

# CORNELL

## JOHNSON SCHOOL

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To: William Fry, Dean of the Faculty  
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cc: Members of the AFPS

Date: June 8, 2011

Re: Annual Report of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status  
of the Faculty (AFPS)

The AFPS was involved in petitions and two actions over the 2010-11 academic year.

The first case was a continuation of a case filed in late April; 2010 against a Dean and Associate Dean by a faculty member regarding teaching load. The AFPS decided to entertain the petition in May 2010. A fact-finding subcommittee worked on the case and a draft report (to uphold the assigned teaching load) was released on December 6, 2010. While the petitioner sought additional information (which was provided), no comments on the report (other than a thanks from the petitioner to the Committee for its work) were received. The final report was released on June 8, 2010.

In the second case, on June 2010 a faculty member submitted a petition to the AFPS via a letter to Dean Fry regarding the biology curriculum revision and a course that has been eliminated. After due deliberation, including a meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Academic Programs and Policies (CAPP), the Committee concluded that CAPP's prior deliberations and findings were reasonable and that there was no basis to entertain the petition. The petitioner was so informed on May 31, 2011 and was also informed that the decision not to entertain could be appealed the University Faculty Committee.

The Committee also responded to a request from the Provost and the Johnson School to review and advise on a proposal to modify Article XVI(2)(c) of the Bylaws of Cornell University (requiring Trustee action) to extend the maximum period of service for assistant professors with term appointments at the Johnson School from six to eight years. That petition was supported by the Committee and subsequently supported by a substantial majority of the Faculty Senate. It now awaits Board of Trustee action.

The Chair and Professors Peter Stein and Risa Lieberwitz have been working with Associate Provost John Siliciano and University Counsel to modify the “Charge” to the AFPS so as to provide principles for judging decisions under review and for a reasoned response from the Provost in the event that a recommendation by the AFPS runs counter to a Dean’s decision under review.

Two issues remain outstanding:

- (1) the potential for drafting of a University policy statement regarding the use of University-supported e-mail services in sending partisan political interest messages; and
- (2) providing some title designation for emeritus professors who are actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of the University following their retirement.

The initial exploration for the second was conducted by Professor Dev, who has been on leave. It will be reexamined when he is back on campus in the Fall.

Finally, the issue of outsourcing the teaching of certain courses (such as English as a second language) was set aside as there are apparently no cases of that action at this time.

All on-campus faculty members of the AFPS Committee were active and participated in fulfilling the Committee’s duties. Members are Chekitan Singh Dev (on leave 2009-10), David B. Wilson, Jerome Cherney, Joel D. Baines, Nancy Chau, Carl Hopkins, Peter Stein, Risa Lieberwitz, Emily Lopes (s), Thomas McSweeney (s), and Jerome Hass. The student members (s) were not involved in any of the discussions in 2009-10.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome E. Hass  
Chair