

Dear President Michael Young,

I am writing to express how shocked and confused I am at the announcement by Mr. John Sharp, president of the Texas A&M University System, to end its partnership with Confucius Institute.

Confucius Institute at Texas A&M University is an important project of education exchange and cooperation between our two universities and over the past ten years, both parties have been following our agreements tightly. The teachers we sent have all been dedicated to teaching and have won acclaim from both local teachers and students with their hard and excellent work. Both parties have made great effort for the development of the institute. I was impressed that you made your consent to renew the next five-year agreement for the institute during my visit to your university in 2016.

Texas A&M University is a strategic partner of our university and we have been engaged in academic cooperation since 1990s. Particularly in recent years, the joint programs for postgraduate students have been running well, and more than 50 students have graduated with master's or doctoral degrees. As the partner of the institute on the Chinese side, we have always maintained sound cooperation with your university. Both universities encourage freedom in academic research and continue to expand cooperation towards our common goals of academic achievements.

The accusations of Confucius Institute are made by a few people in the U.S. because of their lack of true knowledge of its real situation, which, I am afraid, may severely affect the normal operations of the institute, impair the cooperation between our two universities that we have maintained for years, and even put into risk the long-term education exchange and cooperation between China and U.S.. We fully trust your judgment and hope that our cooperation is free of any political influence.

We hope that you could continue to support the development of Confucius Institute and, as usual, we will work together with you to further our cooperation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Prof. YU Zhigang,



President, Ocean University of China
April, 6, 2018