

Department of the History of Art & Archaeology
B-48 Goldwin Smith Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853-3201

Laboratory: 607/255-8650
Office: 607/255-9732
Facsimile: 607/255-0566
Internet: Peter@dendro.mail.cornell.edu
Web: <http://www.arts.cornell.edu/dendro>

Prof. J. Robert Cooke
Dean of the Faculty

Sat, 10 Feb 2001 19:23:47 EST

Dear Bob:

I have some more ideas, especially now that I have read your line about how "people of good will and intelligence" can come to such diverse conclusions.

1. I think the Faculty Senate needs to hear the rest of the story. The three and a half pages of the LAC report that summarize six months of work are surprisingly short on substance, and they ignore Kenan's published report on the Ward Center, a couple of hundred copies of which will be available for distribution to Senate members on Wednesday.

2. If you give Kenan and the rest of us ten of those twenty allotted minutes, I think we can make the following points (not mentioned in the LAC report, and I would really like to know why not):

A. Senate Bill #245, currently on the floor, has \$240 million earmarked for our kind of university research reactors over the next five years. We ought to be able to get at least \$10 million of that merely by continuing to exist, more if we work hard at it (which Kenan is prepared to do).

B. Neil Ashcroft comments that when he and Boris Batterman wrote the CHESSE proposal in 1977, they had the materials scientists in mind as the principal beneficiaries. Never would they have guessed that the current 80% bio-sci users would be in there, putting this technology to work for them, too.

C. The Kallfelz group in the Vet College with its interest in boron capture therapy for cancer tumor cure is not a "nuclear engineering" group. Neither is my group in Arts and Sciences and in the Ag. School using NAA for climatic change study "nuclear engineering" by definition. But that is what a university is really all about. We use a campus facility like the Ward Center for a wild and wonderful variety of things that go way beyond the original intent of the Ward Lab.

D. Kenan, who was hired to expand the facilities, outreach, and budget of the Ward Center three years ago has gone from 10 on-campus users to 17, not counting graduate and undergraduate students, and from \$29K a year to \$421K a year to \$622K a year with \$971K pending in 2001. (What more could we ask for and expect to get?) He has also expanded the outreach part of bringing in off-campus users from New York State and elsewhere. (Does anybody realize that we are the only reactor in New York and the only one in the Ivy League?) There are many things which Cornell does that other universities do not do.

I would finally request that all parties, pro and con, be given a chance to argue our various points before the Faculty Senate itself.

Sardonic footnote: when the guy who built the Triphammer Bridge over Fall Creek did it, he offered what is now Cornell Heights to the University for \$5,000. The Cornell trustees turned him down flat, for they couldn't imagine that the University would ever need that much useless real-estate, much less spend the exorbitant sum of \$5,000 on it. Seems to me we are well on the way toward being able to phase out the need for any kind of annual financial support from Cornell and that finally the Ward Center can stand on its own feet.

With kind regard,



Peter Ian Kuniholm
Professor of the
History of Art and Archaeology