

Senate Council
October 22, 2018

Confucius Institute External Review Committee

From Associate Provost for Internationalization Sue Roberts:

UK's Confucius Institute was established in 2010 and has been a visible presence on campus and in the community. It is now time to begin an external review. Although, while not mandated by the University's Administrative Regulations, it is part of an overall process improvement strategy established under A.R. 1:4, part 4 for major educational units (such as Colleges). The purpose of the external review is to provide us with additional perspectives on, and unbiased evaluations of, the quality of our CI's programs and processes in light of concerns about (a) academic freedom, and (b) transparency. But, in addition, the ERC will be invited to consider their review in relation to the University's current five-year Strategic Plan as adopted by the UK Board of Trustees in 2015.

We would like to engage the Senate Council in this process. Specifically, we would like to ask the Senate Council to send us a list of 5 or 6 UK faculty members who would be suitable for service on the committee. We anticipate having two UK faculty on the committee, but would like more names in case of scheduling or other difficulties.

My thoughts about the nominees are that it will be important that they be experienced and respected scholars, noted for their good judgement and objectivity. They should also not be themselves current/recent beneficiaries of CI grants or funding. On the other hand, nor should they themselves have a record of opposition to the CI. I'm hoping for a set of names of diverse colleagues with sincere interests in international affairs, in academic freedom, in good governance, and in contributing to UK through serving on this committee.