

United States Senate

January 2, 2018

Greg Fenves
President
The University of Texas at Austin
110 Inner Campus Drive
Austin, TX 78712

CC:

William H. McRaven
Chancellor
The University of Texas System
210 West 7th Street
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Sarah Martinez Tucker
Chairman of the Board of Regents
The University of Texas System
210 West 7th Street
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Dear President Fenves,

I write regarding indications that the China Public Policy Center (hereafter referred to as “the Center”) at the University of Texas-Austin is considering a partnership with the China-U.S. Exchange Foundation (CUSEF). I am deeply concerned that collaborating with CUSEF, given its affiliation with the People’s Republic of China’s (PRC) united front system and its registration as an agent of a foreign principal, would disseminate PRC propaganda within the Center and compromise its credibility.

Operating as a pseudo-philanthropic foundation, CUSEF’s ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are an issue of grave concern. Founder and Chairman Tung Chee-hwa currently serves as the vice chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), an organization which works closely with the united front, the structure the CCP utilizes to manage foreign influence operations.¹ Under the direction of Xi Jinping, the PRC and the CCP have initiated information operations throughout the entire world, most recently in Australia, Latin America, and the United States.^{2, 3, 4}

¹ Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian, “This Beijing-Linked Billionaire Is Funding Policy Research at Washington’s Most Influential Institutions,” *Foreign Policy*, November 28, 2017, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/11/28/this-beijing-linked-billionaire-is-funding-policy-research-at-washingtons-most-influential-institutions-china-dc/>.

² Joshua Kurlantzick, “Australia, New Zealand Face China’s Influence,” *Council on Foreign Relations*, December 13, 2017, <https://www.cfr.org/expert-brief/australia-new-zealand-face-chinas-influence>.

³ Juan Pablo Cardenal, Jacek Kucharczyk, Grigorij Meseznikov, Gabriela Pleschova, “Sharp Power: Rising Authoritarian Influence,” Chapter 1: China in Latin America, *National Endowment for Democracy*, December 2017, <https://www.ned.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Chapter1-Sharp-Power-Rising-Authoritarian-Influence-China-Latin-America.pdf>.

⁴ U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, “2017 Annual Report,” pp. 452-505, https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/Annual_Report/Chapters/Chapter%203%2C%20Section%205%20-%20China%27s%20Domestic%20Information%20Controls%2C%20Global%20Media%20Influence%2C%20and%20Cyber%20Diplomacy_0.pdf.

The PRC aims to gradually establish influence in policy debates abroad by shaping Americans' perception of China. According to Peter Mattis of the Jamestown Foundation, CCP agents "focus on relationships – and not on the relationships having specific takeaway value, but that someday, some way, those relationships might become valuable" to add a countering voice in the China debate.⁵ This voice will not directly come from China, but from Americans who unwittingly promote CCP ideology. President Xi insidiously describes the united front and this tactic as the Party's "magic weapon" in foreign influence operations. This insidious influence dates back to the CCP's revolutionary war in the 20th century, where Mao Zedong exhorted his comrades to "unite with real friends in order to attack real enemies." Today, CUSEF and the united front are the external face of the CCP's internal authoritarianism, manifested in systematic human rights violations, such as harvesting organs of religious minorities, intimidating and imprisoning authors and artists, and effectively murdering Nobel Peace Prize laureates.^{6, 7, 8, 9}

Given reports that the Center is considering a partnership with CUSEF, an affiliate of the PRC, I express concern over the potential for Chinese governmental access to UT-Austin's education system, which may lead to undue foreign influence and exploitation.

I was deeply moved this past June when Dr. Joseph Herman of The UT System's MD Anderson Cancer Center visited Liu Xiaobo days before his death.¹⁰ Moreover, I am truly grateful for your steadfast commitment to building up a new generation of leaders through rigorous criteria in education and research. Improving the lives of all Texans remains our shared goal, one that I hope we can always work together to promote. I appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz
United States Senator

⁵ *Foreign Policy*.

⁶ Hu Wei, "Investigators: China Still Harvesting Human Organs on Huge Scale," *VOA*, June 24, 2016, <https://www.voanews.com/a/china-falun-gong-harvesting-human-organs-huge-scale/3390235.html>.

⁷ Natasha Khan, "'Freed' Hong Kong Bookseller Is Still Missing, Daughter Says," *The Wall Street Journal*, October 24, 2017, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/freed-hong-kong-bookseller-is-still-missing-daughter-says-1508865451>.

⁸ "'Disappeared' Beijing Artist Who Made Video of Migrant Protests Released on Bail," *Radio Free Asia*, December 18, 2017, <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/artist-12182017112339.html>.

⁹ Ted Cruz, "After Liu Xiaobo's Death, Let's Work to Protect His Widow in Communist China," *National Review Online*, July 14, 2017, <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/449524/liu-xiaobo-liu-xia-his-widow-deserves-worlds-watchful-support>.

¹⁰ "Recommendation for the further treatment of Chinese Nobel Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo," MD Anderson News Release, July 9, 2017, <https://www.mdanderson.org/newsroom/2017/07/recommendation-for-the-further-treatment-of-chinese-nobel-prize-.html>.