

FBI Meeting Talking Points

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1. On August 8, 2018, Houston Chronicle reported “In an unprecedented gathering, FBI officials warned top leaders of Texas academic and medical institutions about security threats from foreign adversaries, the first step in a new initiative the bureau plans to replicate around the country.”

2. The media has also reported a large number of Chinese American researchers in Houston were investigated for espionage and put on administrative leave with or without pay over the last year. Several of them have left Houston already for unknown reason. Most of the reported cases concentrate in one institution, which has a troubled history in recent years.

In particular, according to the media,

- Due to the failure of a major controversy project, the president was forced to resign. However, the rest of the leadership remains mainly unchanged.
- Some of the senior faculty members under investigation was whittle blower or filed discrimination and retaliation grievance charges against the institution previously.
- So far there is no report of any espionage charge has been made. The espionage investigation has led to only a child pornography case. The university police presented the evidence to the experts of the Houston Police Department. Instead of taking any action, the Houston police department returned the case to the university police. The institution pushed the case forward. A grand juror dismissed the case in November 2018.

3. The espionage investigation has raised fear and suspicion in the Asian American community particularly related to cases where apparent innocent parties were involved.