



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RICHARD C. BENSON

February 28, 2019

Dr. Ma Jianfei
Dr. Jing Wei
Confucius Institute Headquarters
129 Deshengmenwai Street
Xicheng District
Beijing, China 100088

and

Executive Vice President Wang Baoping
Southeast University
No. 2 Sipailou
Nanjing, China 210096

Dear Dr. Ma Jianfei and Dr. Jing Wei, and Executive Vice President Wang Baoping:

This communication presents an overview of the highly productive history of the engagement between The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) and the Confucius Institute and our partner universities in China. This engagement commenced in 2007 (see first attachment) with an agreement with Confucius Institute Headquarters signed by our president at that time, David Daniel. Our initial partner university from China was China Three Gorges University. In 2012, we signed an agreement (see second attachment) with our new partner, Southeast University.

During all of the intervening twelve years, the support of the Confucius Institute Headquarters in arranging and supporting these partnerships has made large and positive impacts on the improvement of the understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and language in the United States. Likewise, the partnerships have been highly successful in fostering exchanges of students and faculty members between UT Dallas and our partner universities in China. Thus, I am now happy to confirm that both Confucius Institute Headquarters and UT Dallas have fulfilled all of their mutual obligations as specified in the Articles of the 2007 agreement, in particular Articles 4, 5, and 6.

It is now timely to address Article 7 of the original agreement, detailing financial support. The Confucius Institute Headquarters has been very generous over the time of our agreements in providing support for the many productive and valuable activities of the UT Dallas Confucius Institute. As a result of the progress thus achieved, I am able to inform you that the program of scholarly collaborations and student and faculty exchanges between UT Dallas and Southeast University has become integrally important to UT Dallas.

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In accord with this importance, and in the spirit and stated intent of Article 7 that the program ultimately become self-sustaining, independent of contributions from Confucius Institute Headquarters, UT Dallas is prepared to assume full responsibilities for financing our share of the costs of such programs with our own internal university funds.

Hence, in the context of Article 9 of the new agreement, we are hereby informing you that we will no longer request financial support from Confucius Institute Headquarters for the UT Dallas activities that further the study of Chinese language and culture and that foster scholarly collaborations and faculty and student exchanges. We will be arranging a new bilateral agreement with Southeast University to continue our mutually beneficial engagements. Our newly created UT Dallas Center for Chinese Studies will have the responsibility for continuing and expanding our engagements with Southeast University and will also have the responsibility of advancing our curricular offerings in Chinese language, history, and culture.

Since these changes will have the consequence that UT Dallas will no longer have a formal relationship with Confucius Institute Headquarters, in accord with Article 8 of our 2007 agreement, we hereby formally relinquish our rights to the use of the title Confucius Institute and related logo and plaque.

In closing, I repeat again the deep and sincere appreciation for the innumerable positive outcomes that have resulted from your support of our mutual endeavors to promote knowledge and understanding between our two countries.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Benson
President
Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership

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