To: The University Senate  
From: University Senate Faculty Affairs Committee  
Subject: Selection of External Reviewers for Promotion and Tenure Cases  
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion  

WHEREAS: The process of Promotion and Tenure review is underway for 2017/18 academic year; and  

WHEREAS: Members of each department/school’s Primary Committee are the most knowledgeable concerning experts within their various fields; and  

WHEREAS: According to the Procedures for Granting Academic Tenure and Promotion (section IV, B, 2; effective January 1, 2016), “Each campus must determine and clearly disseminate in writing expectations for letters of assessment that are to be included in a candidate’s documentation for Tenure and promotion. The campus may allow each college/school to set these expectations. Minimally, the expectations must include the number of letters, internal versus external referees and the acceptability of the nature of referees’ relationships with the candidate (e.g., collaborators, co-authors, former mentors). The Candidate has the opportunity to suggest letter writers and to identify those letter writers who should not be asked”; and  

WHEREAS: According to the Provost’s Memo dated April 6, 2016, “External letters should be collected for all tenure and/or promotions. External letters should be sought from peer or aspirational peer universities. Examples of the peer and aspirational peers include members of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and leading international institutions. Letters may also be sought from faculty members at top academic programs from other institutions, and from preeminent experts at other institutions, although justification in the form of expertise credentials is expected in the latter case. A minimum of 5 letters is expected for tenure and/or promotion cases and documentation should be included stating whether a letter writer was suggested by the candidate or by the department/school. Finally, when requesting a letter, it should be made clear that the letter writer should focus on the domain(s) of expertise of the candidate be that/they the scholarship of Discovery, Learning and/or Engagement”;  

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:  
The University Senate urges the Provost and Deans to rely on the judgment of the Primary Committee regarding the acceptability of external reviewers for cases of Promotion and Tenure.  

Respectfully submitted by  
Levon T. Esters  

Voted For:  
Dorsey Armstrong  
Stuart Bolton  
Ming-Ming Chiu
Peter Dunn
Steven Landry
Bob Lucht
Linda S. Prokopy
Krishnamurthy Sriramesh
Elizabeth A. Strickland
Paul Wenthold

Voted Against:

Did Not Vote/Abstained:
Evelyn Blackwood
Greg Blaisdell
Peter Hollenbeck
Vanessa Quinn