

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA
College of Engineering

Office of the Dean

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September 28, 1992

Dr. Vagarshak Vardanyan
American University of Armenia
40 Marshall Bagramian Street
Yerevan 375019
Armenia

engineering

Dear Vagarshak,

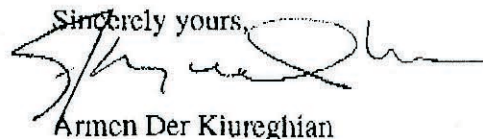
I have heard from Mihran and Alex Kaloian that everything is going well with the courses at AUA. I also know that you and Edward Khuchian have met with Mihran and discussed the research that his group, you and several AUA students are conducting on seismic resistance of Armenian buildings. I greatly appreciate your efforts.

As you might have heard from Mihran, the establishment of the Engineering Research Center will be formally discussed and most probably approved at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University, which is scheduled for October 12. In practice, the Center was established last summer, but the action by the Board will give it formal recognition. There are eleven different projects that I initiated last summer (see the attached list) and another project started by Professor Feinstein after my departure, which deals with the economics of small scale energy generation. Noone has the list of participants in each project as well as their telephone numbers and addresses. She and/or Mnatsakan have copies of appointment letters or contracts that I have signed for each project.

Subject to the approval of the Center by the Board, I would like to ask you to serve as the Acting Director of the Center for the duration of your stay in Armenia. Your job essentially would be to coordinate and oversee the activities of the Center, make sure that the work on each project is proceeding well, and help remove any impediments that may exist in successful conduct of the research. For example, I believe regular research seminars (informal and for small group of specialists) are a good way to stimulate discussion of ideas, and your job would be to organize and oversee such seminars. Such seminars would also provide the means to evaluate the work done. If you agree, I would like to receive periodic reports from you describing the activities of the Center and your assessment of the progress that is being made. I would rely on your recommendation to continue existing projects or to start new ones.

Please let me know if you are willing to serve the University in this capacity in addition to your teaching duties. Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely yours,



Armen Der Kiureghian
Dean

cc: Mihran S. Agbabian