

## **Response from Kent Fuchs – January 19, 2011 – Faculty Lunch Resolution**

I write in response to the Faculty Senate resolution from November 10, 2010 which states

The Senate strongly urges the Cornell Administration, and in particular, the Provost, to reverse the decision to close the current faculty luncheon facility and keep it open until a suitable replacement is found, and recommends that a serious planning effort be undertaken, with Administration support and involvement, to ensure a sustainable faculty center that includes a luncheon facility.

The Statler Faculty Club and the associated lunch have accumulated an unresolved deficit of over \$700,000, despite an annual subsidy by the provost's office of \$60,000/year. Cornell's Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer has requested that the deficit spending end and funds be transferred to balance the account.

I will work this fiscal year to resolve the current \$700,000 deficit. However, I am unable to allow another deficit for the faculty lunch to recur in the future. Thus, effective this academic year, I have transferred the \$60,000/year lunch subsidy from the provost's office to the dean of faculty office. I have asked Dean Fry to utilize the funds to help achieve the strategic plan objective referenced in the resolution, namely "Objective 6: Foster an exciting intellectual environment by providing opportunities for more dialogue and engagement." (page 19). Dean Fry and I will also investigate whether the academic deans are willing to contribute funds from their budgets to sustain an economically viable faculty lunch.

Although I personally support the request for a faculty center facility, serious planning for a faculty center is not feasible until we have met the critical need for new and renovated academic facilities in Cornell's colleges and schools.