



**Student Affairs**

To: Martin West, Academic Dean  
From: Kevin Boehm, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Student Life  
Re: [Redacted - PII] Student Conduct Violation

Dear Dean West,

On Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Debra Isaacson, Senior Associate Dean at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) informed me of an incident involving HGSE student [Redacted - PII] related to his conduct at the China Conference that took place on the HKS campus on April 20, 2024. At the Conference, the Chinese Ambassador, Xie Feng, provided remarks during the morning session. The ambassador was disrupted on a few occasions within a short period of time at the onset of his speech. The faculty advisor for the conference, Anthony Saich, got up to the microphone and read the HKS rights and responsibilities statement at least three times, and the protesters ignored him. It was at that time that one of the protesters was forcibly removed by HGSE student [Redacted - PII]. Video of the confrontation can be seen at [https://www.reddit.com/r/China/comments/1c9b53p/xie\\_feng\\_speech\\_in\\_harvard\\_was\\_interrupted\\_three/](https://www.reddit.com/r/China/comments/1c9b53p/xie_feng_speech_in_harvard_was_interrupted_three/).

This action is in violation of the HGSE Policy on Physical Violence, included below, and outlined in the [HGSE Student Handbook \(page 92\)](#):

*HGSE strives to maintain a safe and secure environment for all members of the community and thus does not tolerate physical violence used by or against the members of the community. Students are expected to avoid all physical conflicts, confrontations, and altercations unless their own safety or that of another is in extreme jeopardy.*

This action also violates the General Standards of Conduct expected of all HGSE students, as outlined in the [HGSE Student Handbook \(pages 81-82\)](#).

I initially spoke with [Redacted - PII] in the second floor suite of Gutman Library on Monday, April 22nd, for about 45 minutes with my colleague Rilda Kissel to learn more about this incident. In our meeting, [Redacted - PII] shared that he was acting on the direction of a faculty member who indicated that they could not have those disruptions during the Ambassador talk. In subsequent email communication [Redacted - PII] has shared that he “did not employ any excessive force that could have caused harm to her” and that he “did not escort the young woman off the premises; instead, I accompanied her to meet nearby campus security personnel.”

I was initially made aware of this incident when [Redacted - PII] reported that his personal information, as well as that of his brother and parents, had been shared publicly in what he described as a “doxing” incident based on the footage of the exchange that had been shared on multiple social media platforms. [Redacted - PII]

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was seeking logistical and mental health support as he dealt with the reality of his family's information being shared. [Redacted - PII] has since returned to [Redacted - PII] to be with his family.

On Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, via email, I made [Redacted - PII] aware that this case would be referred to you as Academic Dean and that you would make a determination if this would be referred to the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities (CRR).

Included in this referral is the Harvard University Police Department Incident Report for case number 2024-0000874A, which includes additional information about the incident.

Please let me know if there is any additional information that would be helpful for your review.

Thanks,  
Kevin Boehm  
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Student Life

cc: Shayna Kessel, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services