

Binghamton University

State University of New York

**Faculty Senate Office
PO Box 6000
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000
607-777-2283, FAX: 607-777-4251**

23 October 2008

Esteemed Chairperson of the Kazakhstan Court,

I am writing in support of Professor Victor Arcady Skormin who is being held for trial in your court. Professor Skormin has been a valued member of our faculty since 1986. During the last 22 years, he has contributed greatly to our University's teaching and research mission. His contributions in these areas have led to him being named a Distinguished Professor. This is a rare honor at our University. The title of Distinguished Professor is granted only by the Board of Trustees of the entire State University system. It is above the rank of professor and is conferred only on individuals who have achieved national or international prominence in their field.

Our university is committed to a program for increasing international understanding through student exchange programs, faculty exchange programs, and collaborative research between our faculty and the faculty at other universities around the world. Professor Skormin has been a very important part of our program for internationalization. In particular, he has set up important exchange programs with the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Kazakhstan. These programs have provided opportunities for scientific lectures from visiting university faculty, for undergraduate and graduate student exchange programs, and for cooperative research opportunities between the State University of New York and Universities in these countries. Professor Skormin is an extremely active researcher in the area of motion control, high-performance lasers, and computer networking. He has pursued many of these new engineering and technologically advanced research projects as cooperative programs for the benefit of both the US and our international research partners in

the Czech republic, Russia, and Kazakhstan. Since the end of the “cold war” Professor Skormin has been an international leader in promoting cooperative research between our country and countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

I am writing as the leader the University Faculty Senate. We in the Senate value Professor Skormin as a colleague and we all wish his speedy return to this University so that he can continue his teaching and research. Professor Skormin has an exemplary record for honesty, fairness, and respectable behavior. His faculty colleagues and I are convinced that any violations of your export rules or laws by Professor Skormin must have been inadvertent. Knowing him as a valued colleague for the last 22 years, we cannot believe that he would deliberately attempt anything that was illegal or unethical. Professor Skormin’s recent visit to Kazakhstan was done with the full knowledge of our University and was done as part of his efforts to further the goals of our University’s international cooperation programs. In view of Professor Skormin’s fragile health, we hope that these legal matters can be resolved to everyone’s satisfaction as quickly as possible.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. H. Richard Naslund
Chairman of the Faculty Senate
State University of New York
at Binghamton

c. Barbara Westbrook Scarlett, Campus Attorney