

# **An Open Letter on Ward Center for Nuclear Sciences to Colleagues in the Faculty Senate**

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National funding priorities focused on Biotechnology and Information Science have resulted in Cornell research initiatives in these disciplines. Now that it appears that Nuclear Science has become a national priority, is it not appropriate for Cornell to examine initiatives in this area?

There are very few universities that are in Cornell's position to pursue such initiatives, and therefore it is probable that Cornell (together with MIT and Michigan and a handful of other universities) will be the main beneficiaries of funding infusions from DOE in Nuclear Science.

In this context, it makes sense to consider the fate of Cornell's TRIGA reactor in more than a local context, which was the dominant focus of the LAC report. The relevant review is not of the present program, but an evaluation of the prospects for a future that would involve widening of the scope to respond to the Congressional and funding agency-defined national needs and consequent funding increases.

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