

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

November 9, 2021

Dear Mr. Garland,

We, the Faculty Senate of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, join our 214 faculty colleagues at University of California Berkeley, 198 faculty colleagues at Princeton University, 167 faculty colleagues at Temple University, and nearly 2000 individual faculty from 217 higher education institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in support of the September 8, 2021 letter signed by 177 Stanford University faculty, including 8 Nobel laureates, to equally express our concerns about the U.S. Department of Justice's *China Initiative*. As the Stanford letter states, "We acknowledge the importance to the United States of protecting both intellectual property and information that is essential to our national and economic security. We understand that concerns about Chinese government sanctioned activities including intellectual property theft and economic espionage are important to address. We believe, however, that the China Initiative has deviated significantly from its claimed mission: it is harming the United States' research and technology competitiveness and it is fueling biases that, in turn, raise concerns about racial profiling."

We adopt the Stanford letter's rationale that the China Initiative suffers from three fundamental flaws:

- The China Initiative disproportionately targets researchers of Chinese origin.
- In most of the China Initiative cases involving academics, the alleged crime has nothing to do with scientific espionage or intellectual property theft.
- The China Initiative is harming the U.S. science and technology enterprise and the future of the U.S. STEM workforce.

We agree with nearly 200 faculty colleagues at Princeton University who, in supporting the Stanford letter, noted, "previous disclosure rules of federal agencies are often vague and prone to error...In the current political climate, loyalty to a foreign government and malicious intent to engage in espionage are offered [by the Justice Department] as the default explanation for errors and omissions of a more benign nature." We agree with the Stanford faculty that

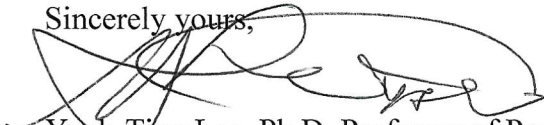
"many of our most challenging global problems, including climate change & sustainability and current & future pandemics, require international engagement. Without an open and inclusive environment that attracts the best talents in all areas, the United States cannot retain its world leading position in science and technology. In some China Initiative cases, normal academic activities that we all do, such as serving as referees and writing recommendation letters, are adduced as evidence of 'extensive dealings with the PRC.' Such actions are based on a significant misunderstanding of how scientific research works. They

are detrimental to international collaboration. Instead of protecting the national security of the U.S., we believe such actions harm the U.S.'s ability to innovate.”

We join our colleagues at Stanford, UC Berkeley, Princeton, Temple and others around the country who have signed on to the Stanford letter individually to “strongly urge you to terminate the China Initiative and develop an alternative response to the challenges posed by our relations with the People’s Republic of China, one that avoids racial profiling and discouraging beneficial and important collaborations and influx of talented personnel.”

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yuch-Ting Lee', written over a horizontal line.

Yuch-Ting Lee, Ph.D. Professor of Psychology
signed on behalf of the Faculty Senate
Southern Illinois University Faculty Senate