

To
The Chairman,
Division of Biological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560012

Sub: The evaluation of Mr. N. Janardhanan Pillai of the Center for Ecological Sciences

Dear Sir

This unusual step of writing to you has become necessary because of the telephonic conversation between Prof. R. Gadagkar, Chairman, Center for Ecological Sciences and myself today morning.

As you are aware, the evaluation of Mr. Pillai is scheduled to be held on the 15th december.

The relevant meeting of the Committee of Professors of CES to discuss Mr. Pillai's evaluation was held many months ago. During the meeting, the chairman suddenly revealed that this issue had come up once earlier in a COP meeting (I was not a COP member then), and that a recommendation was sent to the effect that Mr. Pillai's promotion be withheld for two years. However, the chairman also mentioned during the meeting that such a negative recommendation will have not effect, and that Mr. Pillai's evaluation will be effective from the the original date.

However, today morning the Chairman suddenly rang me up and said that there is no time to hold any meeting and that he would like to discuss an urgent matter over the phone.

He said that he has suddenly discovered that the earlier negative recommendation will have a lot of impact any way. He also said that it would not be possible to withdraw that letter, and that the only thing that he can do is to recommend that the two years delay can be reduced as much as possible.

In my opinion, this delay should be reduced to zero. I feel that serious matters which deal with careers of junior colleagues should not be handled in such a cavalier manner, and I would like to express my strong dissatisfaction in writing on the handling of this issue.

During today's telephonic conversation with the chairman, I said that I agree to the recommendation that the evaluation of Mr. Pillai from the earliest possible date.

It is not clear as to whether there are any written rules which unequivocally define what the 'earliest date' can be in the present circumstances. It is therefore extremely likely that the CES Chairman's subjective decision will be palmed off as the unanimous recommendation of the CES COP. To guard against this eventuality, I would like to categorically express my opinion in this matter in writing, that I do not agree to imposing any penalty in way of delayed promotion to Mr. Pillai.

Thanking you and with best regards

Yours faithfully

N.V. Joshi
Associate Professor
Center for Ecological Sciences