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### 2025/02/03 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

The next APA Justice monthly meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, February 3, 2025, starting at 1:55 pm ET. In addition to updates by **Judith Teruya**, Executive Director, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), **Joanna YangQing Derman**, Program Director, Advancing Justice | AAJC, and **Kai Li 李凯**, Vice President, Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF), confirmed speakers are:

- **Gary Locke 骆家辉**, Chair, Committee of 100; former U.S. Ambassador to China; former U.S. Secretary of Commerce; former Governor of the State of Washington
- **Julia Chang Bloch 張之香**, Founder and Executive Chair, US-China Education Trust; former U.S. Ambassador
- **Bethany Li**, Executive Director, Asian American Legal Defense Education Fund (AALDEF)
- **Scott Chang**, Senior Counsel, National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA)

The virtual monthly meeting is by invitation only. It is closed to the press. If you wish to join, either one time or for future meetings, please contact one of the co-organizers of APA Justice - **Steven Pei 白先慎**, **Vincent Wang 王文奎**, and **Jeremy Wu 胡善庆** - or send a message to [contact@apajustice.org](mailto:contact@apajustice.org).

### CAPAC Chair Meng Introduces Legislation to Commemorate Lunar New Year



According to a [press release](#) by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), U.S. Representative **Grace Meng** (NY-06), Chair of CAPAC, reintroduced a legislative package to commemorate Lunar New Year.

Congresswoman Meng's legislative package includes the Lunar New Year Day Act which would establish Lunar New Year as the 12th federal holiday recognized across the United States. It also includes a resolution that recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Lunar New Year.

On January 29, 2025 - New Year Day of the Year of Snake - CAPAC posted a video on X in which 16 CAPAC members from Hawaii to New York, led by Congresswoman Meng, talked about their favorite Lunar New Year traditions and celebrations. Watch the video: <https://bit.ly/40CJbzt> (3:03).

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**WHAT:** DC Chinese Lunar New Year Parade

**WHEN:** February 2, 2025, 2:00 pm ET

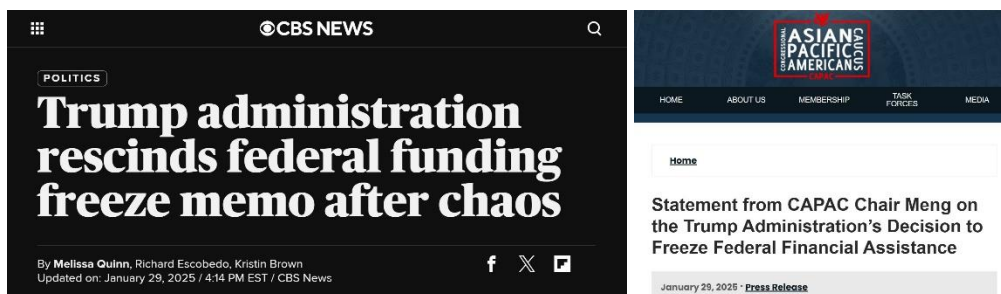
**WHERE:** Chinatown, Washington DC

**HOST:** Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of Washington, DC in partnership with the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

**DESCRIPTION:** In the lunar calendar, it will be the year 4723! The streets of DC's Chinatown will be filled with revelers and spectators as we celebrate the Year of the Snake. In Chinese zodiac, the snake is associated with wisdom, charm, elegance, and transformation. People born in the Year of the Snake are believed to be intuitive, strategic, and intelligent. People born as Snakes are mysterious, smart, wise, charming, good at talking, determined, and caring. They value knowledge, work hard to achieve goals, and form deep bonds in relationships.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [www.dcp parade.com](http://www.dcp parade.com)

## Trump Administration Rescinds Federal Funding Freeze Memo After Chaos



Multiple media reports on January 29, 2025, confirmed that President **Donald Trump** rescinded a memo from acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget **Matthew Vaeth** freezing spending on federal loans and grants, less than two days after it led to chaos and widespread confusion and legal challenges across the country.

Issued on January 27, the [memo](#) alarmed states, schools, and organizations dependent on federal funds. The vague directive left nonprofits, small businesses, universities, and other entities scrambling to assess its impact, while congressional offices were inundated with concerns from constituents fearing financial losses. In addition to creating confusion, the memo [sparked numerous lawsuits](#), including from a coalition of nonprofits and Democratic state attorneys general.

By January 28, Medicaid, education, and housing funds had been affected. That evening, a federal district judge temporarily blocked the order, adding to the turmoil in Washington and beyond.

On January 29, Rep. **Grace Meng**, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), condemned the freeze as appalling and unlawful. She warned it would harm all Americans, including AANHPI communities, by undermining critical programs such as nutrition aid, small business support, clean water initiatives, education, and public safety. Meng stressed that federal aid is a necessity and urged Trump to restore the funds immediately, emphasizing that millions of Americans rely on them.

According to *Inside Higher Ed*, although the Trump administration walked back its plan to freeze trillions in federal grants and loans, a review of thousands of federal programs continues, along with a pause on grant reviews at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH). The White House is still moving forward with plans to stop funding programs that are at odds with the president's executive orders. As part of the review, agencies will have to answer a series of questions for each program, including whether the programs fund DEI, support "illegal aliens" or promote "gender ideology." The disruption to federal research funding has set university researchers and scientists on edge, and the grant reviews are still on hold.

Given the stakes, this issue is far from settled. The rescission is far from ending the chaos.

2025/01/29 CAPAC: [Statement from CAPAC Chair Meng on the Trump Administration's Decision to Freeze Federal Financial Assistance](#)

2025/01/29 *The Hill*: [White House budget office rescinds federal funding freeze memo](#)

2025/01/29 *CBS News*: [Trump administration rescinds federal funding freeze memo after chaos](#)

2025/01/29 *Newsweek*: [Trump Administration Freeze on Federal Grants Ended, Questions Remain](#)

2025/01/29 *BBC News*: [White House rescinds memo on freezing federal grants and loans](#)

2025/01/29 *AP News*: [Trump White House rescinds memo freezing federal money after widespread confusion](#)

2025/01/29 *CNBC*: [White House says Trump funding freeze remains in effect despite rescinding OMB memo](#)

2025/01/29 *Inside Higher Ed*: [NSF and NIH Grant Reviews Still On Hold After White House Rescinds Memo](#)

2025/01/28 *Washington Post*: [Federal judge blocks Trump federal spending freeze after a day of chaos](#)

## **KU Faculty Letters of Support for Franklin Tao's Reinstatement**

## KU faculty writes letters of support of Franklin Tao's reinstatement

Bella Waters | isabellawaters@ku.edu Jan 27, 2025

According to the *University Daily Kansan* on January 27, 2025, faculty members at the University of Kansas (KU) have been actively advocating for the reinstatement of Dr. **Feng "Franklin" Tao**, a tenured professor who was dismissed following federal charges in 2019. Despite the eventual overturning of all of his charges, KU has not reinstated Dr. Tao, prompting faculty to write letters of support emphasizing his contributions to the university and the importance of upholding academic freedom and justice.

The KU Asian and Asian American faculty staff council sent a letter in August to Provost **Barbara Bichelmeyer** urging for the reinstatement of Tao.

KU's Faculty Senate sent its own letter to the Provost in December after learning of the Asian and Asian-American Faculty Staff Council's letter.

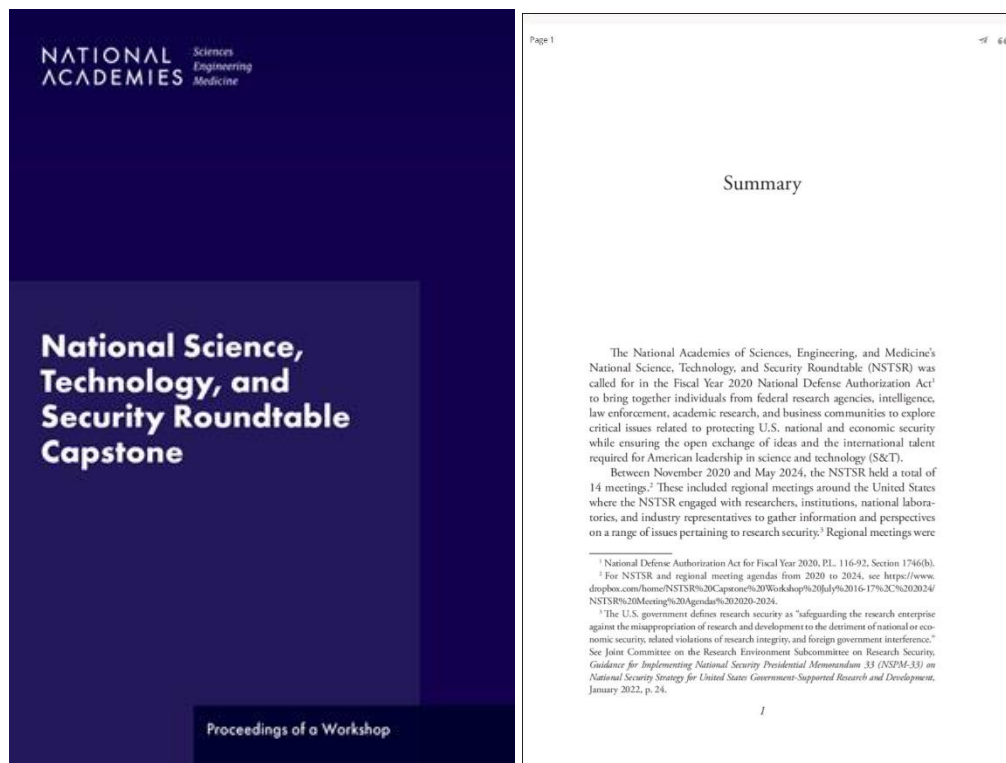
According to **Huazhen Fang**, Executive Leadership Team Member of the Asian and Asian American Faculty Staff Council, the Council has received no response from university administration. Faculty Senate President **Sam Brody** said the Faculty Senate did not receive a response to its letter, either.

The KU Asian and Asian American Faculty Staff Council argue in its letter that "it would set a dangerous and unjust precedent for a tenured professor, like Dr. Tao, to be removed from his position as a result of failed prosecution." It questions whether he received due process from the University before being fired. The Council asserts that Tao was targeted as part of a larger campaign against Asians and Asian Americans, comparing Trump's China Initiative, which was meant to target Chinese espionage, to McCarthyism. The letter states that Asian American academics, students and staff will continue to live in fear of being targeted because of stigma and discrimination unless something changes.

The Faculty Senate's letter echoes the claims of the Asian and Asian-American Faculty Staff Council, stating that KU should "provide a welcoming and safe environment for faculty and staff of all backgrounds." It also asserts the importance of academic freedom and safety from "frivolous or politically-motivated prosecutions."

Read the *University Daily Kansan* report: <https://bit.ly/4izy2lt>

# National Science, Technology, and Security Roundtable Capstone



On January 28, 2025, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) released the proceedings of the Capstone Workshop of the National Academies' National Science, Technology, and Security Roundtable (NSTSR). NSTSR was established by the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to address critical issues surrounding U.S. national and economic security while promoting the open exchange of ideas and international talent.

According to the NASEM report, U.S. values such as openness and scientific rigor were highlighted as key strengths in research. While international collaboration is essential for advancing research, participants stressed the importance of being mindful of differing values regarding transparency, reciprocity, and accountability when working with other nations. Even trusted allies may have different security and openness policies, prompting some to challenge the assumption of mutual trust in scientific collaborations. Caution was advised in engaging with international partners where these values are not shared.

Participants advocated for an "all-of-system" approach to strengthen U.S. national security and science leadership, calling for harmonized research security policies across federal agencies

and clearer guidelines for international collaborations. They emphasized the importance of fostering relationships between the research community, law enforcement, and intelligence agencies to enable informed, case-by-case security decisions, with experts supporting these efforts.

A flexible, risk-based strategy was recommended to balance openness in research with protecting sensitive work. This approach would evaluate risks and benefits based on the personnel and research topics involved, with institutions tailoring their risk management strategies. Federal agencies were urged to identify and categorize sensitive information carefully to ensure appropriate handling.

Many participants stressed that maintaining U.S. national security requires not just protective measures but also significant investment in open, fundamental scientific research. They argued that the U.S. can stay competitive in the global Science and Technology (S&T) race by increasing investments, particularly in talent development and building a workforce capable of supporting the nation's scientific and technological needs.

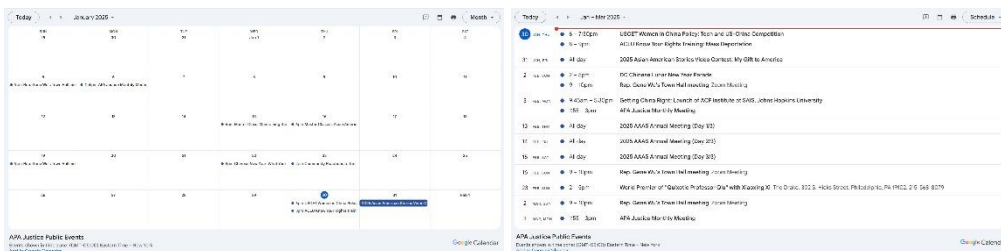
Participants proposed next steps for research security, including developing a comprehensive S&T strategy, boosting STEM education, and improving talent recruitment. They stressed educating the public on the importance of S&T to national security and cautioned against focusing solely on threats from China, noting challenges from other countries. Collaboration with international allies and careful vetting were also emphasized.

There was a call to avoid inconsistent application of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) restrictions and to better understand foreign interference in research. Ongoing dialogue among academia, government, and industry was seen as crucial for addressing research security risks.

Read [Proceedings of the Capstone Workshop](#) and [National Science, Technology, and Security website](#).

## News and Activities for the Communities

### 1. APA Justice Community Calendar



## Upcoming Events:

2025/01/31 2025 Asian American Stories Video Contest: My Gift to America  
2025/02/02 DC Chinese Lunar New Year Parade  
2025/02/02 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting  
2025/02/03 APA Justice Monthly Meeting  
2023/02/03 Getting China Right: Launch of ACF Institute at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University  
2025/02/13-15 2025 AAAS Annual Meeting  
2025/02/16 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting  
2025/02/23 World Premier of "Quixotic Professor Qiu" with Xiaoxing Xi  
2025/03/02 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting  
2025/03/03 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

Visit <https://bit.ly/3XD61qV> for event details.

## 2. World Premier of "Quixotic Professor Qiu"

### Next On Stage

Inspired by real-life cases of Chinese American scientists being targeted for allegedly carrying out economic espionage, this satirical play follows a fictitious math professor, who finds himself scrutinized by the FBI and his own university colleagues, while simultaneously navigating a delicate relationship with a childhood friend in China. As the screws tighten around the unwitting Professor Qiu, he is forced to choose between his birth country and adopted land, between loyalty and self-preservation.

by Damon Chua  
directed by Chongren Fan

Jan 31-Feb 23



"Quixotic Professor Qiu," a thought-provoking satirical play, will debut on January 31, 2025, at The Drake, 302 S. Hicks Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Written by **Damon Chua** and directed by **Chongren Fan**, the production will run through February 23, 2025.

Inspired by real-life incidents involving Chinese American scientists accused of economic espionage, the play tells the story of a fictional math professor entangled in a web of suspicion from the FBI and his university colleagues. At the same time, he struggles to maintain a fragile relationship with a childhood friend in China. As tensions rise, Professor Qiu is forced to choose between his birth country and adopted land, between loyalty and self-preservation.



Following the 2 pm matinee on Sunday, February 23, 2025, Producing Artistic Director **Seth Rozin** will host a moderated conversation with Professor **Xiaoxing Xi**, diving into the play's themes. Please note that speaker hosts and guests are subject to change. Contact the Box Office at 215-568-8079 ahead for updates.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/4h7OBtp>

**# # #**

APA Justice Task Force is a non-partisan platform to build a sustainable ecosystem that addresses racial profiling concerns and to facilitate, inform, and advocate on selected issues related to justice and fairness for the Asian Pacific American community. For more information, please refer to the new APA Justice website under development at [www.apajusticetaskforce.org](http://www.apajusticetaskforce.org). We value your feedback. Please send your comments to [contact@apajustice.org](mailto:contact@apajustice.org).

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