, when we had our initial interview with Peter Spencer, he made it very clear that the Committee wanted our opinion as statisticians as to the correctness of the mathematics used to develop the Hockey Stick (the 1999 and 1998 papers), and he explicitly told us that they wanted the truth as we saw it."** ③

Wegman added, **"I will say that there is a lot of speculation and conspiracy theory in John Mashey's analysis which is simply not true..."** ①¹¹⁷ **These attacks are unprecedented in my 42 years as an academic and scholar.**¹¹⁸ **We are not the bad guys**¹¹⁹ and we have never intended that our Congressional testimony was intended to take intellectual credit for any aspect of paleoclimate reconstruction science or for any original research aspect of social network analysis."¹²⁰

The Wegman report called for improved "sharing of research materials, data and results" from scientists. But in response to a request for materials related to the report, GMU said it "does not have access to the information." Separately in that response, Wegman said his "email was downloaded to my notebook computer and was erased from the GMU mail server," and he would not disclose any report communications or materials because the **"work was done onsite,"**¹²¹ aside from one meeting with Spencer. “

¹¹⁵ deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style

¹¹⁶ This is a mis-statement, see the long discussion later.

¹¹⁷ Wegman makes another content-free comment.

¹¹⁸ And yet another.

¹¹⁹ “the bad guys”. Who are the bad guys?

¹²⁰ Unattributed near-verbatim copying is plagiarism, period..

¹²¹ What, exactly does this really mean?

A.3.3 11/23/10 USA Today, Dan Vergano

Many of these are just duplicates of earlier comments.

“Climate science critic responds to allegations”¹²²

The author of a report critical of climate scientists defended himself against plagiarism charges Tuesday, and **denied he was pressured by Republicans to tilt the report.** ③ Offered the chance to further respond to plagiarism allegations, reported Monday in USA TODAY, George Mason University statistician Edward Wegman said in an e-mail that “these attacks are unprecedented in my 42 years as an academic and scholar.”

“I will say that there is a lot of speculation and conspiracy theory in John Mashey’s analysis which is simply not true,” Wegman said.

“We are not the bad guys. ... We have never intended that our Congressional testimony was intended to take intellectual credit” for other scholars’ work.

But he denied that there was any attempt to tilt the influential climate report politically. ③ He said the committee “**wanted our opinion as to the correctness of the mathematics**” used in two climate studies.

“They wanted the truth as we saw it,” ③ Wegman said.’

A.3.4 11/23/10 USA Today, Dan Vergano

“Wegman report round-up”¹²³

“Wegman says that Said’s presentation description is “not true” ② and that Spencer only sent 11 scientific studies, two chapters of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports and a PowerPoint presentation by climate statistics critics Stephen McIntyre and economist Ross McKittrick of Canada’s University of Guelph. ② Wegman says that Energy committee staffers did not pressure the report authors to come to a particular outcome in the report. ③ By email, he said, “there is a lot of speculation and conspiracy theory in John Mashey’s analysis which is simply not true.” ① He added, “we have never intended that our Congressional testimony was intended to take intellectual credit for any aspect of paleoclimate reconstruction science or for any original research aspect of social network analysis.”

A.3.5 Combined commentary

① “Wild conclusions,” “speculation and conspiracy theory...”

Suppose a specific car and driver are observed at point A, and an hour later, are observed 120 miles away at point B.

What route did they take and did they break the speed limit?

- Perhaps maps show a direct superhighway and a route over winding 2-lane dirt roads. The latter is possible, just unlikely.
- Perhaps maps show two different Interstate roads of similar length. They look equally likely, but perhaps one had a traffic jam, so detailed analysis is required.
- But in either case, at least in most states, they averaged 120 MPH and the police at point B might be interested.
- The driver might claim that 120MPH was not breaking the speed limit, that they really did not start from A, that a passing helicopter airlifted them, that the ticket was unprecedented or that the police were speculating because they could not say exactly which route was taken. None of these would likely get much sympathy at point B.

SSWR¹²⁴ integrated a huge collection of facts and asked some specific questions as yet unanswered. This is typical of intelligence assessments or other investigations into activities designed to be hidden. People enumerate possible explanations and weigh evidence in support of each.

But often, every plausible explanation is troublesome, so merely dismissing such as speculation seems weak. SSWR alleged 35 pages of obvious plagiarism in the WR (10 from DC, 25 from me). As senior and lead author, Wegman was responsible overall, even if SSWR could not prove who wrote every word. Wegman has repeatedly denied the plagiarism allegations, both in private email and in public statements. Given the triviality of checking that, readers might assess the credibility of other statements. Of course, many people have claimed that the WR cannot contain plagiarism, through a variety of novel theories. The experts are on record in USA Today saying otherwise.

¹²² www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2010-11-22-plagiarism_N.htm

¹²³ content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2010/11/wegman-report-round-up/1

¹²⁴ deepclimate.org/2010/09/26/strange-scholarship-wegman-report/

② **Said's presentation had incorrect implications about Spencer.** DC's great detective work a year ago unearthed Said's inadvertently-informative presentation.¹²⁵ It disappeared during the week of 08/16 and was edited out of the GMU seminar record ~08/20, just before Wegman's "Bad week" post 08/21. Wegman's C.V. and Said's dissertation also disappeared. SSWR A.11.2 has an annotated copy, starting at p.91:¹²⁶

Slide 3:

"Dr. Edward Wegman was approached by Dr. Jerry Coffey ..."
 "After the initial contact, Dr. Wegman received materials and a visit from Congressional Staffer Peter Spencer."

Slide 5:

"**Peter Spencer began sending us a daunting amount of material for us to review over the next 9 months.**"

Slide 12:

"Reviewed some 127 technical papers related to paleoclimate reconstruction."

Slide 26:

Lower right, picture of Yasmin Said with Peter Spencer. (This is not evidence, just interesting.)

Wegman said above:

"Although Dr. Said's presentation seemed to imply that we were being coached by the Republicans by being given only their selected materials to look at, this was not true,"

Said never said that they were coached by being given **only** their selected materials, but the issue is why they were given **any** by Spencer. As Wegman mentioned later, one of those was a PowerPoint by McIntyre and McKitrick, sponsored by the George C. Marshall Institute (GMI).¹²⁷ SSWR W.8.9 offers much evidence that this (or some version thereof)¹²⁸

¹²⁵ deepclimate.org/2010/02/08/steve-mcintyre-and-ross-mckitrick-part-2-barton-wegman/

¹²⁶ deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/said-talksept7.pdf is copy of original.

¹²⁷ GMI has been doing climate anti-science for 20 years and its CEO was a long-time executive of the American Petroleum Institute.

¹²⁸ The WR's vague reference left doubt as to exact version of this file, although it strongly hinted that it was provided early, by 09/07/05. Identifying this as the PowerPoint version (not a PDF generated from it), is likely further evidence that

was the key document used to guide the WR, an absurd inclusion amidst peer-reviewed science literature.¹²⁹ SSWR shows that many WR references seem more likely to have been suggested by others, regardless of the transmittal route to Wegman's team. In any case, Spencer appears to have provided most of the papers the WR deemed Important.

SSWR A.2 gives examples of Wegman using very careful wording in testimony to avoid admitting to AGW. Wegman might have claimed something precise, such as "Spencer gave us a few documents, all others were found by our own research with no suggestions from anyone else," but he did not,¹³⁰ and in any case, that seems unlikely.

SSWR W.8 offers evidence that the Bibliography was mostly constructed by Said, and that much of it was unlikely to have been found by independent research, but was suggested to them by others. Regardless of who sent documents¹³¹ most may well have gone to Said, not to Wegman, who sometimes betrayed unfamiliarity with them. SSWR describes the various routes by which documents might have gotten into the WR. The only known facts were the list of references and Said's comments. Much circumstantial evidence indicates that originators might have been McIntyre, McKitrick or Washington thinktanks, either directly or indirectly through Spencer. SSWR is quite clear:

SSWR p.35, #8 says: "For each reference, who really suggested it?"

Spencer got it directly from McIntyre, McKitrick, or GMI's Mark Herlong, as the GMI website normally offers PDFs, not PPTs.

¹²⁹ P.10 of the PPT wrongly attributes a graph to IPCC(1995). A key quote (Deming) from this presentation (p.6 of the paper, p.12 of the PPT) is actually derived from 2005 in the *Journal of Scientific Exploration (JSE)*, which often covers UFOs, ESP, reincarnation, but even more interesting, dog astrology: rabett.blogspot.com/2010/11/journal-of-scientific-exploration-is.html

In that key PPT, the quote is labeled as coming from the prestigious *Science*. The WR thus depends heavily on a document with several **falsified** references, unless McIntyre and McKitrick can claim they were just incompetent errors. Oddly, *JSE* was correctly cited in the version of this talk given by McKitrick a few weeks earlier (McK05). But *JSE* then turned into *Science*.

¹³⁰ SSWR W.8 spends ~20 pages to discuss the evidence.

¹³¹ Or suggestions. Does suggesting a reference count as "sending it?" Maybe not. If a suggestion came only to Said, does that count?

Many people would like to learn who selected and approved Valentine(1987), about ozone, in MAGNETS, a fringe-tech journal, by a tabloid writer for The National Tattler. He wrote about fuel-less engines and psychic surgery, and later went on to run a radio talk show famed for conspiracy theories, especially “black helicopters.”

If Wegman wants to discuss conspiracy theories, he might first explain why Congress needed a reference like this.

③ Lack of political pressure. SSWR agreed!

Barton and Whitfield surely wanted someone whose view of the truth matched their own. It would have been very tricky to have picked someone who needed to be pressured later and might say so.¹³²

See SSWR §3.1, especially Activities 10-14, p.31, summarized as:

- “Find a senior statistician who might be willing to do this and able to recruit at least a semblance of a team. ...
- But avoid any with a history of outspoken climate anti-science views, as they would lack credibility, ...
- Do not ask anyone who might say “no” and talk about it.
- Find someone sympathetic or at least persuadable and sound them out personally, not through a normal NRC-like selection process.”

Reps. Barton and Whitfield rejected a standard National Research Council panel. A month later, Jerry Coffey approached (old friend) Wegman. Shortly after Wegman agreed, Spencer was in contact. This effort was clearly initiated by Barton/Whitfield and via some route used Coffey as the intermediary. Coffey had strong views on politics¹³³ and Anthropogenic Global Warming:

“I guess the best evidence of that is the **Gore global warming boondoggle** (in the early 1980s I was the reviewer for the US climate change program).”¹³⁴
 “My favorite short read on global warming is Lawrence Solomon’s “The Deniers.” **I particularly enjoyed the chapter on Ed Wegman since I had a ringside seat when Ed’s analysis got started.** Others books you might enjoy

¹³² Spokespeople for anti-science efforts rarely need to be pressured, but rather are selected to provide the “right” truth.

¹³³ www.rpvnetwork.org/profile/DrJerryLCoffey He is of course free to espouse politics of his choice, in this case Tea Party Patriots are featured.

¹³⁴ www.personalliberty.com/news/study-suggests-gun-possession-may-not-protect-against-assault-19409715/#comment-40161

are the last couple by Patrick Michaels; Fred Singer and Dennis Avery on the 1500 year cycle; and Spencer’s latest. ... But there may still be hope. My money (if I had any) would be on the latest iteration of the Svensmark Galactic Cosmic Ray theory and the CLOUD experiment at CERN.”¹³⁵

Would Barton would have sent Spencer to Wegman, if Coffey had reported that Wegman was doubtful? Might Spencer have later said that Barton wanted the truth? Far more relevant would be the Wegman/Coffey notes.

Wegman has continued to deny the simple plagiarism charges.

As when avoiding AGW (SSWR A.2), Wegman has used careful wording, except when making vague charges of speculation and conspiracy theory. Wegman has also said that his long-time co-author was wrong. Perhaps so, but if Said indeed assembled most of the Bibliography, *one would expect her to know the details.* Her comments were rather precise in labeling Spencer as the source for a “daunting amount of material” and specifying review of “127 technical papers.”

Summary:

- ① **“Wild conclusions,” “speculation and conspiracy theory...”**
 Explicit refutations would be more useful than vague pejoratives. SWSR offers many facts and weighs alternative explanations.
- ② **Said’s presentation had incorrect implications about Spencer.**
 No one claimed Spencer supplied all references, but even those mentioned by Wegman create a real problem for “independence.” Wegman has yet to address the issues raised by SSWR about the origins of the strange Bibliography.
- ③ **Lack of political pressure. SSWR agreed!**
 Barton and Whitfield apparently used an odd route to find someone whose idea of truth agreed with theirs, a good strategy. Why would pressure be needed to get the “right” answers?

Update History

V1.0 12/13/10 SIGMU, Original release.

V2.0 01/04/11 SIGMU2, adds Kunc/Rapp/Wegman emails and Wegman notes.

¹³⁵ www.personalliberty.com/news/study-suggests-gun-possession-may-not-protect-against-assault-19409715/#comment-40314