

**Report to The Dean of Faculty, Local Advisory Council**  
**June 2012**

**Ronald Harris-Warrick, Chairman LAC**  
**Professor, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior**

The Local Advisory Council (LAC) is a committee of the Faculty Senate charged to provide advice to the Vice Provost for Research on issues relating to the research enterprise of the University. During the 2011-12 academic year, the major activity of the LAC was to help in the selection of nominations for grant and award programs with limited submissions. In the past academic year we reviewed applications to 20 programs, which was four more than the previous year. Due to the submission date of this report only 5 programs have issued awards; the remaining program decisions are still pending. Two of our nominations for these highly selective programs have been successful so far: Dr. Praveen Raju (Weill Medical College) was awarded a Hartwell Individual Biomedical Research Award, while Maureen Lynch (Biomedical Engineering) was awarded a Hartwell Postdoctoral Fellowship.

The work required to perform all of these grant proposal reviews is significant, posing a time burden on the members of the LAC. For the largest program (the HHMI International Student Research Fellowships), the program was split into parts, with each member only reading 1/3 of the proposals. This did not hinder our selection of the top nominations. We have previously tried to limit the numbers of proposals read by any member based on the faculty expertise (Life Sciences vs. Physical Sciences). However, nearly all the grant programs included a biological component, so such a division was not practical. The work load is spread out the academic calendar, with fewer programs during the summer months. Members found the work rewarding, even though it was burdensome during busy times in the semesters.

The LAC also provides occasional advice to the Vice Provost for Research on other issues related to our research mission. This year, we discussed several topics, including the need to subscribe to several costly web services providing information on funding opportunities, and suggestions for providing an increase in GRA stipend levels. The LAC also investigated a case where a PI was selected to write a proposal for a highly selective program, but then failed to submit the proposal. This failure cost Cornell's runner-up proposal the chance to submit to the organization. After much discussion, the LAC altered its procedures to try to prevent any misunderstanding which might result in a failure to submit in the future, and reprimanded the PI in this particular case.

**Local Advisory Council**

Members for 2011-2012

LS=Life Science (5)

PE=Physical science & engineering (5)

**Field**

LS Ron Harris-Warrick, **CHAIR** Neurobiology & Behavior

CALS 2013 rmh4

PE	William Olbricht	Chemical and Biomo Engr.	Engr	2012	wlo1
PE	Charles Van Loan	Computer Science	Engr	2013	cfv3
	(On sabbatic Spring term)				
LS	Paul Soloway	Nutritional Sciences	CALS	2013	pds28
PE	Harold Craighead	Applied & Engr. Physics	Engr	2013	hgc1
LS	Angela Douglas	Entomology	CALS	2013	aes326
LS	Ruth Collins	Molecular Medicine	Vet	2014	rnc8
PE	Marjolein van der Meulen	Mechanical & Aerospace Engr.	Engr	2014	mcv3
LS	John Lis	Molecular Biology & Genetics	CALS	2014	jtl10
PE	Eanna Flanagan	Physics	A&S	2014	eef3

### **Ex Officio Non-Voting Members**

Robert A. Buhrman                      Senior Vice Provost for Research

### **Administrative Coordinator**

Elaine E. LaRocque                      [eel1@cornell.edu](mailto:eel1@cornell.edu) and 255-2949

<b>Date<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>NA<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>NR<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Result</b>
Sept	Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences	1	6	Haiyuan Yu	BSBC	Pending
Sept	NSF Partnerships for International Research and Education	1	4	Todd Cowen	CEE	Pending
Oct	NSF Partnerships for Innovation - BIC	1	2	Lynden Archer	CBE	Pending
Oct	NSF Sustainability Research Network	3	4	Emmanuel Giannelis Carla Gomes Alan Zehnder	KAUST CS MAE	Pending Pending Pending
Oct	Burroughs Wellcome Fund Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease	2	3	Susan Daniel Yuxin Mao	CBE MBG	Decline Decline
Nov	Searle Scholars Program	2	6	Shubing Chen Julius Lucks	WMC CBE	Decline Decline
Nov	NIH Director's Early Independence Awards	2	1	Julia Finkelstein	DNS	Pending
Nov	Hartwell Individual Biomedical Research Award	4	10	Matt DeLisa Francis Lee Marco Seandel Praveen Raju	CBE WMC WMC WMC	Decline Decline Decline Award
Nov	Hartwell Postdoctoral Fellowship	1	3	Maureen Lynch	BME	Award
Dec	HHMI International Student Research	10	25	Sara Che Dorina Frasher	BME BMCB	All are still

	Fellowships			Zhen Tong Songming Peng Kevin Wei Adam Wong Jishnu Das William Chang Peipei Guo Xin Tan	BMCB BEE Genetics & Dev Entomology Comp. Bio. Weill Medical Coll Weill Medical Coll Weill Medical Coll	pending
Dec	NSF Sustainable Energy Pathways	3	6	Al George Tobias Hanrath Larry Walker	MAE CBE BEE	Pending Pending Pending
Dec	NSF Major Research Instrumentation	3	7	Todd Cowen George Grills Chris Hernandez	CEE Biotech MAE	Pending Pending Pending
Jan	Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award	1	1	Jiwoong Park	CCB	Decline
Jan	NSF Scalable Manufacturing	1	3	Yong Joo	CBE	Pending
Mar	Ellison New Scholars in Aging	2	4	Fenghua Hu Marco Seandel	MBG WMC	Pending Pending
Mar	Packard Fellowships	2	7	J. Nate Foster Haiyuan Yu	CS BSCB	Pending Pending
Mar	USAID Higher Education Solutions Network	2	3	Chris Barrett Tammo Steenhuis	AEM BEE	Pending Pending
Apr	NSF IGERT	1	5	Kelly Zamudio	EEB	Pending
May	NSF IGERT-CIF21 Track	1	3	Paulette Clancy	CBE	Pending
Jun	Brain Research Foundation	1	2	Selection is underway		

<sup>a</sup> Sponsor deadline

<sup>b</sup> Number of submissions allowed by sponsor

<sup>c</sup> Number of submissions received for internal review