

UNH FACULTY SENATE  
MOTION # XIX-M17

on six recommendations regarding the Confucius Institute

1. Motion presenter: Michael Ferber, FS Academic Affairs Committee chair
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 4/13/15, 4/27/15
3. Rationale: The Confucius Institute was founded in 2004 as a wholly controlled subsidiary of the Chinese government in order to promote the teaching of Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture around the world. There are about 1,200 institutes or classrooms around the world. There have been a handful of incidents globally with the institute. Three such incidents in Canada have led the Canadian Association of University Teachers to urge all school systems and universities in that country to sever ties with educational institutes subsidized by China.

The American Association of University Professors has made a slightly milder statement expressing certain concerns about the CI. After reading an article last year about these controversies, the AAC chair brought the matter to the attention of his committee, and that committee brought forward a motion recommending a joint review of the CI by COLA and the faculty senate. The dean of COLA chose to form his own committee, and the senate, regretting the dean's decision, requested that two senators be placed on that committee. Only one senator was placed on the committee. The AAC was then charged by the senate Agenda Committee to review the report of the COLA committee regarding the CI. In the interim, more incidents involving the CI have come to light.

The COLA committee did briefly acknowledge that there were controversial issues nationwide regarding CI, but that the committee did not address those concerns. The AAC sent a list of questions to the COLA committee, including questions about how much money the university made through the courses taught by CI, but those questions have not been answered.

The AAC agrees with the COLA committee that there have been no problems on this campus with the CI and their staff at UNH. The AAC also agrees with the COLA committee's recommendation to renew the CI contract, but with a serious proviso, outlined in the third item below. There appear to be no funds to hire a tenure track professor in Chinese, although the AAC agreed that a tenure-track faculty in place in Chinese would reduce concerns about the direction of the CI.

The senate was not consulted seven years ago when the CI was brought to UNH. It seems that on several campuses across the nation, a small number of administrators have been able to bring the CI to their universities without much prior review.

**4. Motion: The following six items were presented separately for senate vote:**

**(1) The Faculty Senate thanks the COLA Committee for its report, which contains much useful information. We also welcome President Huddleston's forthright statement in his letter of March 16 concerning academic freedom at UNH and the consequences of possible violations of it by the Confucius Institute staff.**

**(2) We call on the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and the Dean of COLA to make the hiring of a tenure-track professor of Chinese language and literature a priority, and that the Dean report each April to the Senate on progress made toward that end. We ask the President to take leadership in seeking funding that would forward such a hiring.**

**(3) We call for the termination of the new contract with the CI in its third year if by the end of the second year UNH has not seen fit to invest in the hiring of a professor of Chinese language and literature who is not beholden to the Chinese government, as UNH will have demonstrated it does not sufficiently value the teaching of Chinese and the exchanges that have begun with China.**

**(4) We recommend to COLA that it not institute a Chinese minor until a professor is hired.**

**(5) We deem it a violation of shared governance that the Senate was not consulted about the establishment of the Confucius Institute in 2008-10, and we regret that the Dean of Liberal Arts refused to establish a joint committee to review the CI in 2014. We stated in 2014 that we “assert the authority of the Senate to review and develop policies concerned with the academic mission of the university as a whole, and we believe the contract with the CI affects that mission.” We reassert that authority here.**

**(6) We charge the Academic Affairs Committee to continue to monitor the CI and to report to the Senate when it seems appropriate.**

**5. Senate action: All of the proposed items passed, as follows:**

**Item 1 – with 39 in favor, none opposed, and 4 abstentions**

**Item 2 – with 32 in favor, 4 opposed, and 6 abstentions**

**Item 3 – with 25 in favor, 9 opposed, and 7 abstentions**

**Item 4 – with 32 in favor, 2 opposed, and 6 abstentions**

**Item 5 – with 35 in favor, none opposed, and 7 abstentions**

**Item 6 – with 40 in favor, none opposed, and 2 abstentions**

6. Senate chair's signature: Albert P. March

Forwarded to: President Mark Huddleston, on September 30, 2015

Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan, on September 30, 2015

Mary Rhiel, Interim Sr. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, on September 30, 2015

Ken Fuld, Dean of COLA, on September 30, 2015