

**Statement to the Cornell Faculty Senate**  
**Feb. 9, 2000**  
**Joseph M. Ballantyne, Member at Large**

I speak to place on record concerns, expressed by colleagues and shared by me, related to the procedure used in selecting the new Provost. While it is evident that the President has the right to use whatever process he wishes in selecting senior members of his administration, in previous administrations the process of selecting those for high-level appointments involved the appointment of an advisory committee, representative of the diversity of constituencies affected by the appointment, to give advice to the President on potential candidates for the office. This practice was an assurance to the various constituencies that their input was received and considered in the final decision.

The apparent lack of such an advisory committee in the recent selection of a new provost leaves some members of the faculty feeling that their inputs may not have been received or considered. Furthermore, the press releases on the subject imply that the nominee is known to, and enjoys broad based and widespread support across the University faculty. This has resulted in making substantial groups of faculty, who are unacquainted with or casually acquainted with the nominee, uneasy because of the implication that the nominee has their knowledgeable support. It has left them without the possibility of allaying any concerns they might have by discussing them with a colleague on the advisory committee. I recommend to the president that in future high level appointments, such representative advisory committees be selected to assist in the process.

I believe it may be timely for this faculty to consider implementing procedures for providing faculty input on future appointments and reappointments of senior academic administrators, such as Deans, the Provost, and the President.