

1 is Kavita Pandit saying, "I conferred with Judy Shaw..." --
2 that is the Director of Georgia's Office of International
3 Education at the time?

4 A That is correct.

5 Q Okay. "...regarding UGA's interest in developing
6 a Chinese language study abroad program at Jilin. We
7 appreciate your efforts in traveling to Jilin in the last
8 few months to explore this project. We have decided,
9 however, not to pursue this program at present...."

10 A I would say that the first time I saw this e-mail
11 was last week. I will also emphasize that this came out,
12 not of the Office of International Education, as you're
13 saying.

14 MS. MICK: Please repeat that statement.

15 THE WITNESS: This did not come out of the Office
16 of International Education and I will also say, to add
17 further context to this e-mail, Dr. Benedek was given \$3000
18 to go to Jilin, which is \$3000 more than most UGA faculty
19 members receive to start UGA study abroad programs. When he
20 returned, he provided some details, but he also came back
21 asking for more funds to continue to develop the program at
22 Jilin, which I believe in conference with the Office of
23 International Education and Franklin College, the decision
24 was not to continue to fund his trips to Jilin.

25 MR. HUMPHREYS: I don't mean to interrupt you, but

1 I'm not sure you're answering my question.

2 BY MR. HUMPHREYS:

3 Q You testified that Dr. Benedek was not instructed
4 to stop pursuing the program at Jilin.

5 A To my knowledge, he was not instructed to stop
6 pursuing it.

7 Q Well, does this e-mail change your --

8 MS. MICK: I believe --

9 A To my knowledge at the time in 2007, he was not
10 instructed. To my knowledge in the fall of '09, I did not
11 know this until very recently.

12 Q Okay, but I'm not sure -- are you disputing the
13 authenticity of this e-mail?

14 A No.

15 Q Okay.

16 A I'm not confirming it either though.

17 Q Well, does this, as far as you can tell, purport
18 to be an e-mail instructing Dr. Benedek not to further
19 pursue the UGA study abroad program at Jilin?

20 A It says that UGA is not interested, so yes.

21 Q Okay. So it was UGA and not Dr. Benedek that
22 stopped the UGA study abroad Chinese language program at
23 Jilin.

24 A Correct, but in effect, he torpedoed the exchange
25 program as well.

1 Q How did Dr. Benedek torpedo the --

2 A I don't know, but that was --

3 Q -- exchange program when UGA canceled the study
4 abroad program?

5 A The effect --

6 MS. MICK: Can I just say that in the charge, what
7 we're alleging is that he, while they told him to stop and
8 they're not going to fund the language program, the charge
9 is based on the e-mail that Dr. Benedek took it upon himself
10 to stop both programs and insert his own. That's what we're
11 charging him with.

12 CHAIRWOMAN LOVE: We're going to sort this out
13 based on the Statement of Charges and we're going to do our
14 best. I think we're making some progress here, if you can
15 just continue to ask --

16 BY MR. HUMPHREYS:

17 Q I'm still waiting to hear what Dr. Benedek did to
18 torpedo a student exchange program that you testified never
19 had any students or the nanotechnology program or a cancer
20 research program.

21 A I actually did not testify that he torpedoed the
22 nanotechnology program. So I did not testify to that.

23 Q Well, let me go back to -- okay. Look at page 18
24 of Ms. Mick's exhibits. Now in this e-mail from Guangcui to
25 you, it says "...your university has assigned Dr. Dezso

1 Benedek as the contact person for the student exchange
2 program." When was Dr. Dezso Benedek ever assigned as the
3 contact person for the student exchange program between UGA
4 and Jilin?

5 A And that's precisely the point, he wasn't. But
6 they understood him to be such.

7 Q Well, do you know if he told them he was the
8 contact --

9 A I don't, but I hadn't had any face-to-face contact
10 with them since I saw them in '06 and he had, so....

11 Q So you really don't know if she misunderstood what
12 you were saying or not.

13 A No, I do not know.

14 Q Okay. Now --

15 A But I also know her to be an exceptional person
16 and my peer --

17 Q Oh, I'm not suggesting that she's purposely doing
18 anything wrong. I'm suggesting that she's confused between
19 the student exchange program, which Dr. Benedek --

20 A I don't actually --

21 Q -- had nothing to do with and the study abroad
22 program, which the University of Georgia canceled.

23 A I actually don't think so because if you look at
24 the documents starting from page 1, you'll see that there's
25 a student exchange program listed and then there's self-

1 sponsored students' program and I think the self-sponsored
2 students' program is more like the study abroad program that
3 you're referring to. So, since Julie presented this to me,
4 I think she's very clear on the distinction between the
5 exchange program and a student --

6 Q Now on page 1, you're talking about the programs
7 with Jilin that never happened.

8 A This is a proposal. No, this is how proposals and
9 negotiations work. You start with phase one, and you're
10 asking did I think that she knows the difference. And yes,
11 based on this document, I do think she knows the difference.

12 Q So Dr. Benedek is sent by Provost Mace to start a
13 study abroad program at Jilin. I think you testified you
14 had an agreement for a student exchange program but there
15 was no student exchange program.

16 A It was very new. There's a student exchange
17 program in place, students hadn't participated in it. It
18 was very new and student exchanges take a little bit of time
19 to get some momentum. And students were also going
20 elsewhere in China, as we know.

21 Q And then the University of Georgia cancels the
22 Jilin study abroad program that Dr. Benedek was developing.
23 This program, which sounds like she's describing here -- "He
24 visited Jilin University several times to talk with us about
25 the details of the exchange program." Is what she says.

1 But there is no exchange program and the testimony already
2 is --

3 MS. MICK: I think we're just getting into
4 arguments.

5 MR. HUMPHREYS: I'm sorry.

6 CHAIRWOMAN LOVE: The question here is the
7 inference to be drawn from this e-mail and, you know, we've
8 got the job of sorting this out. But I do feel like we
9 understand what the factual issues are.

10 BY MR. HUMPHREYS:

11 Q If I can just point out here that "...after
12 several months when we from our side made all the
13 preparation, including the courses, the one-to-one tuition,
14 the homestay arrangements...." Doesn't that sound like the
15 Chinese language study abroad program that Dr. Benedek --

16 A I would say --

17 Q -- developed at Huangshan?

18 A -- this is probably all I'm going to say on this,
19 one-to-one tuition sounds like a student exchange to me,
20 because one-to-one means reciprocity and that's how we
21 operate our student exchange programs.

22 Q Well, did you ever have home stay arrangements in
23 your exchange program?

24 MS. MICK: Same objection --

25 A We sometimes do.

1 MS. MICK: -- Madam Chair. We're arguing about
2 this and it's for the panel to decide.

3 CHAIRWOMAN LOVE: I think she's answered these
4 questions as far as her understanding and her knowledge.

5 MR. HUMPHREYS: Okay.

6 CHAIRWOMAN LOVE: And her inferences. And again,
7 her inferences are not necessarily --

8 MR. HUMPHREYS: Okay, I understand. If I can just
9 make one more point.

10 BY MR. HUMPHREYS:

11 Q This says, "...we got to know from Dr. Benedek
12 that UGA has stopped the program...." Now I guess my
13 question is are you 100 percent sure whether she is talking
14 about UGA stopping the exchange program or stopping the
15 study abroad program?

16 A This is the same thing.

17 Q Well, I understand it's the same thing because we
18 have this e-mail here --

19 A My inference --

20 Q -- about UGA stopping the study abroad program --

21 A Do you want me to answer the question? My
22 inference at the time was that UGA stopped the exchange --
23 that she understood UGA to have stopped the exchange
24 program.

25 Q Well, back to what I said, is that not basing a

1 lot on an inference, to revoke the tenure of a professor at
2 the University of Georgia?

3 A Is that a rhetorical question?

4 MR. HUMPHREYS: I think that's all I have. Oh,
5 let me check --

6 BY MR. HUMPHREYS:

7 Q Now you said when you heard about the Humanitad
8 program at Jilin, you reported it to Legal Affairs. Why
9 upon hearing about a study abroad program at Jilin, would
10 you report that to the University of Georgia Office of Legal
11 Affairs?

12 A I confer with Legal Affairs on a daily basis based
13 on my position here.

14 Q Every time a credit approval form comes into --

15 A I don't get credit approval forms. I was
16 conferring with Legal Affairs about a variety of different
17 things, but I confer with them on all our agreements with
18 our partner institutions. They review everything that's
19 signed by President Adams and they review our work on
20 contracts before they're signed and I confer with Art Leed
21 in Legal Affairs on almost a daily basis.

22 Since this involved a contractual partnership, I
23 think it was appropriate to confer with Legal Affairs about
24 our contractual relationships with institutions abroad.

25 MR. HUMPHREYS: Okay, thank you. I have nothing