



Audra Gonzalez Welter  
Assistant General Counsel

July 18, 2022

Justin Gordon  
Division Chief  
Open Records Division  
William B. Clements, Jr. State Office Building  
300 W. 15th Street, 11th Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701

**Re: Public Information Request from Kristen Stanciu to The University of Texas at Dallas -- OGC# 206731**

Dear Mr. Gordon:

On June 16, 2022<sup>1</sup>, The University of Texas at Dallas (“University”) received a request for information from Kristen Stanciu (“Requestor”) (**TAB 2**). On June 30, 2022, the University timely sought, in good faith, clarification of the request. *See* TEX. GOV’T CODE § 552.222(b) (governmental body may communicate with requestor to clarify or narrow request) (**TAB 2**). The University received the Requestor’s written response on July 1, 2022<sup>2</sup> (**TAB 2**). The University subsequently sent the request to The University of Texas System (“UT System”) for handling with your office.

In accordance with section 552.301 of the Texas Government Code, we now send this request for decision within ten business days from the date the clarified request was received. *See City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W. 3d. 380, 384 (Tex. 2010) (holding that when a governmental entity requests a clarification or narrowing of a request for public information in good faith, the ten-day period to request an attorney general opinion as to an exception to disclosure is measured from the date the request is clarified). The University has copied the Requestor on this letter brief in accordance with section 552.301(d).

The Requestor seeks access to the following information:

*ORIGINAL REQUEST:*

<sup>1</sup> The original request was submitted after regular business hours on June 15, 2022; thus, it is received the following business day.

<sup>2</sup> The Requestor’s reply to the clarification was submitted after regular business on June 30, 2022; thus, it is received the following business day.

*For the time period of 2007 - present,*

- *Records of contracts and agreements between The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and “Southeast University” in China, the Chinese “Ministry of Education’s Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban),” and the “Confucius Institute U.S. Center (CIUS).”*
- *Records of resources and funding provided to the UTD Confucius Institute by the Chinese “Ministry of Education’s Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban),” and the “Confucius Institute U.S. Center (CIUS).”*
- *Records from the UTD Development Department for all monies under \$250,000 received from individuals from China, or from China-based companies and organizations.<sup>3</sup>*
  
- *Communications in the possession of The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) regarding the Confucius Institute.*
- *Communications between the former Director of the UTD Confucius Institute “Dennis Kratz,” the former Chinese Director of the UTD Confucius Institute “Ming Dong Gu”, Associate Directors “Sharon Yang” and “Sharon (Xuehong) Gou,” and the Chinese Ministry of Education’s Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban).*
- *Communications between the former Director of the UTD Confucius Institute “Dennis Kratz,” the former Chinese Director of the UTD Confucius Institute “Ming Dong Gu”, Associate Directors “Sharon Yang” and “Sharon (Xuehong) Gou,” and the “Confucius Institute U.S. Center (CIUS).”*

**CLARIFIED REQUEST:**

*For the time period of 2007-present:*

- *Communications in the possession of “Dennis Kratz,” “Ming Dong Gu,” “Sharon Yang,” and “Sharon (Xuehong) Gou” regarding the “Confucius Institute,” “Confucius Classroom,” and “Hanban.”*
- *All available communications between the former Director of the UTD Confucius Institute “Ming Dong Gu”, Associate Directors “Sharon Yang” and “Sharon (Xuehong) Gou,” and the Chinese Ministry of Education’s Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban).*
- *All available communications between the former Director of the UTD Confucius Institute “Ming Dong Gu”, Associate Directors “Sharon Yang” and “Sharon (Xuehong) Gou,” and the “Confucius Institute U.S. Center (CIUS).”*

---

<sup>3</sup> The University will release responsive information with respect to the “records” portion of the request.

*Communications includes but is not limited to emails, text messages, messages on social media, Slack or whatever other internal messaging services your university uses, postal mail, and/or handwritten notes. This includes all email addresses and smartphones used by any or all of these parties for official business, whether they are personal or university owned.*

We anticipate that the responsive documents have applicable exceptions to disclosure. Accordingly, we reserve **all** the listed exceptions in the Public Information Act and those captured by “other law” in section 552.101 of the Texas Government Code.

Further, this 10-day brief should be interpreted to include **all** the exceptions contained in Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code, beginning with section 552.101 through and including section 552.162 of the Texas Government Code. The University does not waive any exception we may determine applicable after further review of the documents at issue.

Our detailed brief and responsive documents will be submitted to your office by the statutory deadline. With this request for decision, we are notifying the Office of the Attorney General that The University of Texas at Dallas will seek to withhold responsive documents pending review by your office.

All interested parties are listed below. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 512-499-4298.

Sincerely,



Audra Gonzalez Welter

cc: Requestor: (w/o Enclosures)

Kristen Stanciu  
kstanciu@texasscorecard.com