

Dear colleagues and students,

Last week, FBI Director Christopher Wray and Senator Mario Rubio made sweeping statements concerning Chinese students, staff, and faculty in U.S. colleges and universities. Specifically, Director Wray speculated about their role in intelligence activities to serve the Chinese government, and described them as threats to our general society (see links below).

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/02/15/fbi-director-testifies-chinese-students-and-intelligence-threats>

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/fbi-director-chinese-spies-a-whole-of-society-threat-to-us/article/2649004>

The College of Literature Science and the Arts unequivocally rejects these statements.

Our Chinese colleagues – whether they are Chinese or Americans with Chinese heritage – are an integral part of our vibrant academic community. The arts and sciences flourish when people of all nations are free to work together in a climate of trust and openness. LSA has always been a home for scholars from all over the world. Every year we welcome new students, faculty, staff, and scientists from China, and every year LSA students and faculty go to China to learn, teach and create new knowledge. We will continue doing so. Our status as a top academic institution is impossible without the contributions of our Chinese and Chinese-American colleagues.

Some of you have written to us to share your concerns, and to share the historical and social contexts in which these statements were placed. We appreciate your reaching out. We want to assure the thousands of Chinese and Chinese-American students, staff, faculty, and scientists at LSA that they are part of our community, and imperative to our scholarly mission.

Sincerely,

Andrew D. Martin, Dean

Elizabeth R. Cole, Associate Dean for the Social Sciences

Anne Curzan, Associate Dean for the Humanities

Angela D. Dillard, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

Fiona Lee, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Professional Development

Douglas Richstone, Associate Dean for the Natural Sciences