

February 8, 2022

Gregory Fenves
Office of the President
Emory University
505 Kilgo Circle
Atlanta, GA 30322

Dear President Fenves:

I write to urge you to terminate your existing academic and research partnerships with universities located in the People's Republic of China (PRC) that have been overtly tasked by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to support Beijing's military-industrial complex.

In a speech last year in Beijing, CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping said that the PRC would "exhaust all means" to recruit intelligent and innovative professionals from around the world to support the technological development of the CCP's military, known as the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Such efforts, which include the PRC's Thousand Talents Program and its Double First-Class University Plan, are unambiguously geared towards advancing military-civil fusion (MCF), a national strategy of the CCP aimed at acquiring and developing the world's cutting-edge technology, including through theft, to achieve economic and military dominance.

In recent months, the PRC's increasingly aggressive tactics have also ensnared several notable U.S. academics and jeopardized the standing of their university patrons. This includes once-acclaimed Harvard University professor Charles Lieber, who in December 2021 was convicted in federal court on charges stemming from his illicit relationship with the PRC government. Lieber's case, and other similar convictions, raise important questions about how the United States assesses risk to its national security within its broader research enterprise. The PRC is fully integrating Chinese private industry and the PRC's civilian universities into their MCF strategy. To that end, nearly 70 Chinese civilian universities have been officially designated as part of the PRC's defense enterprise by the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND), the civilian agency responsible for funding commercial and academic research in support of the PLA's requirements. That list of 70 PLA-linked civilian universities includes at least one of your current academic partners in the PRC.

For decades, Beijing has openly exploited the expertise of Chinese students and scholars studying or conducting research in the United States to accelerate the PRC's economic and military development. For example, according to one study conducted between 2007 and 2017, the PLA reportedly sent more than 2,500 of its own scientists abroad to study and work at foreign universities. Some of these scientists travelled abroad under civilian cover so as to obfuscate their military affiliations. After completing their studies, these scientists returned to the

PRC to support the country's military-industrial complex, including its nuclear weapons program and cyber-espionage platforms. Increasingly, Beijing has also come to rely on its civilian students and researchers to enable such nefarious work. This includes formal sponsorship of promising Chinese scholars in science, technology, engineering, and math to study at American and other foreign universities, after which time they are expected to return to the PRC to provide the technological know-how and talent needed to support its defense industry.

Information available in open sources indicates that Emory currently maintains an academic partnership with Nanjing University, with whom it previously jointly operated a Confucius Institute. Even though Emory shuttered its Confucius Institute, the university elected to maintain its partnership with Nanjing University, which, according to public records, actively supports Beijing's military-industrial complex. More specifically, Nanjing hosts at least three PLA defense laboratories to advance MCF objectives. It was also the first Chinese university to establish a formal program aimed at facilitating classified research on-campus, creating the State Secrecy Academy in 2009. The State Secrecy Academy awards degrees to Chinese students who pursue careers in Beijing's "military industry, state agencies, and secret administration agencies."

In 2018, Nanjing established an Institute of Artificial Intelligence and later entered into an agreement with the Jiangsu Provincial Committee of Military-Civilian Fusion to work on joint defense research with MCF applications. Nanjing then signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Megvii, a Chinese facial and image recognition company placed on the U.S. Department of Commerce's Entity List in 2019 because its technology helps the Chinese government racially profile Uighur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in Beijing's Xinjiang province. Megvii was also sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department in late 2021.

Nanjing's major defense laboratories include the following entities that support classified defense research in material sciences and electromagnetic waves: the Chinese Ministry of Education's Key Laboratory of High-Performance Polymer Materials and Technology; the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense Key Laboratory of Electromagnetic Wave Characteristic Information Control; and the Chinese Ministry of Education's Key Laboratory of Intelligent Light Sensing and Regulation.

I remain deeply concerned by the PLA's aggressive campaign to infiltrate America's research enterprise. I respectfully urge you to terminate the above outlined partnership agreement, and to take steps to thoroughly vet your other academic partners in the PRC for similar risks involving the misappropriation of academic research. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', written in a cursive style.

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator