Dear President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I write to express my concern regarding the Confucius Institute on your campus.

Confucius Institutes are funded by the Chinese government and serve as outposts of China’s overseas propaganda. They threaten the integrity of the American educational system, serve the interests of a foreign authoritarian government, undermine academic freedom, and may compromise American national security. I urge you to close the Confucius Institute and protect the university from future contracts with authoritarian governments.

Increasingly, colleges are universities are choosing to part ways with their Confucius Institutes. Nearly three dozen American universities have already [made the decision to close their Confucius Institutes](https://www.nas.org/storage/app/media/Reports/Outsourced%20to%20China/confucius-institutes-that-closed-updated-june-3-2019.pdf)—twenty of them in just the last two years.

Meanwhile, the federal government is scrutinizing Confucius Institutes. In 2018 the National Defense Authorization Act barred Department of Defense from Chinese language programs at universities with Confucius Institutes.

In 2019, the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations [released a report](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/PSI%20Report%20China's%20Impact%20on%20the%20US%20Education%20System.pdf) criticizing Confucius Institutes as “part of China’s broader, long-term strategy” to develop “soft power” that “encourages complacency” in the face of China’s increasingly illiberal policies.  It describes Confucius Institutes as an “attempt to export China’s censorship of political debate and prevent discussion of potentially politically sensitive topics.” It concludes that “Absent full transparency regarding how Confucius Institutes operate and full reciprocity for U.S. cultural outreach efforts on college campuses in China, Confucius Institutes should not continue in the United States.”

In February 2018, [FBI Director Christopher Wray testified before the US Senate](https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=F998DBAA-6C2B-4BA0-891C-7647BDEAD31F) that his agency is taking “investigative steps” at Confucius Institutes that may be engaged in espionage.

In 2017, the National Association of Scholars (NAS) concluded in a report, [*Outsourced to China: Confucius Institutes and Soft Power in American Higher Education*](https://www.nas.org/projects/confucius_institutes), that “to a large extent, universities have made improper concessions that jeopardize academic freedom and institutional autonomy.” NAS urged all institutions to close their Confucius Institutes.

I urge you to close your university’s Confucius Institute immediately, for the integrity of the curriculum, for the intellectual freedom of students and professors, and for the safety of all members of the campus community.

Respectfully,

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