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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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June 14, 2017

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

The Honorable John Kelly  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I write today to obtain more information regarding Yanping Chen Frame, the founder and president of the federally subsidized online University of Management and Technology (UMT) based in Rosslyn, Virginia.<sup>1</sup> Frame, a lawful permanent resident from China, has been the subject of multiple federal investigations regarding false statements on her immigration applications, unreported affiliations with China's military, and other activities that may have compromised thousands of records of U.S. service members enrolled at UMT.

Frame came to the U.S. in 1987 from Beijing on a non-immigrant visa to conduct research at George Washington University. About ten years later, she established UMT in 1998. UMT currently receives funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense, which aids in recruiting U.S. service members and international students. According to their website, UMT offers "a wide range of military benefits to enable the men and women who serve our country to earn their degrees" in online courses and through partnerships with six universities in China and Taiwan.<sup>2</sup> According to a former UMT recruiter, Frame specifically requested staff to recruit military personnel, especially servicemen from remote reserve and National Guard centers. UMT has enrolled thousands of U.S. service members, many of whom are stationed at military bases around the globe. Questions have been raised as to whether the UMT personnel in the Beijing office remotely accessed and compromised the personal and military histories of U.S. service members from China.

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<sup>1</sup> Catherine Herridge, Pamela K. Browne & Cyd Upson, *Fox News Investigation: DOD-Funded School at Center of Federal Probes Over Suspected Chinese Military Ties*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 24, 2017), available at <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/02/24/fox-news-investigation-dod-funded-school-at-center-federal-probes-over-suspected-chinese-military-ties.html>.

<sup>2</sup> University of Management and Technology, <https://www.umtweb.edu/GI.aspx?key=mb>.

UMT has been the subject of several federal investigations starting as early as 2009 when the FBI, Pentagon, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service launched investigations into the school's leadership and connections to the Chinese military.<sup>3</sup> In 2012, the FBI raided UMT as part of a counterintelligence investigation. The case is now with the U.S. attorney's office.<sup>4</sup> Despite federal investigations into the university's activities, UMT has continued to collect more than \$6 million in tuition assistance from the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs.<sup>5</sup> Allegedly, federal investigations have found that Frame's ties to the Chinese military appear to run deep. When Frame came to the United States in 1987, she made repeated denials on her immigration applications that she had any affiliation to a communist party. Subsequent investigations have revealed, however, that before immigrating to the U.S. she was a colonel in the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the armed forces of the Communist Party of China.

According to *Fox News*, Defense Secretary James Mattis has also voiced concerns with the situation. Allegedly, Secretary Mattis said schools like UMT are attractive to the Chinese military because it could allow access to sensitive technology and insight into our capabilities.<sup>6</sup>

This case raises numerous questions regarding Frame's immigration history and international affiliations. It is unclear whether Frame falsified her immigration application to conceal her affiliation with the Chinese military. It is also yet to be determined if the Chinese government has access to student personally identifiable information (including military training and background), via UMT's Beijing offices and international partnerships.

To better understand the details surrounding Frame's immigration history, please provide the Judiciary Committee with the following information as soon as possible, but not later than June 28, 2017:

1. The alien registration number for Yanping Chen Frame, her complete alien file (A-file), including any temporary files or working files, and all documents and items contained in them that were generated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or in their possession about her, whether currently in written or electronic form, including, the Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Executive Summary, criminal history and immigration summaries, detainers or requests for notification, I-213(s), and Notice(s) to Appear.
2. Please identify and explain each encounter that DHS or any of its components has had with Frame.
3. Please identify any date on which Frame was arrested by a law enforcement agency in the United States, including criminal and civil arrests, the nature of the charges, the jurisdictions where the arrests occurred, the dispositions of the charges, the dates on which she was released from the custody of the law enforcement agencies, and the reasons for the release.

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<sup>3</sup> Catherine Herridge, Pamela K. Browne & Cyd Upson, *supra* note 1.

<sup>4</sup> Catherine Herridge, Pamela K. Browne & Cyd Upson, *Congress Investigating Taxpayer-Backed School Over Alleged Ties to Chinese Military After Fox News Report*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 28, 2017), available at <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/04/28/congress-looking-into-taxpayer-backed-school-over-alleged-ties-to-chinese-military.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Catherine Herridge, Pamela K. Browne & Cyd Upson, *supra* note 1.

<sup>6</sup> Catherine Herridge, Pamela K. Browne & Cyd Upson, *supra* note 4.

4. When did DHS become aware of Frame's affiliations and prior position in the Chinese military?
5. What steps have been taken to investigate UMT's access to enrolled servicemen's personal information, including military training, deployments, and other service information? What was the result of these efforts?
  - a. How many servicemen were involved in the UMT Beijing information probe?
  - b. Please describe the type of information that was compromised.

I anticipate that your written reply and any responsive documents will be unclassified. Please send all unclassified material directly to the Committee. In keeping with the requirements of Executive Order 13526, if any of the responsive documents do contain classified information, please segregate all unclassified material within the classified documents, provide all unclassified information directly to the Committee, and provide a classified addendum to the Office of Senate Security. Although the Committee complies with all laws and regulations governing the handling of classified information, it is not bound, absent its prior agreement, by any handling restrictions or instructions on unclassified information unilaterally asserted by the Executive Branch.

Should you have any questions, please contact Katherine Nikas of my staff at (202) 224-5225. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee

cc:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable James Mattis  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense