Reinventing Engagement with China

Meredith McQuaid, University of Minnesota
Cheryl Doerr, Kansas State University
John Hanold, Penn State University
Hong Yang, Bryant University
Cheryl Doerr

- Associate Vice President for Research, Compliance
- Originally founded in 1863 as Kansas State Agricultural College, the university is proud to be the nation's first operational land-grant university.
- Cheryl has oversight of animal care and use, human subjects research, biosafety, select agents and toxins, export controls, PHS conflict of interest, research misconduct, and review of foreign influence policies.
John Hanold, Ph.D.

• Works to establish partnerships and linkages among University offices, faculty, government agencies, and private industry to promote and support the Penn State research enterprise

• Oversees proposal preparation and contract negotiation activities for Penn state’s sponsored research, instruction, and outreach activities

• Provides ongoing training and professional development of the Penn State research administration community
Hong Yang, Ph.D.

- Inaugural Vice President for International Affairs (2012 -), serving as university SIO.

- Responsible for developing University’s comprehensive internationalization strategy and global vision

- Implementing international programs and maintaining overseas partnerships

- Providing supports for international students and scholars

- Provide comprehensive strategy, oversight, and communication for Bryant’s Zhuhai campus

- Serving as the Responsible Officer (RO) for Bryant’s international exchange program certified by SEVIS.
## Foreign Influence and Academic Security: How Did We Get Here?

- **August 20, 2018**: NIH Memo to Extramural Research Community
- **June 7, 2019**: Department of Energy Foreign Government Talent Recruitment Program
- **July 10, 2019**: NIH Disclosure Requirements Memo
- **July 11, 2019**: NSF Disclosure Requirements Memo
- **September 16, 2019**: Letter to the United States Research Community from Kelvin Droegmeier
- **December 2019**: National Science Foundation JASON Report “Fundamental Research Security”
- **December 17, 2019**: Department of Ed Foreign Gifts and Contracts Disclosures
What’s coming next (short-term)?

• The NSF will be issuing its new PAPPG, identifying tighter requirements for disclosure of external activity.

• The U.S. Department of Energy will extend its “foreign talent recruitment” disclosure requirement to grants and cooperative agreements.

• The U.S. Department of Defense will increase disclosure requirements and may impose additional restrictions on performance of fundamental research.
What’s coming next (long-term)?

Jian Zemin, General Secretary (1989-2002)
Major: Electrical Engineering

Hu Jintao, General Secretary (2002-2012)
Major: Hydropower

Xi Jinping, General Secretary (2012-)
Major: Chemical Engineering

33% of bachelor’s degrees in China are awarded in Engineering (compared to 15% in Europe and 6.3% in the US).
What Has Changed?

• China’s rapid rising
• National priority and strategy
•Leaderships of the two countries
• Recent trade war, rivalry, and hostilities
• Number, composition, and political views of Chinese students in America
Reactions from China

- Social media: A wide range of rumors and theories
- State media: US over-reaction, insecure, and cold war mentality
- Collaborative institutions: Concerns on-going programs and future engagement
- Individual academics: Worried about visa, concerning on research collaborations and expression of their views toward America
- Perspective students and their parents: Visa and study fields
On American Campuses

• Chinese students
• Chinese American faculty and staff
• Letters from university administration
• University community in general
• Situations vary among universities
Bryant Zhuhai Campus (since 2015)
Example of Current Engagement: Bryant Zhuhai

• The goals of the joint program
• History and current status
• Faculty, staff, and student reflections
• Challenges from both countries
• Near future perspectives
Critical Questions for Further Engagement

• Where are the lines: Free exchange of knowledge vs confidential information?
• What are our university core values: Academic freedom vs political pressures?
• How can we better help educate and support our community?
Take Home Messages

• US-China relationship is of global importance
• Current economic, cultural, and political tensions will continue
• Responsible engagement will benefit both countries
• Require clear, consistent, and transparent policies across governmental agencies and within academic communities
Communicating Changes and Achieving Buy In

- Analyze current policies and forms
- Convene group of stakeholders
- Consider needed policies and forms

Communicating

- Those carrying out compliance
- Report back to leadership: updates, needs
- Those who have to comply
“Although institutions may not review a researcher’s outside activity contracts routinely because they are not institutional agreements, these contracts may provide essential information regarding the researcher’s obligations in a foreign engagement”

(COGR Framework for Review of Individual Global Engagements, p. 8)

“Overstating the threat of subversion from China risks causing overreactions”

(Susan Shirk, Dissenting Opinion, Hoover Report, p. 193)

Consider engaging foreign-born researchers in the United States “to enlist them in the effort to foster openness and transparency in fundamental research, nationally and globally, as well as to benefit from their connections to identify, recruit and retain the best scientific talent to the United States”

(JASON report, Section 1.2(8))
University Resources

University of California: Foreign Influence
https://www.ucop.edu/ethics-compliance-audit-services/compliance/research-compliance/foreign-influence.html

Penn State: International Relationships and Activities
https://www.research.psu.edu/international_affiliations

University of Michigan: International Research & Scholarship Guidance
https://research.umich.edu/research-u-m/international-partnerships/international-research-scholarship-guidance

Harvard University: Guidance for Researchers
https://vpr.harvard.edu/disclosure-requirements

University of North Carolina: Foreign Influence
https://research.unc.edu/compliance/foreign-influence/

Northwestern University: Guidance Regarding Foreign Influence
https://www.research.northwestern.edu/guidance-regarding-foreign-influence-and-involvement-in-university-research/

Other Resources

Jason Report: Fundamental Research Security

Hoover Report: Chinese Influence & American Interests
https://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/research/docs/chineseinfluence_americaninterests_fullreport_web.pdf

https://www.cogr.edu/sites/default/files/COGR%20Framework%20Formatted%2001142020.pdf

NSF: R&D: U.S. Trends and International Comparisons
https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsb20203

AUECO: Recent News – Foreign Influence
http://aueco.org/news-category/foreign-influence

Australian Strategic Policy Institute: China Tracker
https://unitracker.aspi.org.au/

FBI: China: The Risk to Academia

U.S. Senate: Threats to the U.S. Research Enterprise