



January 10, 2007

Computer Science members,
Brazilian Research Council

Dear Council Member,

I humbly wish to express my support for the reconsideration of renewing the research grant of **Professor Ruy J. G. B. de Queiroz** of the Centro de Informatica at the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE) in Recife.

I wish to argue that when considering the academic achievements of Prof. de Queiroz one should also take into account the impact of the successful series of workshops chaired and organized by him. This achievement is rather hard to quantify, at least when compared to automated measures such as various citation indices, yet its weight in estimating the scientific impact of Prof. de Queiroz is nonetheless important.

My direct acquaintance with **Prof. de Queiroz** was made while attending one of the workshops on Logic, Language, Information and Computation (WoLLIC), chaired by **Prof. de Queiroz**. I had the honor and pleasure of being an invited speaker at this conference in summer 2006 and wish to express my positive opinion on it.

WoLLIC is an international workshop of very high quality that covers several related areas in Logic, Linguistics, Computer Science and Mathematics. It is a unique workshop in several important aspects listed below.

- WoLLIC is an interdisciplinary workshop that fosters interaction between researchers and students in several related fields that usually don't meet at "standard" conferences. For instance, my field of expertise is computational and propositional complexity, a subfield of Theoretical Computer Science. Yet, I greatly enjoyed several invited and contributed talks on diverse subjects of Linguistics, Model Theory and computer assisted proofs.
- The atmosphere at WoLLIC is intimate enough to facilitate small group discussions and initiate true interdisciplinary cooperation. This is due in large part to the wise insistence of the organizers on keeping the workshop small enough (in terms of accepted papers and participants) and on careful selection of the invited speakers. Once again, my personal experience has been that having learned of interesting results in different fields that are nonetheless related to my area of expertise I am considering future collaboration with researchers I met at WoLLIC.
- The typical location of the workshop in Brazil allows cross-flow of ideas and research between Brazil and other places in the world. This has great benefits not only for Brazilian researchers and students that can easily get



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to hear about cutting-edge research from top-notch researchers, but even to a greater extent exposes invited and contributed speakers from outside the country to the excellent research currently being conducted in Brazil.

Such a unique and positive workshop does not spring out of thin air. It is the product of the wisdom and leadership of its primary organizers. In this respect **Professor de Queiroz's** influence cannot be overestimated. Under his quiet, polite, yet highly effective tenure WoLLIC has steadily drawn professional attention from all over the world. It is an honorable venue for renowned researchers to present their work — among them Turing Award recipient **Amir Pnueli** — and has become one of the best interdisciplinary workshops in the world in the intersection of Logic and Computer Science.

Sincerely,

Eli Ben-Sasson
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