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PART I

Overview of the Selection Committee’s Actions

The Program for Andrew D. White Professors-at-Large (PAL) held three Selection Committee meetings during the 2012-2013 academic year. The meetings were held on Friday, September 21, and November 30, 2012, and February 15, 2013. A listing of the 2012-2013 Selection Committee Members follows:

Robert Raguso—Life Sciences (Program Chair)
Natalie Mahowald—Physical Sciences
Graeme Bailey—Physical Sciences
*Kent Hubbell—Architecture (Dean of Students)
*Beverly Knuth—Natural Resources (Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School)
Steven Pond—Arts
Thomas Robert Travers—Social Science
Maria Fernandez—Arts/Humanities
David Feldshuh—Arts
Debra Castillo—Humanities (sabbatical 2012-2013)
*Joseph Burns—Astronomy and Mechanical and Aerospace (Dean of Faculty)
[María Cook (ILR)—social science withdrew from her position on the Committee early in the fall semester ‘12]
*ex officio

Professor Mahowald departed the Committee effective June 30, 2013 and Profs. Feldshuh and Fernandez have agreed to serve another three-year term effective July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015.

The newly selected Committee Members this year were, Steven Pond, Thomas Robert Travers, and María Cook. Their three-year terms of office began on July 1, 2012. After the first Selection Committee Meeting, however, Maria Cook had to resign her position and no replacement was available to take her place for the remainder of the year.

Rob announced the change in Program oversight that moved from the Graduate School to the Office of the Dean of Faculty in 2012-2013. He also welcomed Joseph Burns, Dean of Faculty, to the Committee in that role.

The Selection Committee activities are focused on the annual efforts of the Call for Nominations a campus-wide endeavor to solicit nominations by Cornell faculty for Professor-at-Large nominations to be considered for vacancies in the professorial roster. Selections are strongly based on vacancies in the roster by discipline to maintain a balanced representation however we have witnessed lately the emergence of more nominations that represent “cross-over” candidates whose area of expertise represents a merger several academic fields under their area of activity. The six-year term professorships are extended to those candidates and faculty hosts that demonstrate the highest caliber of excellence in their discipline, which are supported broadly across campus through concrete plans to involve Professors-at-Large over the course of their term limits, and reflect a high degree of commitment by campus stakeholders. In some instances, Selection Committee Members play a role in the overall programmatic advisement related to policies and procedures.

The timeline for this year’s Call for Nomination was established as follows:
September: Initiate Call for Nominations after the first meeting of the year  
November 15: Deadline for Pre-proposal Nominations  
February 8: Deadline for Full Proposal Nominations

The Call for Nominations deadlines were re-established last year to allow for the President and Board of Trustees to consider nominations and elect Professors-at-Large earlier each year. This timeline allows those successful faculty nominators time to utilize the momentum of their efforts and excitement over the outcome—for the remainder of vs. the end of the academic year—to continue discussion and plans to host visits for the newly elected PAL over the course of the six-year term.

It was determined this past year that the logistical aspects of the formal campus visit schedule needed to be adjusted.

**Professor-at-Large Formal Campus Visits and New Nominations**

The 2012-1013 Formal Campus Visits by PAL follows:

- HANS FÖLLMER, mathematician; Campus Visit: September 17-21, 2012
- MARGARET McFALL NGAI, microbiologist; Campus Visit: September 24-28, 2012
- SIR PARTHA DASGUPTA, economist; Campus Visit: October 1-5, 2012
- ANN MARKUSEN, planner, economist; Campus Visit: February 11-15, 2013
- SHRI KULKARNI, astronomer; Campus Visit: March 24-29, 2013

The Professors-at-Large (#5) retiring their term on June 30, 2013, allowing for consideration of the same number of new professorships:

Laura Restrepo-humanities  
Shri Kulkarni-physical sciences  
Ann Markusen-social sciences  
Lakhdar Brahim-social sciences  
Sir Partha Dasgupta-social sciences

The 2012-2013 Nominations by the November 15 deadline that were submitted included:

*Nima Arkani-Hamed (Physical Science)—recommended to proceed to full proposal  
David Battisti (Physical Science)  
Peter Hall (Physical Science)  
*David Hillis (Life Science)—recommended to proceed to full proposal  
*Laurie Marker (Life Science)—recommended to proceed to full proposal  
Sheldon Pollack (Humanities)  
Neil Price (Humanities)—recommended to proceed to full proposal  
*Andrew Revkin (Life Science)—recommended to proceed to full proposal  
David Stephenson (Physical Science)  
*Duncan Watts (Physical Science/Social Science)—recommended to proceed to full proposal

*Lakhdar Brahim (Social Science); selected for another consecutive two year term (It was considered by the Committee that Prof. Brahim's current role as UN and Arab League envoy to Syria had prevented him from making a return visit before the end of his term. In consideration of
*Selected Nominations*

It was recommended by the Committee that the nominators resubmit the proposals for Stevenson and Price in 2013-1014.

With the election of six new PAL this year, there will now be 20 on the professorial roster in 2013-2014.

**Summary of Selection Committee Meetings**

**Friday, September 21, 2012**

The first of three meetings each year, the September Selection Committee Meeting focuses on the business of the upcoming Call for Nominations, provides the opportunity to welcome new Committee Members, examines the overview and function of the Selection Committee, reviews upcoming Members’ retirement by term limits, and examines any current or outstanding aspects of Program operations that will currently or in the future require their feedback.

The Call for Nominations 2013 was moved into action in September 2012. It is initiated through postings directly after the September meeting. Selection Committee Members agree upon and modify the wording each year to attract new faculty in certain disciplines—based on the need for balance. Or, the Committee may include new requirements to help enhance the overall efforts of the Program’s initiative. (Each year’s wording is a little different.) The posting includes bulk emailing the Call for Nominations notice through the Dean of Faculty’s listserv and a subsequent reminder notifying all Cornell faculty of this annual competition. The postings are also present on the Program’s website. The main selection criteria is

This year’s September meeting first off welcomed Robert Travers (history), Steven Pond (music) and Maria Cook (ILR) as new members. (Maria had to resign the Committee after the first meeting due unfortunately to other demands.) The meeting focused in large part to the number of upcoming term retirements in June 2013 and how to best make selections.

Rob reminded Members next about the specific criteria for: Proposals most likely to be considered for selection as outlined in the Call for Nominations notifications, which have been in place for several years now. They include:

- How a candidate’s expertise will capture the interest of a wide range of faculty and students in various departments and colleges at Cornell, and the surrounding community

- The planned level of activity while in residence and the ability to sustain the rigor of these scholarly activities—that freely cross academic disciplines and outreach-- over the course of their six-year professorship

- The candidate’s versatility and enthusiasm in meeting the complex demands and expectations regarding accessibility in a higher education environment

He also reviewed guidelines for improved nominations and visits—with an emphasis on the importance of how and why a nomination needs to present a concrete framework that incorporates:
- Strong hosting teams; well-organized plan; diversified support
- Fine balance between events, amount of contact time and private time
- Balance the range of expectations between two visits — not to do everything at one time.

Other important talking points at the meeting included:
- The role of the faculty host(s); the quality of the nomination and caliber of the nominee; the stewardship of the selection committee in the nominations process; and formal campus visits and Selection Committee involvement.

November 30, 2012

The second meeting of the academic year involves a review of all pre-proposals that are submitted by the November deadline. The pre-proposals are made available via Cornell DropBox to Committee Members in advance of the meeting date to allow them to review the dossiers in advance, consider the degree of interest in the nominee through an initial letter of intent to nominate an individual as an Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large. Also considered are the abovementioned checkpoints used to determine the capability, availability and viability of a candidate to succeed under the professorship.

The Selection Committee reviewed the 11 nominations at the meeting (outlined above) and engaged in review through discussion and recommendations — weighing the strengths of each proposal letter, CVs and other recommended web-based resources. Of the initial pre-proposals, six were recommended to proceed to the full proposal stage — with the sixth concerning the two-year extension of the current term of PAL Lakhdar Brahimi (diplomat) — Muna Ndulo and Laura Spitz are his faculty hosts. They included:

- Laurie Marker (conservationist) — faculty host: Alex Travis
- Andrew Revkin (journalist and environmental activist) — faculty hosts: Prof. Christy Goodale and Katherine McComas
- Duncan Watts '97 (network scientist) — faculty hosts: Profs. Michael Macy and Steven Strogatz
- David Hillis (evolutionary biologist) — faculty hosts: Linda Rayor and Prof. Kelly Zamudio

February 15, 2013

The Selection Committee's last meeting of the year concludes the process of reviewing and vetting nominations and making recommendations for the final selections. Committee Members receive copies of the final proposals in advance of the meeting and determine their individual selections by rank, which is scale by which the final selections are made. (Selection Committee Members who are unable to attend the meeting are expected to submit their choices to the Program Chair in advance.)

This year there were 7 full proposals that were submitted and of these, 6 selected to be confirmed by the President and Board of Trustees for their approval.

Nima Arkani-Hamed (Physical Science)
David Hillis (Life Science)
Laurie Marker (Life Science)  
Andrew Revkin (Life Science)  
Duncan Watts (Physical Science/Social Science)  
Lakhdar Brahimi (Social Science)—two-year extension

The proposal of David Stevenson (astronomer) that was nominated by Prof. Jonathan Lunine was tabled and the Committee requested that Prof. Lunine resubmit the nomination next year. Prof. Stevenson was considered an excellent candidate, but considering the star quality of all the nominations the Committee could not support the selection.

As Messenger Lecturer, Neil Price was not as strong as the other candidates

PART II  
PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Program hosted five formal campus visits by Professors-at-Large in 2013-2014. Professors-at-Large schedules included a range of classes, seminars, meetings symposia and other engagements.

The following is a listing of Professors-at-Large visits and public events.

HANS FÖLLMER, mathematician

Campus Visit: September 17-21, 2012

Faculty Host: Prof. Mukul Majumdar (economics)

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS:

"Risk, Model Risk and Knightian Uncertainty: On the Role of Probability in Finance"

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

Presented in conjunction with the weekly Econometric Seminar, Department of Economics

Presentation Description: Over the last decades, advanced probabilistic methods have played an increasing role in finance, both in academia and in the financial industry. In view of the recent financial crisis it has been asked to which extent the use of such methods has been part of the problem. We will review some of the answers, ranging from "don't blame the quants" to "misplaced reliance on sophisticated maths." We will then focus on the foundational issue of model uncertainty, also called "Knightian uncertainty." This will be illustrated by the interplay of "real world measures" and "martingale measures" in the standard framework of Mathematical Finance, and also by the problem of quantifying financial risk in terms of convex risk measures.

"Some Martingale Aspects of Financial Bubbles"

Friday, September 21, 2012
3:30 pm, 655 Rhodes Hall

Presented in conjunction with the Center for Applied Math Weekly Colloquium
Presentation Description: We will discuss some recent developments in the probabilistic analysis of "bubbles," usually described as local martingales appearing on top of the "fundamental" value of a liquid asset. We focus on the birth of a bubble generated by a flow in the space of martingale measures (joint work with F. Biagini and S. Nedelec), on the role of information (joint work with Philip Protter) and on the appearance of bubbles in the robust valuation of cash flows in terms of convex risk measures (joint work with B. Acciaio and I. Penner).

MARGARET McFALL NGAI, microbiologist

Campus Visit: September 24-28, 2012

Faculty host: Angela Douglas (entomology)

LECTURE PRESENTATION

"Animals as Complex Communities: Making Peace with Trillions of Microbial Partners"

Tuesday, September 25, 2012
4:00 pm, Biotechnology G-10

Presentation Description: Technological advances in molecular methods over the last decade have enabled biologists to define the diversity of the biological world more accurately than ever before. Emerging data have convincingly demonstrated that the vast diversity of evolved life is microbial, and the evolution of plants and animals in the last sixth of the earth's history has occurred as a patina upon a microbe-dominated landscape. In addition, exciting new data are revealing that plants and animals require for their health intimate, life-long and coevolved relationships with the microbial world. The integration of these new and seminal discoveries into biological thought will be critical for all aspects of the field, yet such integration will be impossible without changes in the basic fabric of the discipline of biology. This presentation will consider the implications of this revolution in biology not only for the future of field but also for environmental and biomedical challenges that face mankind in the 21st century.

CONVERSATION

Arts/Sciences Conversations: Transparency

This presentation features Mark Morris from the Department of Architecture and Professor McFall Ngai. Organized by Professors Maria Fernandez, History of Art and Visual Studies, and Simone Pinet, Department of Romance Studies

Wednesday, September 26, 2012
4:30-6:00 pm Guerlac Room, A.D. White House

Presented in conjunction with the Society of the Humanities and the College of Arts and Sciences

SIR PARTHA DASGUPTA, economist

Campus Visit: October 1-5, 2012

Faculty Host: Professor Tom Whitlow (horticulture)
SEMINAR

"Sustainability and the Measurement of Wealth"

This seminar is co-sponsored with the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Department of Development Sociology and Department of Natural Resources

Friday, October 5, 2012
12:30 - 1:30 pm, Biotechnology G-10

ANN MARKUSEN, Planner, economist

Campus Visit: February 11-15, 2013

Faculty Host: Professor Kieran Donaghy (city and regional planning)

LECTURE PRESENTATION

"Creative Placemaking: Challenges, Evaluations Issues, and Implications for Artists and the Arts"

Presentation Description: Over the past two years, new funding streams—the National Endowment for the Arts' Our Town and a high-profile philanthropic initiative, ArtPlace—have challenged arts organizations, artists and arts faculty to walk out their front doors and studios to lead in creative placemaking, where partners from public, private, non-profit, and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Funders hope that creative placemaking will animate public and private space, rejuvenate structures and streetscapes, improve local business viability and public safety, and bring diverse people together to celebrate, inspire and be inspired. What are the challenges in doing so and how can we evaluate whether creative placemaking is working? Will the effort expand participation in and revitalize the arts or does it distract from the core artistic mission?

Tuesday, February 12, 2013
4:15-5:15 pm, Johnson Museum of Art, Lecture Room

SHRI KULKARNI, Astronomer

Campus Visit: March 25-29, 2013

LECTURE PRESENTATION

"Dynamic Sky: The Palomar Transient Factory"

That occasionally new sources ("Stella Nova") would pop up in the heavens was noted more than a thousand years ago. The earnest study of cosmic explosions began in earnest less than a hundred years ago. Stella Novae are now divided into two major families, novae and supernovae (with real distinct classes in each). Equally the variable stars have a rich phenomenology. Together, supernovae and variable stars have contributed richly to key problems in modern astrophysics: distances to galaxies, cosmography and build up of elements in the Universe.
The Palomar Transient Factory (PTF), an innovative 2-telescope system, was designed to explicitly to chart the transient sky with a particular focus on events which lie in the nova-supernova gap. PTF is now finding an extragalactic transient every 20 minutes and a Galactic (strong) variable every 10 minutes. The results so far: classification of 2000 supernovae, identification of an emerging class of ultra-luminous supernovae, the earliest discovery of a la supernovae, discovery luminous red novae, the most comprehensive UV spectroscopy of la supernovae, discovery low energy budget supernovae, clarification of sub-classes of core collapse and thermo-nuclear explosions, mapping of the systematics of core collapse supernovae, identification of a trove of eclipsing binaries and the curious AM CVns.

Tuesday, March 26, 2013
5:00-6:00 pm, Schwartz Auditorium, Rockefeller Hall

The formal visit schedule for the 2013-2014 academic year has been arranged and the schedule will include the following:

**Fall Semester 2013**

*ALBIE SACHS, lawyer, judge, social activist*

Campus Visit: August 28-September 7, 2013

*HÉLÈNE CIXOUS, feminist writer, poet, playwright, philosopher, literary critic and rhetorician*

Campus Visit: September 22-26, 2013

*JEFFREY MCNEELY, conservationist*

Campus Visit: September 29-October 11, 2013

*NIMA ARKANI-HAMED, physicist*

Campus Visit: September 30-October 5, 2013

*CHRISTOPHER HOGWOOD, Conductor, musicologist, keyboard player*

Campus Visit: October 25-November 1, 2013

*ANNE CARSON, Poet, essayist, translator*

Campus Visit: November 9-November 16, 2013

**Spring Semester 2014**

*DENISE RILEY, Poet and philosopher*

Campus Visit: March 3-15, 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Professor Robert Raguso (AD White PAL Program Chair)
Prepared by Penelope Nichols-Dietrich
PART III
ATTACHMENTS
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
2013

ANDREW D. WHITE PROFESSORS-AT-LARGE PROFESSORSHIPS

To all Cornell Faculty:

We invite you to submit nominations for Cornell’s A.D. White Professors-at-Large Program. The A.D. White Professors-at-Large are outstanding individuals of international distinction, appointed to six-year terms as non-resident visiting professors at Cornell. During their tenure, A.D. White Professors-at-Large visit campus twice for about one week to interact with faculty, students, and members of the community through public lectures, informal meetings, and various other events. The A.D. White Professors-at-Large Program Administration coordinates the logistics of each visit, and all arrangements that reflect the interests and expertise of the faculty sponsors.

Individual faculty members, academic departments, or groups of departments are welcome to propose candidates by submitting a pre-proposal letter noting the nominee’s qualifications and achievements, along with a copy of the nominee’s curriculum vitae. The pre-proposal letter should indicate faculty, departments or programs that agree to support the nomination. The Program particularly encourages the nomination of women and minority candidates. Pre-proposal letters are due Thursday, November 15, 2012, at adwhitepal@cornell.edu, or the A.D. White Professors-at-Large Program Office, 114b Day Hall, Cornell Campus.

A faculty Selection Committee oversees the selection process, and subsequently invites successful sponsors to submit a full proposal expanding and strengthening the case for the nominee. The full proposal package should include the nomination letter and additional letters of support from Cornell faculty members in diverse disciplines. Full proposal packages are due to the Program Office by Friday, February 8, 2013. The faculty Selection Committee reviews and forwards the strongest candidate packages to the President’s Office and the Board of Trustees for approval.

Proposals most likely to be considered for selection will explain:

- How a candidate’s expertise will capture the interest of a wide range of faculty and students in various departments and colleges at Cornell, and the surrounding community
- The planned level of activity while in residence and the ability to sustain the rigor of these scholarly activities—that freely cross academic disciplines and outreach—over the course of their six-year professorship
- The candidate’s versatility and enthusiasm in meeting the complex demands and expectations regarding accessibility in a higher education environment

Under rare circumstances, the Selection Committee may allow nominators to bypass the pre-proposal stage and submit only full packages on Friday, February 8, 2013. Nevertheless, historically the most successful nominations have emerged from the two-stage process.

The term of appointment for nominees approved by the President and Board of Trustees in March 2013 will begin effective July 1, 2013. Additional information, including a listing of current Professors-at-Large, the composition of the selection committee, and details about compensation and terms of appointment can be found on the program website: http://adwhiteprofessors.cornell.edu or by contacting the Program Administration; phone: 607-255-0832 or email: pn12@cornell.edu.

Among the other lectureships that are available at Cornell, the University, Messenger, and Class of ’56 Lectureships offer opportunities through a similar nominations process, which may be an alternative source to fund a prospective candidate.

Regards,
Robert A. Ragoz
Program Chair
Professor of Neurobiology and Behavior
rar229@cornell.edu

MORE PROFESSORSHIP DETAILS

Professors-at-Large are compensated on a pro-rated basis based on a salary of $15,000 per month. The Program pays for travel—through reimbursement—to and from the Ithaca campus (travel by air coach rate) arranged by the Professor-at-Large; housing, meals, and other in-residence expenses; as well as a reception for students and faculty during each visit.

The Program Office handles all the logistics of the visits. Faculty sponsors depend on the Program Administrator to provide such services as: scheduling visits; the obtaining of visas; provision of ID cards; payment of salary; travel reimbursement, and other expenses; organizing the schedule of activities; room scheduling and publicity; and the management of public lectures. The Program Administrator also assists Professors-at-Large directly while they are in residence to ensure that the visits go smoothly. For a copy of the policies and procedures for faculty hosts related to the professorship and formal campus visits contact the Program Office at 607-255-0832, or by email at adwhitepal@cornell.edu.
Program for Andrew D. White Professors-at-Large
Selection Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2012
Rowe Room—Statler Hotel
9:30-11:00 am

Present: Robert Raguso, Graeme Bailey, David Feldshuh, Robert Travers, Maria Cook, Maria Fernandez, Joseph Burns, Kent Hubbell, Natalie Mahowald, Penny Dietrich

Excused: Steven Pond, Debra Castillo (sabbatical), Barbara Knuth

OPENING COMMENTS

- The meeting was called to order by Rob Raguso who began with a warm “welcome back” to continuing committee members and greetings to new committee members Maria Cook and Robert Travers. Each of the group members introduced themselves in the round.

OVERVIEW OF THE FUNCTION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

- Rob reviewed the purpose of the Selection Committee and its charge—to review, screen and vet proposal nominations for new A.D. White Professors-at-Large.
  - This included a summary of the of academic year Selection Committee meetings to be held; Sept. ‘12 (introductory meeting/Call for Nominations), Nov. ’12 (pre-proposals), and Feb. ’13 (full proposals and selection)

- Rob also provided guidelines of the ADW Professor-at-Large professorial appointments—currently the roster is 19 in number—and examples of visits that have been and currently are being arranged as well as the average number and level of activity—Generally, the program has been hosting six visitors per year (or less, if visits involve complex arrangements). The Program works to ensure that each Professor-at-Large visits Cornell two to three times—it is not ideal when Professors-at-Large only visit once or the visits begin more than two years after their nomination has been approved.

- In addition, Rob reviewed suggestions for improving the quality of nominations and visits
  - Strong hosting teams; well-organized plan; diversified support
  - Fine balance between events, amount of contact time and private time
  - Balance the range of expectations between two visits—not to attempt to do everything during one visit.

-Also, the selection criteria the Committee developed in 2011-2012;

Proposals most likely to be considered for selection will explain:
• How a candidate's expertise will capture the interest of a wide range of faculty and students in various departments and colleges at Cornell, and the surrounding community

• The planned level of activity while in residence and the ability to sustain the rigor of these scholarly activities—that freely cross academic disciplines and outreach—over the course of their six-year professorship

• The candidate's versatility and enthusiasm in meeting the complex demands and expectations regarding accessibility in a higher education environment

• Formal campus visits generally include:
  - A public lecture or two smaller seminars
  - An invitational reception—to vary by venue
  - Interaction with faculty through individual meetings and participation as a guest-speaker or visitor in classes, lunch and dinner engagements, group or one-to-one discussions
  - Student interaction through the West Campus Residence House Initiative or other organized group either through meetings or co-sponsorship of events.

- The Committee discussed the differentiation between the ADW Professor-at-Large Program and other Cornell lectureships, specifically the Messenger, University, and Rhodes Class of '56 lectureships. The latter programs are viewed as opportunities to assess a potential ADW nominee during a first visit to Cornell, and under the best circumstances may serve as a stepping-stone for a future ADW Professor-at-Large professorship. The other lectureships offer differing term appointments and intensity of engagement, while providing the visitor with a taste for the academic environment that Cornell has to offer. Also, the benefits of increased communication between the ADW committee and the selection committees for the other lectureships include the opportunity to share nomination ideas and resources more freely between the Programs.

- The five retirements by Professors-at-Large in June 2013 were announced, and include; Lakhdar Brahim (social science), Shri Kulkarni (physical science), Laura Restrepo (humanities), and Ann Markusen (social science/arts). The Selection Committee examined the merits of approving fewer nominations, in the event that they do not provide the special cross-disciplinary impact that is characteristic of an A.D. White Professor-at-Large. (In particular, this is when otherwise quality nominations should be shared with the other lectureship programs.)

OLD BUSINESS

- Rob announced that the Program needs one new selection committee member to take the place of Nelly Farum, who has retired.

[It has been learned subsequently through the Dean of Faculty's Office that they often place Emeritus faculty on committees]

A request will be made by Penny to the Office of the Dean of Faculty for assistance in identifying replacement faculty members for the committee.
NEW BUSINESS

-At the beginning of this segment of the meeting, the Committee had an opportunity to meet Professor-at-Large Hans Föllmer, who made a surprise cameo appearance at the meeting—giving the Committee a chance to meet him and share some brief comments.

-The Selection Committee selected two nominations in 2012 that were approved by the President and Board of Trustees:
1) Christopher Hogwood, musician, conductor, historian (nominator: Prof. Annette Richards, Department of Music) and
2) Albert Louis “Albie Sachs (nominators: Muna Ndulo, Law School and Nic van de Walle, government).

These nominees have formally accepted their professorships and are the newest additions to the ADW roster.

-Several ideas were suggested for new program initiatives. David Feldshuh suggested that the Program should solicit student ambassadors. This is a great idea to consider, especially because most visits generate many escort opportunities (as visitors are shuttled between appointments). We could use students to help with these efforts, and this would allow additional one-on-one interactions between PALs and Cornell students.

-The idea to create a Facebook Page for the ADW Professor-at-Large Program was largely viewed as a way to complement our current, more traditional forms of communication and advertisement of upcoming events. Most Cornell students are fluent in the use of digital social media and pay more attention to Facebook and Twitter than to posters on walls. [We have started to build the page, with the help of the PAL student assistant and it should be available soon.]

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
[see final draft—included at the end of the minutes]

-Rob opened the review for this year’s Call for Nominations with the comment that publicity is always a complaint. The Call is distributed electronically to all professorial faculty via bulk email each fall. So, although the Cornell community is given ample notice, they may not read email broadsides, thus it was suggested that we send out a reminder notice, several weeks after the first notice is distributed.

It was also suggested that the Program Chair send out letters to Deans, Directors and department heads to draw special attention to the effort. Penny will get a list from Transportation and Mail Service to consider which faculty on the list should be contacted directly.

-The Committee reviewed the language of the 2013 Call for Nominations. Because this year’s number of possible openings are greater than those of the last several years (due to 5 retirements at one time), the committee examined the distribution of current PALs by discipline to determine
which areas might need balanced representation among physical sciences, life sciences, social sciences, humanities and the arts. It was recommended that the written segment in last year’s Call for Nomination, specifying interest in candidates in the ‘physical science and arts’, be removed before being distributed.

OTHER TALKING POINTS:

The role of the faculty host(s); the Selection Committee Members acknowledged the importance of requiring more than one host and understand the need to determine the estimation of the hosts’ staying power (we need to avoid turnover or inaction by proxy hosts who do not have a vested interest in the spirit of the original intent of the nomination). The nominator needs to demonstrate a high level of interest in the nomination across Cornell through supportive documentation, which specifies concrete goals and objectives for engagement of the proposed nominee over the course of six years, and illustrating a commitment for this nominee’s involvement over the course of two visits—through specific venues and programmatic formats such as lectures, seminars, readings, conversations and discussions, classes, demonstrations, performances, and so forth.

The quality of the nomination and caliber of the nominee; The Committee agrees that it takes hard work to compile a nomination and those pre-nominations that aren’t selected for an A.D. White Professor-at-Large would benefit by being shared with other committees—such as those for the Messenger and University Lectures—to provide full consideration of a nominator’s effort. Nominations of well-known individuals are welcome but often add a level of complexity that require extra layers of work—in this case, the faculty hosts have to determine first, in advance, whether the nominee is willing to accept the professorship. It is important that all nominations are demonstrated to be viable in advance, in order to give all the nominations equal consideration. The star power behind a “big-name” nomination can diffuse in all different directions and be co-opted by an array of other departments, if not managed carefully.

The stewardship of the selection committee in the nominations process; The Committee discussed their role in advertising and supporting the Call for Nominations Process. Rob cited efforts he made in 2011 to inform his colleagues, which eventually elected two women scientists, Margaret McFall Ngai and Sarah Blaffer Hrdy. These first nudges also contributed to the evolution of Frontiers in the Life Sciences symposium, held on campus last April. So, not only do the Committee members review and discuss nominations, but also can serve as advocates for shepherding new nominations through word-of-mouth and other means to announce this effort.

Campus visits and selection committee involvement; Rob mentioned that our efforts to increase interaction between visiting PALs and Selection Committee members have met with only limited success. It was suggested that the Program post scheduled notices to appear on cell phones as reminders of upcoming lectures. The Committee reviewed the current schedule of visits and events and discussed some of the details about the visits. It is clear that planning meetings with faculty hosts must occur further in advance of the visits. It is taking much more time to put together well-thought out activities that speak to the core mission of the ADW Program.
The Meeting of the Selection Committee was adjourned and the next meeting will be scheduled for sometime after the November 15 deadline for pre-proposals.

Respectfully Submitted: Professor Robert A. Raguso, Program Chair
Prepared by Penelope Nichols-Dietrich
A.D. White Professors-at-Large
Selection Committee Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2012; 9:00-10:30 pm
Location: Four Seasons Room, Statler Hotel

Attended: Barbara Knuth, Robert Raguso, Graeme Bailey, Natalie Mahowald, Stephen Pond, Robert Travers, Penny Dietrich

Excused: Joseph Burns, Kent Hubbell, David Feldshuh, Maria Fernandez, Debra Castillo

Rob opened the meeting with a welcome and thanks to the Committee Members for their time and energy this year.

Rob noted that due to the large number of nominations this year, the meeting would forthrightly focus discussion on the ten pre-proposals to allow for a fair assessment of each candidate and host proposals.

He presented factors to consider regarding the professorial term retirements over the next two years. The current roster of Professors-at-Large equals 19 in number.

5 retirements on June 30, 2013:
Lakhdar Brahimi (social science)
Sir Partha Dasgupta (social science)
Shri Kulkarni (physical science)
Anne Markusen (social science)
Laura Restrepo (humanities)

3 retirements on June 30, 2014
Denise Riley (humanities)
Hans Föllmer (physical science)
Hélène Cixous (humanities)

The number of Professor-at-Large visits averages six per year: this is based on budgetary factors (adopted in response to the financial crisis several years ago, which helped us formulate a conservative spending plan to protect the endowment). This figure also allows us to effectively plan for two visits by the total number of 18-19 professorial appointments over a six-year period.

Rob explained that the large turnover of the professorial roster could allow for a liberal selection of new candidates, however, he added that in light of the 2014 retirements, the Committee doesn’t have to feel compelled to choose five replacements. He cited the categories of academic disciplines represented through the vacancies to estimate distributional equity.
The Committee reviewed the pre-proposals in the following order: (Note attached breakdown of candidates and hosts)

**Nima Arkani-Hamed** (physical science)  
High Energy Theory Group  
Professor Yuval Grossman (Physics)

It was agreed that Nima was a dynamic and brilliant star in his field. He was recently a Messenger Lecturer and at Cornell, which served him well—his lecture is available through CornellCast, providing evidence of his energy and genius. However, regarding the proposal itself, the Committee was concerned about the broad interest of this candidate given his theoretical focus under the auspices of the nominator(s)—High Energy Theory Group. There were not enough concrete examples of specific programs that would engage undergraduate audiences and other audiences outside of that field. Similarly, Prof. Grossman submitted a proposal last year which also lacked specifics; given an opportunity to craft a more succinct nomination, he did not comply. Afterwards, he was distressed when his candidate was not selected. Unfortunately, the repeat of the same pattern this year did not help his case in comparison to the other strong nominations (esp. in physical sciences). The Committee did not recommend this pre-proposal to proceed. Rob will offer to meet with Prof. Grossman to discuss the proposal. The Program already has had occasion to struggle with imperious hosts, and he will need to understand the specified criteria for acceptance of a nominee.

**David Battisti** (physical science) – it was noted that his area of expertise does cross over into other academic categories-e.g. Life Sciences  
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences; Biological and Environmental Engineering; Plant Pathology; Plant Microbiology and Pathology; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

As Committee Member, Natalie Mahowald, helped craft the proposal, she cited her conflict of interest within that context, but she did feel that as a Committee Member, should make the effort to proactively engage her colleagues in crafting the pre-proposal and choosing to advocate for a nomination in the physical sciences, in light of the number of anticipated vacancies in this academic discipline. She did recuse herself from the final decision. David’s expertise lies in the interface between biological and physical sciences, which is reflected in the diversity of stakeholders from those scientific disciplines. It was expressed that the proposal would have been stronger if other departments outside the sciences were included. In that regard, the overall response was lukewarm. It was determined that the nomination be presented again next year as there are stronger nominations to compete with this round.
Peter Hall (physical science)  
ORIE; Engineering  
Prof. David Rupert

The Committee examined the nomination and they felt strongly that he would make a good Messenger Lecture candidate. The proposed activities of this candidate are aligned with a narrow focus. The ORIE group currently hosts Hans Föllmer and already are engaged with oversight of a Professor-at-Large in conjunction with the Department of Economics. Peter Hall’s nomination was not recommended to proceed to the full proposal stage. His nomination was submitted to the Dean of Faculty’s Office for consideration for a Messenger Lectureship.

[Within the discussion about the above candidates, the Committee embarked first on general discussion about the five physical sciences candidates to compare their qualities and strength.]

David Stevenson (physical science)  
Astronomy, Earth and Atmospheric Science; Radiophysics and Space Research  
Prof. Jonathan Lunine, Department of Astronomy

The Committee felt that this nomination was stronger than Hall and Battisti, however, the nominators need to add concrete specifics related to the professorial engagement over the course of two years. It was felt that those supporting this nomination are willing and able to do so in the next several months and it was recommended to proceed to the next phase. Considering the departure of Shri Kulkarni from the professorial roster, it makes good sense to advocate for a new candidate in this field. Proposal encouraged for further consideration.

David Hillis (life science)  
Entomology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Linda Rayor and Kelly Zalmudio

This is a well-crafted proposal that meets the criteria outlined in the Call for Nominations. It was agreed that he will have broad appeal—he is a likeable individual that will speak well to undergraduates, graduates, post docs and faculty. The proposal specifically outlines the proposed activities—by title and venue. The nominators have gone out of their way to specify the range of activities that would best suit his professorship. Because of the large number of scientist nominees this year, it was asked whether David Hillis’ nomination should be resubmitted next year. However, that idea was turned down in light of how thoughtfully and carefully the hosts had crafted the pre-proposal. Proposal encouraged for further consideration.
Laurie Marker (life science)
School of Veterinary Medicine and Baker Institute for Animal Health
Alex Travis

Members of the Committee felt this was a very intriguing nomination. Laurie Marker may be viewed on YouTube. This brought up an interesting point to ask future nominators to include multimedia links in future nominations. A number of themes were addressed through this nomination, including sustainability, food science, genetics, conservation, etc. She has been to Cornell and would be willing to accept the professorship. The Committee recommended that the nominator provide a more concrete description of proposed activities under the six-year professorship. The nominator needs to reach out to other departments—e.g., Africana Studies. Also, Prof. Travis needs to locate additional faculty that are willing to share the hosting duties. Proposal encouraged for further consideration.

Sheldon Pollack (social science)
Department of Asian Studies
Lawrence McCrea

Sheldon Pollock is considered a giant in the field of South Asian studies. He has been to Cornell in the past as a Messenger lecturer. His field of expertise is one that would appeal to a very narrow audience on campus—he does not have the resonance across disciplines. The nomination cites the names of faculty who have said they are interested in supporting the proposal with promises for letters at a later date. Considering the number of really strong nominations, it was clear that Professor Pollock would not have the appeal or the broad interest of campus audiences. This proposal was not recommended to proceed to the full proposal stage.

Neil Price (humanities and social science)
Department of Medieval Studies
Oren Falk

This nomination was well received as it provided a more detailed account of proposed activities. The proposal promises letters of support from a wide constituency. Several of the Committee Members noted that they had attended his lecture series on “The Viking Mind,” or watched the presentations on CornellCast and were very impressed. The nominator cites a note by Professor Emeritus Michael Kammen, Newton C. Farr Professor of American History and Culture, which relates to Neil Price’s lecture series and reflects the overall positive interest explicit in the proposal:

“These have been the best Messenger Lecture Series since I arrived in 1965, bar none. The clarity, organization, and material is/are just marvelous.”

Feedback (such as this) from senior faculty carries a strong message of approval.
There will be one PAL retiring from the Humanities category this year, and, because the pre-proposal reflects a positive sense that this nomination would freely reach across academic boundaries, with some additional work, the proposal was recommended to move forward to the full proposal stage.

Andrew Revkin (social science)
Christine Goodale; Katherine McComas
Frank DiSalvo; L. Chambliss
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Communication, Chemistry, and Chemical Biology

New York Times science writer Andrew Revkin (Dot Earth blog) spoke on climate change and hydraulic fracturing, in September 2012, as part of the Atkinson Center's Outside Voices speaker series. Prof. Drew Harvell (EEB) moderated the conversation. Revkin is internationally recognized for his expertise on climate change science, energy and related policy issues. Given his level of name recognition and the topics he covers, it was agreed that his nomination would be not only of great interest to social and life science faculty and students, but the public as well. The recent visit to Cornell underscored the interest in this candidate who carries a timely debate on environmental concerns that affects this region of the country. The Committee was unanimous in agreement for this to move to the full proposal stage.

Duncan Watts (physical and social science)
Michael W. Macy
Sociology, Information Science, Social Dynamics Lab

Like the Revkin nomination, this candidate has forged strong name recognition through his work at Yahoo (Human Social Dynamics Group) and as principal researcher and founding member of Microsoft, Research in Manhattan, as well as his authorship of many scientific papers and popular books—two of which are fueling public interest in the phenomenon of social networks (Six Degrees and Small Worlds).

Undoubtedly, as an alumnus (PhD in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics) he would be welcomed back to campus to engage with former colleagues in the physical sciences. However, his appeal extends to the social sciences, as he now defines his interests as a hybrid of those two worlds. The faculty host, Michael May has outlined a number of possibilities to engage Mr. Watts—and a good mix of supporters who would look to maximize the impact of his visits. It is understood that Duncan Watts is available for the professorship. The next proposal does need to specify the names of faculty that are will to act as a co-host. The Committee unanimously agreed that this proposal move forward and submit a full proposal.

In closing, the Committee had a brief discussion about issues regarding faculty hosts who are unresponsive to queries regarding visits. In those instances, when all avenues of
communication have been exhausted, the Committee recommended that the Dean of the College of the host’s department be contacted. Unfortunately, absentee faculty hosts have constituted a major hindrance to the program in recent years, thus it is a priority to avoid this problem as we evaluate current and future nominees.

The Selection Committee Meeting was adjourned and the next meeting will be held after the February 8, 2013 deadline for full proposal nominations.

Respectfully Submitted: Prof. Robert Raguso, Program Chair
Prepared by: Penelope Nichols-Dietrich, Program Administrator
Program for Andrew D. White Professors-at-Large
Selection Committee Meeting
February 15, 2013
Statler Hotel/Four Seasons Room

Present: Joseph Burns, Robert Raguso, Graeme Bailey, Maria Fernandez, Robert Travers, Kent Hubbell, Penny Dietrich

Excused: Steve Pond, Debra Castillo, Natalie Mahowald, David Feldshuh, Barbara Knuth

-Rob Raguso welcomed the Selection Committee Members and began the meeting with comments about the success of this year’s Call for Nominations, as this effort successfully solicited 7 excellent full-proposals.

-The Committee Members received a completed listing of the six formal campus visits by Professors-at-Large scheduled for the 2013-2014 academic year:

Hélène Cixous-Sept. 22-26, 2013
Albie Sachs-August 28-September 7, 2013
Christopher Hogwood-October 21-25, 2013
Jeff McNeely-October, 2013
Anne Carson-November 9-16, 2013
Denise Riley-March 3-15, 2014

-Rob announced that although the term limits of Lakhdar Brahimi’s professorship end on June 30, 2013, a consensus has formed that his term be extended for another 2 years allowing more time for him to visit Cornell. His intention was to return to Cornell for a second formal campus visit in the Fall Semester 2012, as he had planned to teach also at Columbia, however, this was dashed by his being appointed as new special envoy to Syria by the UN and Arab League replacing Kofi Annan. Considering his efforts for peace in Syria and the Mid-East, it was agreed by the members that an extension was in order in the hope his efforts to end this conflict will be realized within a two-year time frame—allowing him to consider returning to Cornell. A letter written by the Einaudi Center for International Studies director, Fred Logevall, was submitted in support of this extension and another letter, by Brahimi’s faculty host, Muna N’Dulo (Law School) is forthcoming. Since he has only been available to visit once during his term, the overall consensus by those in attendance agreed that an extension for Lakhdar Brahimi should be forwarded for consideration.

-The next part of the meeting involved the review of the 7 full proposal nominations that were received by the submissions deadline:

- Nima Arkani-Hamed-Physicist
  (Yuval Grossman/Physics)

- David Hillis-Biologist
  (Linda Rayor/Entomology & Kelly Zalmudio/EEB)

- Laurie Marker-Conservationist
  (Alex Travis/Baker Institute/Vet School)

- Neil Price-Historian
  (Oren Falk/Medieval Studies/History)

- Andrew Revkin-Science Writer
  (Christy Goodale/EEB and Katherine McComas/Communications)
• David Stevenson-Astronomer
  (Jonathan Lunine/Astronomy)

• Duncan Watts-Physical Science/Social Science-Microsoft Researcher
  (Michael Macy/Sociology)

The Program now expects 4 Professor-at-Large retirements in light of the possible extension of Brahimi, should this be approved by the President and Board of Trustees. They are:

• Sir Partha Dasgupta (natural resources economist/social science)
• Shri Kulkarni (astronomer/physical science)
• Ann Markusen (planner/social science)
• Laura Restrepo (writer/humanities)

-Rob opened the discussion for comments regarding the selection of the full proposals. He asked that the Committee consider the following criteria in determining selections:

Do the nominations provide a robust level of quality activities to support at least two visits over the course of their professorship?

Is this candidate willing and available to visit within reasonable time periods over the 6-year professorial term? (He indicated examples of those PAL who end up visiting only once or those that would like to be on campus every year. Consecutive-year visits are discouraged.) The endeavor to schedule these programs takes a good deal of time for the Program Administrator and faculty host(s) and we want to maintain an interest in the PAL and not diffuse interest, which can happen if visits aren’t carefully spaced.

Another concern that was addressed was whether the Program can support the increase in the professorial roster? (The Program has supported up to 21 PAL on the roster in the past.)

The PAL budget supports 6 formal campus visits each year—international visitors require a greater amount of money and, those who are age 70 or older are eligible for business class travel. Some individuals will accept the professorship only if they are promised business class travel, which, after accepting the professorship is rather awkward to deny after they are elected.

The management of 6 visits per year is a reasonable amount for one administrator to address—more than that number works against the current budget model. In some instances, the Program was forced to host seven visits when the PAL had not been on campus during the first three-year period, in order to fulfill the two-visit minimum.

-Maria Fernandez expressed concern over filling the four vacancies this year as only 2 PAL retire on June 30, 2014 (H. Föllmer and Denise Riley). She felt that the Committee should limit the selections so that next year we could allow for three to be chosen.

The Selection Committee reviewed the following nominations:

Neill Price:

The nomination, although well supported through letters, provoked some hesitation among the Committee. Although his recent visit to Cornell as Messenger Lecturer was very well attended and left a great impression as documented in the proposal, the Committee felt the nominee’s strengths were “horizontal” (more breadth than depth), and the nomination did not outline activities concretely—only in general terms. It was noted that Prof. Price wrote a good portion of the full proposal in his own defense, which the Committee found curious. He wrote very broadly to the points that Rob requested from the faculty hosts. It would have been better to construct 6 specific programs and titles he planned to present, vs the broad outline of themes and concepts he specified in his narrative. He is currently working with Cornell
University Press on a book of lectures on “The Viking Mind,” which is the title of the lectures he presented this fall. Overall the nomination was not specific enough to satisfy the Committee to select this candidate.

*David Hillis:

Clearly this nomination fulfilled and surpassed all the criteria that were requested by the Selection Committee. This full proposal was carefully written and outlined specific programs to be offered over a six-year period. The nominators executed a well-refined plan for how Prof. Hillis would work with undergraduates, faculty and graduate students through teaching, research and outreach. The Committee was very impressed with the hosts’ efforts to produce this outstanding nomination that serves as a model for future nominations. This nomination was selected to proceed for consideration by the President and Board of Trustees.

*Nima Arkani-Hamed:

The Committee Members felt that the nominator, Yuval Grossman, rebounded on this round, with a good, strong full proposal nomination as compared with the pre-proposal. The proposal presented a range of concrete suggestions for programming and engaging Prof. Arkani-Hamed over the course of a six-year term. The Committee’s initial concern that Nima would be solely under the wing of the High-Energy Physics Theory Group alone was assuaged through a carefully crafted plan with specific engagements that reach beyond the physics department to include philosophy, economics, math, and astronomy. The website links that were provided to the Committee members were very useful, inspiring and helpful in determining their selection of this candidate. This included broad support from undergraduate student associations and testimonials from individual students who attended his 2010 Messenger Lectures or those already familiar with his work. The Committee recommended that his nomination be selected to move forward to the final round of approval.

*Laurie Marker:

Dr. Marker is viewed as an outstanding candidate whose reputation rests solidly on her ability to craft real ideas to solve real problems in her work as founder and Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa. The Committee was impressed with the nomination package and the range and level of planned departmental activities across campus. There was a concern that there was no mention of working with Africanists on campus and Rob said he would inquire about this with the nominator, Alex Travis, to determine if interaction with the Africana Studies Program/Africanist on campus is plausible and can be included. (Rob mentioned that last year, he moved to request additional information about the Albie Sachs after the full proposal was reviewed to ensure the proposed interactions were broadened to include more departments outside of the Law School.) The Committee enthusiastically endorsed the nomination for selection.

*Duncan Watts:

The Committee was enthusiastic and excited about the nomination of this world-class researcher / sociologist and felt the nomination was supported broadly (through 4 colleges) and provided specific examples of engagement that are outlined in the full proposal. As a Cornell alumnus, he is in a position of advantage with his familiarity of Cornell and, likewise, Cornell faculty’s familiarity with him—which factors positively, especially with first-time formal campus visits. The full proposal elaborated on questions raised by Committee Members at the November meeting—citing many planned public programs, classes and undergraduate and graduate student interactions. The Committee fully endorsed this nomination for selection.

*Andrew Revkin:

The Committee’s review of this nomination was very positive. A recent visit to campus (Sept. 2012) by Prof. Revkin helped greatly in regards to positive testimonials about his work, presentations, and presence on campus. As a science writer, his topics on the environmental sciences, politics and global warming are
timely and critical, and the full proposal reflects the desire for more in-depth interaction throughout CALs, Engineering, and the Arts and Sciences—3 Colleges and 13 Departments. The proposed campus activities for this professorship are far-reaching, specific and the support from faculty and students clearly outline the argument for selecting this candidate. It was noted by some Committee Members that he might not be as engaging as other nominees, but his expertise is clearly very welcome and anticipated. The Committee voted for this selection to be considered to move forward.

David Stevenson:

This candidate is a veteran geological and planetary scientist that is known as a superb lecturer and gifted teacher. His nomination reflected support by faculty from Astronomy, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and Physics. It was commented that he is considered a “go-to guy” in his field and would work very well with undergraduates. The Selection Committee felt that overall he was a stronger candidate than Neil Price. The retirement of PAL Shri Kulkarni (astronomy) would open up a space under the physical sciences, however, considering the number of superb candidates, the Committee moved to table this selection, encouraging the nominator to resubmit the nomination next year during the Call for Nominations 2014.

*Selected for Consideration by the President and Board of Trustees

- Before closing the meeting, Rob thanked the Committee for their work and consideration in the review of the nominations and indicated letters to the nominators will be sent out next week.

Respectfully submitted: Professor Robert A. Raguso, Program Chair, A.D White Professors-at-Large

Prepared by: Penelope Nichols-Dietrich
### 5-Year Distribution of Professors-at-Large (as of July 1, 2014)

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### Current Andrew D. White Professors-at-Large

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Distribution of Members of the 2012-2013 Selection Committee Program for Andrew D. White Professors-at-Large

**Physical Sciences**
Graeme Bailey, Computer Science
Natalie Mahowald, Earth and Atmospheric Science
*Joseph Burns

**Social Sciences**
Maria Cook, International & Comparative Labor/Industrial and Labor Relations
Robert Travers, History (with Humanities)

**Arts**
*Kent Hubbell, Architecture
David Feldshuh, Theatre, Film & Dance
Maria Fernandez, Visual Studies and History of Art
Steven Pond, Music

**Life Sciences**
*Barbara Knuth, Natural Resources/Vice Provost
*Ron Raguso, Neurobiology & Behavior, **Program Chair**

**Humanities**
Debra Castillo, Comparative Literature (on Sabbatical — 2012-2013)

*ex officio

The Committee needs to locate one more committee member for 2012-2013

Updated 9/11/12
### 5-Year Distribution of Professors-at-Large (as of July 1, 2014)

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