



Rodney A. Erickson
Executive Vice President and Provost of the University

The Pennsylvania State University
201 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802-1589

814-865-2505
Fax: 814-863-8583
rae@psu.edu

August 29, 2008

Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet Jeria
President of the Republic of Chile
Palacio de al Moneda
Santiago, Chile

Your Excellency:

I write to you in my capacity as Executive Vice President and Provost of The Pennsylvania State University respectfully requesting your assistance in investigating the 1985 disappearance of Penn State mathematician, Dr. Boris Weisfeiler.

Dr. Weisfeiler was a highly regarded professor at Penn State from 1976 until he disappeared in 1985 while hiking in southern Chile near the interrogation and torture center known as Colonia Dignidad. Initial reports that he drowned while hiking were later contradicted by information that he may have been abducted by General Pinochet's security forces.

I encourage you to use your good offices to press forward with the investigation and to open the military records that may contain information on the fate of Dr. Weisfeiler. Further, I ask that you urge the cooperation of the Chilean military with the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation in the search for answers.

I was pleased to see recent efforts to investigate human rights violations during the Pinochet era, but the lack of information about Dr. Weisfeiler's case has continued to cause pain to his family and to his colleagues and former students at Penn State who have never forgotten his energy and inspiration. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rodney A. Erickson

cc: Ambassador Mariano Fernandez
The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Richard DiEugenio