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BOSTON (Reuter) - After a bizarre secret probe, Havard Medical School has decided against censuring a tenured professor who believes that extraterrestrial beings have visited this planet and abducted earthlings.

Dr. John Mack, a psychiatrist and nationally known UFO researcher, was told last week by the dean of Harvard Medical School that a review of his activities had ended and no action would be taken against him.

Harvard Medical School dean Daniel Tosteson had ``reaffirmed Dr. Mack's academic freedom to study what he wishes and to state his opinions without impediment,`` the university said in a statement issued Thursday.

Mack, who has publically stated that aliens from outer space have ``invaded our physical reality and (are) affecting the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people,`` had been under investigation by a peer committee convened by Tosteson.

The review, a highly unusual probe of activities of a tenured professor conducted behind closed doors, was sharply criticized by some academics at the university as an assault on academic freedom.

Mack, who won a Pulitzer Prize for a biography of T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) and has taught at Harvard for more than three decades, was not available for comment.

Last year he burst into the limelight with the publication of his book ``Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens,`` which drew sharp attacks from the media and prompted headlines like ``E.T. Call Harvard.`` Despite the adverse publicity, Harvard's investigation of Mack deeply divided the academic community, with many arguing that the probe was a violation of the academic freedom that tenure is supposed to protect.

Others contended that the review was a legitimate attempt to establish whether Mack was conducting his research in accordance with Harvard's standards, or whether he was exploiting his patients.

Harvard Medical School said Tosteson ``has urged Dr. Mack that, in his enthusiasm to care for and study this group of individuals, he should be careful not, in any way, to violate the high standards for the conduct of clinical practice and clinical investigation that have been the hallmark of this faculty.''

Arnold Relman, chairman of the review committee, said the university had never intended to revoke Mack's tenure.

``Harvard University isn't going to take action against someone who takes unorthodox views and with whom it may disagree,'' the Boston Globe quoted Relman as saying. ``John Mack may win the Nobel Prize and go down in history as the modern Galileo.''

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August 15, 1995

Karen Wesolowski
PEER
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Dear Karen:

Joelle's away on vacation this week but asked me to me fax the following two pages to you in her absence.

I hope your summer is going well; I'm glad to hear the good news about Dr. Mack.

Best,

Leigh Ann Sackrider

