



Univers...Form.pdf

Whistle...etter.pdf

FAQ.pdf



Yuxiang Pei



Reply



Reply all



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Thu 5/22/2025 14:04

To: Yuxiang Pei

Cc: letters@chronicle.com; editor@insidehighered.com; academicfreedom@aaup.org; media@thefire.org; media@propublica.org

University_Formal_Grievance_F...
282 KBWhistleblower_Letter.pdf
2 MBFAQ.pdf
223 KB

3 attachments (3 MB) Save all to OneDrive - The University of Chicago Download all

Dear all,

This will be the final message sent from this account. The University has scheduled its accelerated deactivation for tomorrow.

My name is Yuxiang Pei. I was [permanently banned](#) from all University properties by the University of Chicago's Office of Legal Counsel one day after publishing a whistleblower letter on May 12, 2025. My profile was then quietly removed from [official website](#) without explanation. (Snapshot in 2024 can be found in [wayback machine](#)).

While the University has made visible strides in addressing overt forms of misconduct like sexual assault, more covert structural harms, such as unchecked administrative authority and academic marginalization, have remained largely unaddressed.

I am writing to draw your attention to a specific form of harm, **abuse of authority**, which reveals itself in arbitrary or capricious exercises, and is usually combined with academic abuse, public shaming, or systematic marginalization.

I have attached my University Formal Grievance Form (removed personal information) for your reference. This case represents a textbook example of administrative power overreach, the kind that warrants provost-level oversight. Yet it was denied processing — not based on merit, but on technical status. I was told that because I had been dismissed, I no longer had the right to challenge the dismissal. This logic effectively silences any student who is removed — turning the act of removal itself into the reason no one can question it.

Key Documents:

- (1) [University Formal Grievance Form.pdf](#) — A redacted version submitted to and signed by Provost Office on May 6.
- (2) [Whistleblower Letter.pdf](#) and attachments — Public disclosure of whistleblower letter on May 12, 9:30 am.
 - [ExhibitA Informal Authority Map.pdf](#)
 - [ExhibitB Five Years of Institutional Gaslighting.pdf](#)
 - [ExhibitC Timeline of events.pdf](#)
- (3) [FAQ.pdf](#) — Common Questions About the UChicago Physics 2025 Case

If you are a current student and recognize similar patterns:

You may [file a grievance](#) through the Provost's grievance form.

You may consult the [Student Ombuds Office](#) for confidential advice.

You may also [email me directly](#) at physix2019@gmail.com for informal discussion.

If you haven't done so, I urge you to read the whistleblower letter: it is not about dismissal, it is about how unchecked power and governance structure made that dismissal **possible, unreviewed, and irreversible**.

An archived version of the letter is available on below Medium page:

<https://medium.com/@physix2019/whistleblower-five-years-behind-the-curtain-uncovering-shadow-governance-in-uchicago-physics-3105624d7f1b>

You are encouraged to consider the following questions:

- What in that letter justified my exile the very next day?
- The four mechanisms, Favor-Based Support, Opaque Labor Control, Accelerated Removal, Institutional Silence. Why they exist and what they served for?
- Why does a PhD program "soft push out" its students? Why are students pushed out quietly, without record or reflection?

A short answer: “A system with limited resources requires attrition, but evades responsibility for it.” Common questions can be found in this [FAQ](#).

From my experience, you can clearly see a pattern: minor issues become escalated layer by layer: quotation mark problem -> probation -> dismissal -> legal threat. It is precisely because the structure itself is self-protecting and self-healing, and students, as the most vulnerable members, are **not just unheard**, they are subjected to escalating punitive measures and expelled. These problems unfortunately exist beyond a single department.

Power structures are essential to any institution. But when responsibility is endlessly deferred, and policies remain vague and riddled with loopholes, these structures do not serve governance: they enable **impunity**. What was designed for order becomes a shield for evasion. When authority faces no oversight and policy offers no limits, those in power begin to operate with assumed infallibility — not accountable to peers, students, or even process. **Only to themselves**. Not only because they were granted that right, but also because no one dared, or even bothered to challenge them.

This message is not written in bitterness. It is written to leave a public record.

If these questions feel uncomfortable, it's because the system has never invited you to ask them. But every institution committed to integrity must eventually confront them.

Whether you are a current student, faculty member, or future observer of this institution — what you choose to notice, ignore, or remember, is also part of this story.

If you ever find yourself facing similar structures, I hope this record helps you name them — and navigate them better than I could.

Even as I leave this institution behind, the structures I've described remain. If you read this months or years from now, and the silence still holds — let this message remind you that someone once named it.

*If naming the system results in exile — then what does silence protect, and at what cost?
If you ever feel something is wrong, trust that instinct. Speak before silence becomes structure.*

Sincerely,
Yuxiang Pei
Former PhD Candidate (Fifth year)
UChicago Physics

Full documentation archive under construction: [Public Archive 2025 for UChicago Physics](#)
Save record & forwarding

The PhD was what I put my life into it,
but was trampled upon and deprived through unchecked authority without accountability.