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TECHNOGEDDON

Charlie Poet



### [NO MORE CONFUCIUS](#)

*The hardest thing of all is to find a black cat in a dark room, especially if there is no cat.*  
-Confucius

The TECHNOGEDDON spy game comes in all forms and at our best universities. Now you see me, now you don't...

**Public university shuts down institute for Chinese Communist propaganda – but not why you think**

Low student interest?

Under a law signed by President Trump this summer, defense funding can't support Chinese-language programs at colleges that host Confucius Institutes unless they are completely separate from the Chinese government-operated organizations.

Another part of the law requires colleges to make public all agreements with the Confucius Institutes and any organization affiliated with the Chinese government. The institutes have been accused of subverting academic freedom and spreading Chinese propaganda by academic groups on both the left and the right.

But the new law is not the only reason why the University of South Florida “quietly” shuttered its own Confucius Institute on New Year’s Eve, the Tampa Bay Times reports.

The first Confucius Institute in Florida when it opened in 2008, USF’s institute suffered from falling enrollment in Chinese studies, losing about two-thirds of its students in the past four years, a spokesperson said.

The four Chinese courses went from 191 students in spring 2014 to just 65 this fall, and it was “simply no longer benefiting USF enough to be worth sustaining” for the aspiring “top-tier research university.”

According to the Times, “university officials did concede” that the new defense authorization law also played a role because it threatened USF’s funding if it decided to keep the institute. James Giordano, a Georgetown University professor whose research team has studied “Chinese interests in U.S. academia,” said USF deals extensively with the U.S. military, particularly Tampa’s Special Operations Command.

MORE: Trump signs bill blocking money for ChiCom propaganda in colleges

The Florida institutes’ days were numbered before the approval of new restrictions in federal law. In February, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio wrote to the five Florida schools with Confucius Institutes, including a high school, warning that China uses the institutes to “infiltrate” American classrooms and stifle free inquiry. ([READ MORE](#))

