

3/8/88

To: University of Arizona Faculty Senate

From: Connelius Steelink and William Bickel

This is in reference to the Tien Wei Yang matter brought up by Senator Goetinck on November 2, 1987. The responses to Dr. Goetinck's inquiry by Dr. Rehm and Dr. Hetrick did not satisfy a number of faculty members.

It is the continuing feeling on the part of many faculty that the Yang matter should be resolved openly by the faculty in an academic setting. Whatever the justification for continuing to deny Yang a hearing by the Administration, here are three outstanding facts in support of offering him a hearing:

1. Dr. Yang dropped his lawsuit in the State court in early 1982 in exchange for a promised hearing. But the administration and the Board of Regents chose not to give Dr. Yang a hearing that was due him after accepting his proposed withdrawal of the litigation.

2. Former Liberal Arts dean, Hermann Bleibtreu, told the regents at a meeting in Tempe on December 13, 1985, that he had approved Dr. Yang's termination from the Department of Biological Sciences based on what he now believed to be false information.

3. Former Superior Court Judge William Druke, the duly appointed fact-finder of the regents, recommended to the Board on March 21, 1986, that Dr. Yang be given a hearing, either by a panel or in the court.

In view of these facts the reasonable question is simply this: what harm will the University of Arizona sustain if Dr. Yang is finally given an impartial hearing, thereby putting to rest a long and bitter controversy that has cast serious doubt over the credibility and integrity of two university administrations and divided the university community for the past 15 years?