



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

November 25, 2020

Ephraim Wernick, Esq.
Vinson & Elkins LLP
2200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 500 West
Washington, DC 20037-1701

via electronic mail

Re: Conclusion of 20 U.S.C. § 1011f Investigation (University of Texas System)

Dear Mr. Wernick:

On April 24, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education (“Department”) notified the University of Texas System (“UT”) that it had commenced an investigation of UT pursuant to the disclosure requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 1011f (“Section 117”). The Department’s investigation occurred pursuant to its enforcement authority under Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 1011f, which requires institutions of higher education (“IHEs”) to report statutorily defined gifts, contracts, and/or restricted and conditional gifts or contracts from or with a statutorily defined foreign source(s) to the Department.

On June 12, 2020, the Department received UT’s first production of records in response to the Department’s Notice of Investigation and Records Request. Through your diligent representation, UT has provided additional, voluminous records in response to supplemental records requests by the Department. UT also acted with speed to file corrective reporting to ensure its compliance with Section 117 reporting requirements. At all times during the investigation, UT has provided timely, comprehensive, and inclusive records and narrative responses to the Department’s requests.

The Department commends UT for its exemplary commitment to the disclosure requirements of Section 117 and the Department’s statutory enforcement obligations. UT’s impressive ongoing research and development activities, often supported by federal taxpayer funds, warrant continued heightened vigilance to protect against conversion, misappropriation, or misuse of critical technologies with multiple applications. The Department strongly encourages UT to continue its related security and compliance efforts with all appropriate federal agencies to safeguard against adversarial access to or acquisition of critical technologies.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning this matter.

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University of Texas System
Section 117 Investigation
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Sincerely,



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cc: Reed D. Rubinstein
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