

From: "West, Martin" [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 22 May 2024 13:01:14 -0400 (EDT)
To: [REDACTED - PII]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Resolving conduct complaint

Dear [REDACTED - PII],

As you know, HGSE recently received a conduct complaint from the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) related to your conduct at the China Conference that took place on the HKS campus on April 20, 2024. Specifically, after Ambassador Xie Feng's remarks were repeatedly interrupted by protesters, you forcibly removed one of the protesters from the venue. This action, which was detailed in police reports from the event and captured on video, was in violation of the HGSE Policy on Physical Violence, as well as the General Standards of Conduct expected of all HGSE students, as outlined in the HGSE Student Handbook.

I have nonetheless decided not to refer the complaint to the HGSE Committee on Rights and Responsibilities and not to impose any sanctions in response to this violation. I understand that your intentions were to prevent the event from being further disrupted and that you had received guidance from event organizers to intervene as you did. While it would have been preferable to the security officers at the event handle the protest, your action is understandable in that context. I also acknowledge that you and your family have experienced significant harm as a result of the event, which I deeply regret.

We are grateful for your contributions to the Education Policy and Analysis master's degree program this year and look forward to conferring your degree at tomorrow's Commencement ceremony. I'm sorry that you won't be here for the ceremony but hope that you are able to celebrate your accomplishments with your family.

Best,
Marty West

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Martin R. West
Academic Dean & Shattuck Professor of Education
Harvard Graduate School of Education