



STANFORD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

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April 29, 2019
Office of the President, Building 10
Stanford University Stanford, CA 94305-2061

Via Electronic Mail

Dear President Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Drell:

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the future of Stanford University Press. Although we do not have complete information about the exact plans, we understand that it is likely that the university will eliminate the modest subsidy that the Press currently receives, requiring a drastic and likely fatal downsizing. Such a momentous decision should be made only after full discussion in the academic Senate, with a chance for all members of the university community to be heard. Moreover, we urge that any decision be based on a careful examination of the Press's operations by experts with experience in academic publishing who can offer an assessment of the Stanford University Press and suggestions for improvement.

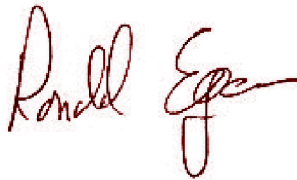
As professors in East Asian Studies, we also want to make it known that we regard the Press as a vital institution for scholarly work in our fields. The Press has shown remarkable strength in a variety of academic disciplines, including the East Asia field. Some of us have published books with the Press, and we have all read and benefited from the many excellent books in our field it has published.

University presses serve a vital need, disseminating scholarly work and communicating the results of academic research. They exist expressly in order to publish works that are not necessarily commercial. Accordingly, they operate by design at a loss, which is made up by a combination of endowment income (both Harvard and Princeton have endowments of over \$100 million), journal income, fundraising and subsidies from their universities. The small annual subsidy the Press receives pays dividends in the form of wide-ranging lists that showcase a variety of academic disciplines and, because of the Press's reputation for excellence and thoughtfulness, regularly compete for authors with much larger and better-funded presses. Eliminating the base subsidy will not only undermine an important venue for scholarship but will also send an extremely unfortunate signal about Stanford's commitment to scholarship in the arts, humanities and social sciences—all fields of inquiry vital to a world class university, as indeed is a strong university press.

As East Asianists, we would also like to point out that the present moment, with the world of learning, knowledge and scholarship under daily political assault, is an especially inopportune time to flag in our support for the dissemination of knowledge and the results of academic research.

We hope you will reconsider any decision to eliminate the subsidy to Stanford University Press and urge you, at the very least, to present any such decision to the academic senate for discussion to ensure you have a complete picture of the value of the Press.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Ronald Egan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ronald Egan

Yiqun Zhou

Ban Wang

Haiyan Lee

Li Liu

Yoshiko Matsumoto

Dafna Zur

Chao Fen Sun

Indra Levy