

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Gregory L. Fenves

110 Inner Campus Drive

Austin, Texas 78712

512-471-1232 | [president@utexas.edu](mailto:president@utexas.edu)

January 12, 2018

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Senator  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your January 2 letter regarding the potential funding for the China Public Policy Center at The University of Texas at Austin from the China-United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF). I appreciate the Texas congressional delegation's interest in and support for UT Austin and am always available to address any questions about our academic and research endeavors.

In your correspondence, you raised several concerns. I share those concerns and have been reviewing them since the center and the LBJ School for Public Affairs first approached me about potential funding from CUSEF. In the past two months, I have spoken with U.S. intelligence officials, talked with faculty experts on U.S.-China relations and American national security, and read the media coverage and policy research reports about CUSEF.

Based on that review, I had decided prior to receiving your letter that the university will not accept programmatic funding from CUSEF. Neither will we accept any funds for travel, student exchanges or other initiatives from the organization.

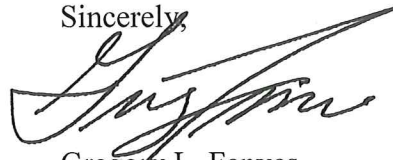
The university and its faculty regularly receive funding from organizations, foundations and corporations for research and scholarship in the sciences, arts and humanities as well as global studies. External support is vital to the work of faculty members and researchers, furthers our mission as a flagship university and underwrites studies that can advance our knowledge and understanding of the world. We must, however, also ensure that the receipt of outside funding does not create potential conflicts of interest or place limits on academic freedom and the robust exchange of ideas. I am concerned about this if we were to accept funding from CUSEF.

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UT Austin will continue to pursue other sources of support, both domestically and internationally, for the China Public Policy Center so it can contribute to the important study of China-related policy issues while better understanding U.S.-China relations and Texas-China relations.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory L. Fenves". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "F".

Gregory L. Fenves  
President