Faculty Senate

Except for the powers reserved to the University Faculty (see page 14), and subject to the power of the University Faculty to postpone or nullify any action of the Senate, all the powers and functions of the University Faculty are delegated to the Faculty Senate. The Senate has the following specific powers: (1) to select its officers; (2) to approve or reject nominees presented by the Nominations and Elections Committee for election by the University Faculty; (3) to approve or reject the list of members and chairs presented by the Nominations and Elections Committee for appointed committees; and (4) to adopt, amend, or repeal bylaws or other procedures relating to the conduct of its business and the duties and functions of its officers and committees.

Faculty Senate Membership: The president, the dean of the faculty, the associate dean and secretary of the faculty, and the Ithaca-based faculty trustees are *ex officio* voting members. There is one representative from the Cornell Association of Professors Emeriti; and nine members (three of whom must be non-tenured) elected at large by the University Faculty. Constituency members are elected by the various academic units in Ithaca and Geneva. Each constituency has at least one seat on the Senate, except that constituencies with fewer than five voting faculty members may combine with another constituency to establish a joint seat. Constituencies with more than 25 voting faculty members will have a second Senate seat. In addition, constituencies may elect an alternate senator to serve if the regularly elected senator is unable to do so. All members serve three-year terms, with terms commencing July 1.

Faculty Senate Officers: Officers include the president of the university, who will serve as *ex officio* president of the Senate; an elected speaker, who will serve as an impartial moderator; one or more parliamentarians appointed at the speaker’s discretion; and such other officers as may be provided for from time to time.

Faculty Senate Meetings: Regular meetings are scheduled once each month during the academic year, except for January. The agenda for its meetings is the responsibility of the University Faculty Committee. Any member of the University Faculty may attend Senate meetings, participate in debate, but may not make motions or vote.

Faculty Senate Standing Elected Committees

The University Faculty Committee (UFC), chaired by the dean of the faculty, consists of nine members of the Faculty Senate elected at-large by the faculty for staggered three-year terms. Its functions are to: provide liaison between the Faculty Senate and university administrators and meet on a regular basis with the provost and/or president to provide advice and consultation on all major policy issues of interest to the faculty; act as executive committee for the Senate and the University Faculty and request the dean to call special meetings of those bodies, if warranted; inform and consult the Senate on a
regular basis, act for the Senate in emergencies, assist the dean in preparing the agenda for all meetings, and review proposals to suspend or nullify an action of the Faculty Senate; establish and/or reappoint ad hoc committees and subcommittees; and initiate proposals to amend the Organization and Procedures of the University Faculty.

The Nominations and Elections Committee (N&E), chaired by the secretary of the faculty, consists of nine members of the University Faculty, six of whom are elected at large by the faculty and three who are nominated by the Nominations and Elections Committee and appointed by the Faculty Senate, for staggered three-year terms. The functions of the Nominations and Elections Committee are to nominate candidates, prescribe procedures for, supervise, and decide disputed questions concerning elections by or to the Senate, all elected committee and elective offices of the University Faculty and Senate, and any referendum; and to propose to the Senate, members and chairs of appointed faculty and Senate committees and members of administration and faculty-administration committees.

With the exception of the dean and secretary of the faculty, no person may serve on the University Faculty Committee and the Nominations and Elections Committee at the same time.

Faculty Senate Standing Appointed Committees

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status of the Faculty (AFPS) considers matters relating to academic freedom and responsibility; freedom of teaching and learning; professional status of the faculty, including policies and procedures relevant to faculty appointments, promotion, retirement, separation, and tenure; and receives and reviews written complaints brought by or against a faculty member when other specific procedures have not been designated for hearing those grievances.

The Committee on Academic Programs and Policies (CAPP) concerns itself with academic programs and policies which are independent of or extend beyond the single or joint jurisdiction of a school or college faculty; policies governing the use of, and plans for, university-wide academic facilities and services, such as libraries, classrooms, and computers; and proposals for new degrees (including the combination, modification or abandonment of old degrees).

The Committee on Affirmative Action (AA) reviews the work of college affirmative action committees and progress toward achieving the university’s faculty affirmative action goals in employing women and minorities. This Committee meets jointly with the Minority Education Committee.

The Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) considers matters of general educational policy relating to instruction that concern more than one college, school or separate academic
unit, including, but not limited to: grades and grading policies, preliminary and final examination policies, university-wide academic requirements, the academic calendar, and the class schedule and hours of instruction.

The Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education (FACAPE) provides counsel regarding admissions, academic performance of student athletes, and issues facing NCAA, ECAC and the Ivy League; administers the university graduation requirement in physical education; and develops the schedules and guidelines for leaves and absences for intercollegiate teams.

The Faculty Advisory Committee on Tenure Appointments (FACTA) advises the provost on all proposed promotions to tenure, as well as proposed denials of tenure by a dean after a positive recommendation from the department. Review of tenure recommendations for those who have achieved tenure at another institution will be at the discretion of the provost.

The Committee on Financial Policies (FPC) participates with the university administration in the budget planning process, and makes recommendations concerning the economic status of the faculty on such issues as salary levels, fringe benefits, and leaves.

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) reviews and approves all research and teaching activities involving the use of biohazardous agents on the Ithaca and Geneva campuses; it works to ensure the research and facilities used to conduct research are in compliance with government regulations and University policies (http://www.ibc.cornell.edu/).

The Committee on Minority Education provides oversight of minority education, including review of proposed and ongoing special programs, and monitors the overall educational experience of minority students. This Committee meets with the Affirmative Action Committee.

Joint Faculty Senate/Administration Appointed Committees

If members of the central administration constitute a committee to make or advise on policy issues, or carry out searches, and decide to appoint faculty members to that committee who are not members of the central administration, college deans or associate deans, or division directors or associate directors, the expectation is that they will ask the Senate to nominate some faculty members to serve on the committee. The central administration will be expected to select about one-half of the faculty membership on each such committee from names presented by the Senate. The Senate will present as many names as are requested, but in no case more than twice the number to be selected.

Some of these committees include:
The Faculty Committee on Program Review (FCPR) oversees the program review process, including the cycle for reviews and monitoring of the quality of the review process.

The Faculty Advisory Board for Information Technologies (FABIT) focuses on the computing and communications technology infrastructure at Cornell; and on the information technology and infrastructure to support teaching, learning and research.

The Faculty Advisory Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (FACAFA) reviews the impact of financial aid policies on recruitment, enrollment, retention, and quality of students.

The Research Advisory Committee reviews and makes recommendations on limited submission competitions for research funding and provides advice to the Senior Vice Provost for Research on other research matters.

The University Committee on Conflicts (UCC) functions as a university resource on matters involving the general subject of conflicts of interest and commitment, the oversight and implementation of the Cornell University Conflicts Policy, and the identification and resolution of specific conflicts of interest.