

From: Damian O'doherty  
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 3:56 PM  
To: vc@leicester.ac.uk <vc@leicester.ac.uk>  
Subject: Disinvestment and Management Strategy

Dear Professor Canagarajah,

I read today the letter of Professor Burrell directed to you and made public through various social media channels. I have been a follower of Professor Burrell's work for some 20 years and if what he says is correct you and your colleagues responsible for the disinvestment strategy from political economy and critical management studies are making huge and potentially catastrophic mistakes for Leicester University and the wider academic community. Not only does Professor Burrell's work extend above and beyond critical management studies, he is in fact largely and single-handedly responsible for pioneering a distinctive and important European approach to organization studies that continues to bear fruit and enroll increasing numbers of researchers around the world. You will have read his awards and commendations and no doubt be aware of his success as the head of the management school at Leicester. The colleagues he has attracted and helped assemble into the management school at Leicester are all world-leading in their various fields and through their research Leicester has built and enjoyed an enviable reputation for their imaginative and original approach to business and management studies.

It would be helpful if you could make available the strategy and calculations that have informed your decision to disinvest from research with an interest in political economy or critical management studies. You will in any case be held accountable for the decisions over which you preside. Those of us specialist in organizational change and indeed the wider public will have much to learn from the analytics and methods that have no doubt informed your strategy and recent practices. You must see that failing proper public scrutiny one can only conclude from the evidence circulating in the public domain that you are presiding over a tragic state of affairs which has plunged Leicester University into disrepute and scandal. Given this I would also greatly fear the judgement of history, if such lofty ideals still inspire senior leadership in British universities.

Leicester is my hometown and I have always been proud of its university and held it dear to my heart for more than 30 years. It saddens me a great deal to have to say that should you persist with these actions I will have no option to cut all ties with the university and join the growing chorus of public outrage.

Yours sincerely

Damian O'Doherty

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