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Nikkei Asia Report: Chinese Scientists in U.S. Haunted by Targeted Prosecutions

On May 21, 2022, Nikkei Asia reported on "Chinese scientists in U.S. haunted by targeted prosecutions." Three months after the end of the "China Initiative," the report told the stories of professors still struggling to get their lives back, led by MIT Professor **Gang Chen**, whose case was dismissed in January, talking about his fear that the government could misinterpret routine emails such as one from a student in China to be nefarious.

According to the report, the lingering effects of the program still haunt many Chinese families in the U.S., especially teenage children. American universities rarely offer assistance to their professors under investigation, putting many families under the stress for massive legal fees. Even when a professor is cleared of any wrongdoing, the tarnish to their reputation and career is not easily removed.

University of Tennessee at Knoxville Professor **Anming Hu**, who was acquitted of all charged in September 2021, talked about the trauma and the mental impact on his two sons. His elder son was also targeted and subject to surveillance by the FBI. Professor Hu struggled to pay for the legal fees and relied on his neighborhood church group to deliver him groceries during house arrest. He has lost all five projects that he led prior to his ordeal.

"Some children will not sign their last names on their homework," said Professor **Steven Pei**, a co-organizer of APA Justice. "Some of the things they will not talk to their parents about, it's hard to open up... We're trying to get the children of the families [going through similar situations] to talk to each other." "It's [also] hard to find professionals locally who could provide the kind of mental health services" these families need, Pei added.

The cost of defending oneself from prosecution could bankrupt a professor. In one case under the "China Initiative," University of Arkansas Professor **Simon Saw-Teong Ang** was reportedly forced to plead guilty to one count of making false statement out of 59 counts charged against him, even though his lawyer felt strongly that he could get all the charges dropped.

Although the "China Initiative" ended, new cases are still targeting the Chinese community in the U.S. FBI Director **Christopher Wray** said in January that the FBI is constantly opening new

cases about every 12 hours or so. However, his reported number of investigations and rates of increase could not be verified or reconciled with the numbers he gave previously.

Universities rarely financially support professors under investigation. Yale University chose to be just a bit more supportive and paid for the legal counsel for Professor **Haifan Lin**, and suspended him with pay. Lin, a professor and a founding director of Yale's Stem Cell Center, was suspended due to a Justice Department investigation after the end of the "China Initiative." The university provided legal counsel to Lin, before the faculty at the Ivy League school sent a letter to Yale officials questioning the handling of Lin's case, expressing fears over how other professors would be treated if they were under investigation -- but not yet charged,

Professor Lin has returned to his office after the investigation was dropped. Another Chinese professor was suspended without pay and has been under investigation for two years (see additional report by Yale Daily News below).

In general, professors of Chinese descent fear that they would not get legal counsel or pay if they are investigated. There are broad concerns that the targeting of Chinese scientists is still ongoing despite the announced end of the "China Initiative."

Cliff Li, a community leader in Florida, told Nikkei Asia that the government is trying to round up these scientists to scare them. He said, "[t]hey're trying to say, 'You better not work with Chinese universities, even if it's legal.'"

Read more about the Nikkei Asia report: <https://s.nikkei.com/3wEydM5>

Yale University Senate Raises Further Alarms about Suspended Professors

FAS Senate
AN ELECTED BODY OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES
YALE UNIVERSITY

April 28, 2022

**Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate Resolution
Regarding the University's response to the China Initiative and Policies related to
inquiries from Federal Agencies
APPROVED April 28, 2022**

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Yale University (FASS) was established as an elected representative body by a vote of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences;

WHEREAS, Yale's commitment to Excellence in Teaching and Research are core values that require attracting and retaining top faculty internationally;

WHEREAS, the China Initiative, started under the Trump Administration by the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Federal agencies including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in November 2018, has been criticized as being racially biased and disproportionate, and concluded in name under Biden Administration in February 2022;

WHEREAS, the FBI and/or the NIH investigated several Yale faculty and community members of Chinese heritage as a part of the China initiative, resulting in at least one Yale faculty member placed on academic leave by the University related to these investigations;

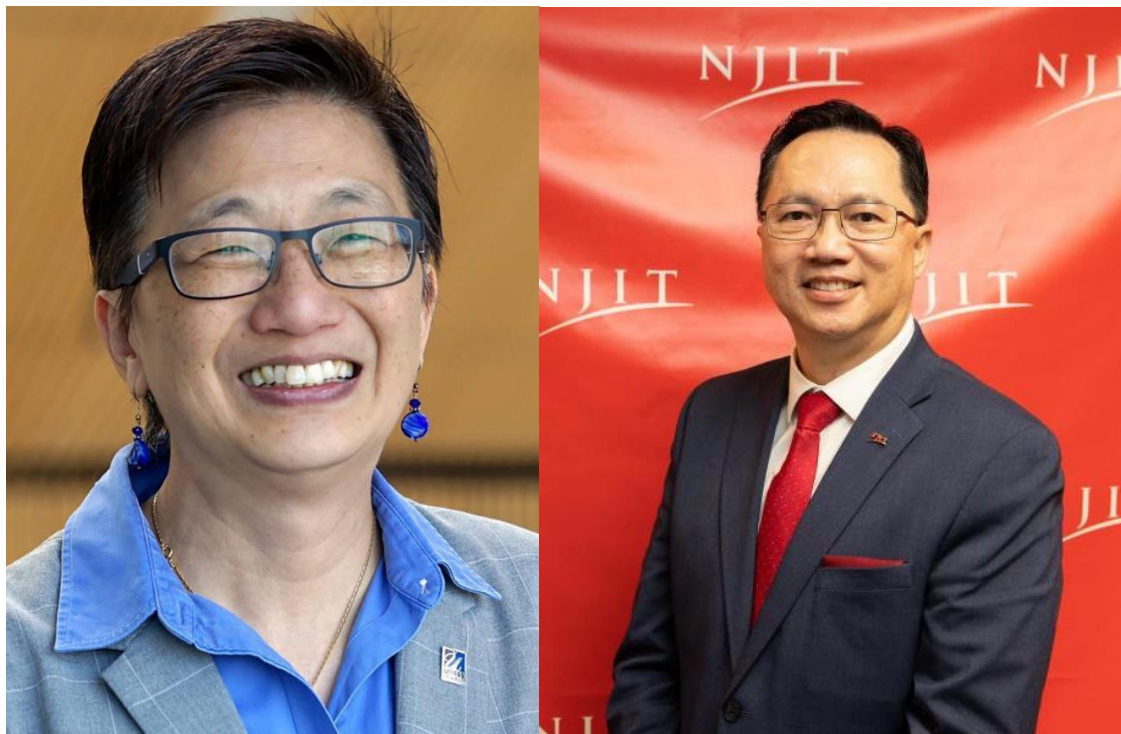
On May 6, 2022, Yale Daily News reported that the Yale University Faculty of Arts & Sciences (FAS) Senate passed a resolution calling for greater transparency from the University regarding its responses to past and ongoing investigations into Yale researchers related to the China Initiative, a Trump-era national security program that advocates say discriminates against researchers of Chinese descent. The resolution comes after the suspension and return of **Haifan Lin**, a cell biology professor at the Yale School of Medicine who was investigated by the Department of Justice.

The FAS Senate's resolution also urged the University to create a committee to "evaluate, define and protect the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of faculty and administration in cases involving the investigation of faculty by outside agencies." Though the Senate named the Justice Department's China Initiative as a primary concern, the document's language broadened the scope of potential danger to all international community members.

"The FBI and/or the NIH investigated several Yale faculty and community members of Chinese heritage as a part of the China Initiative, resulting in at least one Yale faculty member placed on academic leave by the University related to these investigations," the resolution reads. "Programs like the China initiative may encompass faculty and students beyond China, as other countries can be labeled as 'nation-state threats' by the United States government."

Read more about the Yale Daily News report: <https://bit.ly/3yWxE1D>. Read the FAS Senate resolution: <https://bit.ly/3IH94tS>

Asian Americans Appointed as New Chancellor and President



On May 9, 2022, the University of Massachusetts at Lowell named **Julie Chen** to be the next Chancellor of the nearly 18,000-student national research university. She has served as UMass Lowell's Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation since 2016 and has been a member of the faculty since 1997. As a member of the Executive Cabinet, Chen has helped lead the implementation of the 2020 Strategic Plan, resulting in an expansion and modernization of physical infrastructure, the recruitment of outstanding faculty and students, increases in retention and graduation rates, advances in diversity, equity and inclusion, and historic growth of revenues from research, online programs and the endowment. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3z2mlFv>

On January 5, 2022, the New Jersey Institute of Technology named Dr. **Teik C. Lim** as the University's Ninth President, beginning on July 1, 2022. Dr. Lim presently serves as the interim president of the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), where he also holds the rank of Professor within the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Prior to assuming the interim presidency at UTA, Dr. Lim was the university's provost and vice president for academic affairs from 2017 to 2020. Before joining UTA, Dr. Lim spent approximately 15 years at the University of Cincinnati, where he held both academic and administrative appointments, the last of which was as dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3JJJLIL>

In Memoriam: Norman Mineta - an American Trailblazer and Legend

On May 3, 2022, **Norman Mineta** passed away at the age of 90. Few has done so much for the Asian American community and our nation as Norm had. He rose from a 10-year boy interned in Wyoming after losing his dog and a baseball bat to become cabinet secretary for two presidents - one Democrat and one Republican. Against impossible odds, he led the redress and reparations for Japanese American Incarceration with the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. The U.S. government apologized for the injustice. Norm, as he was popularly known, inspired President George W. Bush to visit a mosque after 9/11; President Bush did not want to have what happened to Norm in 1942 to happen again in our nation. Even with his stature and as a second generation Japanese American, he still faced doubts and questions about his citizenship.

Secretary Mineta founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) in 1994. "I want to keep the pipeline of young Asian Pacific Americans pursuing public service, either in major appointed role or running for public service. Decisions are being made about us and for us somewhere, and what you've got to do is to be at the table when those decisions are made," he said.

Many who worked for Norm and those who know Norm from his mentorship and leadership will remember his smile that would ease any tense situation, his unwavering commitment to justice and fairness, his amazing memory of never forgetting a name, and his humor such as his reminder of not mixing his name as Italian like Panetta.

- Watch the 2020 video "Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story:" <https://bit.ly/38SKH9I> (55:48)
- Watch the 2022/05/07 YouTube video with the Mineta Family: <https://bit.ly/3wlrzV6> (18:33)
- Read 2016/05/06 Smithsonian: Barracks and Boy Scouts: Norman Mineta's story. <https://s.si.edu/3wLnVKm>

Where is the Oldest Chinese Restaurant in America?



In honor of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, ABC News went to Butte, Montana, home of Pekin Noodle Parlor, the oldest continuously operating, family owned Chinese restaurant in the U.S. and met fourth-generation owner **Jerry Tam**.

Watch the video report: <https://abcn.ws/3wKbygl> (9:20)

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