WHY WE SHOULD REVOKE CLUB STATUS FOR THE CSSA

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019
Uyghur people are a Turkic ethnic group that live mostly within Xinjiang province in China. The Government of mainland China has taken a more hardline approach in recent years to destroy ethnic minorities and assimilate them into mainstream Han Chinese culture.
The Cultural Genocide of Uyghurs

- Currently there are likely about 1.5 million people in these camps, about one eighth of all Uyghur people in the World.
- China claims these facilities are “re-education camps” which are “civilizing” Uyghur people. In fact, they are centers for indoctrination.
联合声明

各位同学：

2月11日，麦马斯特大学两家学生社团于傍晚举办了一场荒谬的反华讲座，以帮助维吾尔族妇女孤儿为幌子，公开宣传“东突厥斯坦”分裂活动、宣扬民族仇恨、攻击中国政府并借此筹募资金。我们已充分知晓及此次此次活动，并于事件发生的几小时前即与相关人员在该中国社团举行会议，对涉事两社团举办这种无中生有、颠倒黑白的活动表示强烈愤慨和严厉谴责。

我们已在第一时间向校方各有关部门提出交涉，表示不满，并要求校方切实履行监管职责，确保校内活动符合规范，确保中国留学生尊严不受侵犯。目前校方正在等待校方回应。

我们也在12日朝早即向中国驻多伦多总领馆进行了通报。

事实胜于雄辩，任何不抱有偏见、不怀有恶意的人，都会为中国各民族团结友善、和谐共处感到高兴，而不是编造谎言来进行恶意指责。

我们将密切关注事件发展，相关进展将适时更新。

特此声明。

麦马斯特大学中国学生学联联席会
麦马斯特大学中文新闻社
麦马斯特大学中国研究生社团
麦马斯特大学华人群体
MELD STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2019年2月13日
“The language of the statement exactly echoes the language of the Chinese Communist Party’s false propaganda line ... the statement said that all nationalities in Xinjiang are living happily, friendly and in harmony. Nothing could be further from the genocidal truth.”

— Rukiye Turdush, Uyghur activist and MMPJ guest speaker

Quote from her Feb. 21, 2019 op-ed in The Washington Post (link)
Background (3 of 4): Int’l and Domestic Media Coverage

Here are just some of the English-language headlines:

- Campus disruptions lead to allegations of Chinese government interference
- Independent Students Slam China-Backed Intimidation on Overseas Campuses
- Beijing backs ‘patriotic actions’ of Chinese students who reported Uyghur activist in Canada
- Exclusive: How Uighur activist Rukiye Turdush felt the long arm of the Chinese Communist party, in Canada
- McMaster student groups want feds to investigate Chinese involvement at McMaster
- Angry over campus speech by Uighur activist, Chinese students in Canada contact their consulate, film presentation
Background (4 of 4): SRA Responses (or lack thereof)

- The 2018-2019 SRA did not do anything, and we have not done anything yet.
- The CSSA is not currently on probation.
  - If somebody does have written evidence that the CSSA was put on probation, please provide it.
- Double asterisks (**) on the Clubs’ List simply refers to more information about a club being given. It does not speak to probation or any other specific recommendation.
Evidence: CSSAs and Links to the Chinese Government

“[CSSAs] receive guidance from the CCP through Chinese embassies and consulates—governmental ties CSSAs frequently attempt to conceal ... The nature of the ties appears to involve direct subordination and political direction rather than mere affiliation or cooperation.”

— Quote from a government research report by the US-China Commission, a bipartisan Congressional commission

The Chinese Communist Party runs a dictatorship responsible for crimes against humanity and anti-democratic practices such as:

- The genocide of Uyghur Muslims
- Forced organ harvesting
- Surveillance and Political persecution
- Silencing free expression and speech
- Mass use of propaganda
- Direct government influence/control over virtually all industries in China

Freedom House Rating: 11 out of 100
Q: “Did your club play a leadership role in releasing the Feb. 13 statement and contacting the Chinese consulate in Toronto ... If yes, what were the reasons behind this?”

A: “In addition to this issue, MACCSSA does not have any official cooperation with the Chinese Embassy or any other representative from China.”

Q: “The Chinese consulate and McMaster Chinese Graduate Students Society (from your Feb. 13 statement) are both bodies outside of the MSU ... What is the nature of your relationship with these two organizations?”

A: “MACCSSA did not have any official cooperation with the Chinese graduate association before this issue and had cooperation with the Chinese Embassy with regards to Chinese cultural exchange as well as safety education for international students.”
Surveillance of Chinese and Muslim Students

- **Surveillance**: the CSSA confirmed in their statement that they reported the MSA/MMPJ event to the Chinese government.
- **Muslim students** are disproportionately impacted by this because it is an act of intimidation.
  - MSA/MMPJ: “These directives are considered a form of intimidation, and an attempt to silence those wishing to freely express opposition to Chinese human rights abuses and to raise awareness.”
- **Chinese students** and **any student with personal or business ties in/to China** are also disproportionately impacted by this because they may be exposed to retaliation from the Chinese government.
Consequences of Being Reported to the Chinese Government

“Despite the Chinese government’s repeated claims that it protects free speech, authorities have harassed its critics on foreign soil, banned them from entering China, detained them when they did, abducted them from abroad or harassed or detained their family members in China.”

— Yaqiu Wang, China Researcher at Human Rights Watch (link)

“[P]roviding information to the consulate is an act of intelligence-gathering, as well as a threat, insofar as the intelligence is provided to a dictatorship engaged in crimes against humanity ... If anyone present happened to have a Uyghur relative still in China then mere presence at this talk would be more than sufficient grounds to send their entire family off into the concentration camp system, perhaps never to be heard from again.”

— Dr. Kevin Carrico, Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies at Monash University, writing for Hong Kong Free Press (link)
## Comparing and Contrasting: Dominion Society and CSSA

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<tr>
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<th>DOMINION SOCIETY</th>
<th>CSSA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main concerns</strong></td>
<td>White supremacist connections, threats to marginalized students</td>
<td>Surveillance and intimidation, threats to marginalized students</td>
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<td><strong>Main evidence</strong></td>
<td>A Twitter thread with images pulled from social media</td>
<td>International media, government report, HRW, CSSA statement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Club Response</strong></td>
<td>Denies any connection to white supremacist groups</td>
<td>Admitted to contacting the Chinese government</td>
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<td><strong>SRA Response</strong></td>
<td>Revoked club status within days</td>
<td>Nothing after seven months</td>
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Frequently Asked Questions, 1 of 5

Q: Why should we revoke club status instead of putting the CSSA on probation?

- First, the severity of the offences here warrants revoking club status.
  - Expert testimony, including from Human Rights Watch, has confirmed that students’ safety could have been endangered if the Chinese government (a genocidal dictatorship) got info about them attending the MSA/MMPJ event
  - The CSSA is just as dangerous, if not more, than the Dominion Society
- Substantial evidence: international media, gov’t and NGO reports, etc.
- **Important**: we cannot normalize the extremist ideologies behind the CSSA’s actions.
Frequently Asked Questions, 2 of 5

Q: Will revoking club status prevent students from accessing important resources?

- To an extent, yes — no more room booking privileges or MSU funding.
  - However revoking MSU club status will remove MSU recognition and prevent club privileges from being used for dangerous purposes.
- Furthermore, there are other resources for international students that we should be promoting, instead of outsourcing important jobs to dangerous clubs.
- Finally, the CSSA uses social services to draw people in, where they then become indoctrinated with extremist ideologies.
Frequently Asked Questions, 3 of 5

Q: What about the other Chinese clubs at McMaster?

- There are 10 Chinese clubs at McMaster, if we include HKSA and MTSS
- Of these 10, only 4 signed the CSSA statement
  - Of these 4, only one (CSSA) has proven ties to the Chinese government
  - It was the CSSA that took the lead in releasing the statement and contacting the Chinese consulate
- That is why we are calling for only the CSSA to have club status revoked
- **Important**: There are many Chinese students with different views, and the CSSA does not speak for all of them.
Frequently Asked Questions, 4 of 5

Q: Will we create backlash from our actions?

- Any SRA decision has potential for backlash. It should not prevent us from making the moral decision.
  - If a club is violating MSU policies and threatening students, then that club does not deserve to be ratified
- We also have potential for backlash if we continue to not act, despite the mountains of evidence and extensive constituent concerns.
Frequently Asked Questions, 5 of 5

Q: How do we prevent these actions from still taking place outside of the MSU?

- Simple answer: we can’t
  - Deratifying the Dominion Society did not eradicate white supremacy
  - Deratifying the CSSA will not end the CCP’s human rights violations

- However, it is still necessary for us to deratify dangerous clubs
  - We should make less space, rather than more space, for organizations that promote hatred and violence.
Conclusion

- There is a coordinated campaign to destroy a culture and assimilate a people.
- The CSSA has tried to obscure their ties to the Chinese government, while simultaneously surveilling and intimidating students who speak against the Chinese government.
- We must protect McMaster students and deratify the CSSA.