FA Box-PT-Peer Institutions for External Evaluators

For promotion and tenure cases, all cases except in the lecturer track[1] need at least six **arms-length** evaluators from **peer institutions.**

How is "peer" defined? There are several approaches. Readers will generally default to the IUPUI-peer-plus model, so if the chair has chosen other approaches, he or she should briefly describe why the evaluator is qualified.

- IUPUI-peer-plus
With this method, an institution is seen as a peer (or aspirational) for IUPUI as a whole. Some ways to do this:
    o Rated at the same or higher level in the US News institutional rankings
    o Belonging to IUPUI's official peer group
    o In the Carnegie classification of "very high" research level (currently IUPUI is in "high")
    o Member of the American Association of Universities
    o Others such as the Shanghai or Times indexes

- Discipline/program-specific ranking
For the candidate's department or discipline, well-regarded rankings may be available. Some sources:
    o US News graduate program rankings. In some areas the rankings are based on a wide range of data, in others only on reputation.
    o Specific well-regarded or popular sources that are field-specific, such as the many different rankings of business programs. *Your unit's liaison librarian can identify existing sources.*
    o Contact OAA (Rachel Applegate) to access **Academic Analytics** information: this information can identify the departments with the most grant-funded, or cited, or awarded, faculty in a particular field nationwide.

- Area of excellence OR specific research area
This approach is even more individualized to a particular candidate. The goal is to find individuals who have the closest intellectual perspective on the candidate's work and its impact. In this category, the main caution is to ensure arms-length distance. The narrower the field, the more likely it is that these people will be collaborators of some sort. Make sure to check these against the candidate's list of co-authors, mentors, and co-PIs.

Using the IUPUI-peer-plus method is the **simplest** but not always the **best, long-term.** The act of requesting peer evaluation from external people will itself introduce those people to, or highlight for them, the work of the candidate. This process will help the candidate continue to build a strong reputation. Someone at an IUPUI-peer-plus institution who has no real interest in the candidate possibly will write a generic, bland, evaluation and promptly forget about the candidate.