

THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Office of the Dean

January 19, 2000

To: Members of the University Faculty

From: Walter Cohen and J. Robert Cooke

<p style="text-align: center;">University Faculty Forum on Social Sciences Monday, February 7, 2000 4:30-6:00 p.m., Hollis Cornell Auditorium Goldwin Smith Hall</p>
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We are pleased to invite you to attend a University Faculty Forum on Social Sciences, jointly sponsored by Walter Cohen, Dean of the Graduate School and J. Robert Cooke, Dean of the Faculty. The Forum will focus on the Preliminary Administrative Response to the Social Sciences Report, prepared by Dean Cohen:

The Provost staff's initial evaluation of the Social Sciences report is favorable. The report contains many recommendations, and we are inclined to do something about most of them. The University has already taken action on one item: it has improved the infrastructure for the social sciences by increasing support for CISER.

All other actions are pending. First, we're interested in setting up a committee to advise Bob Richardson, Vice Provost for Research, on allocation of small grants to faculty applying for external funding. Second, all three of the interdisciplinary areas identified in the report seem promising. The report limits itself to the intellectual interest of each area, as is appropriate. We have now asked selected faculty involved in these areas to prepare budgets and the rationales for those budgets. Finally, we would like to establish a social sciences coordinating committee to advise the Provost's office on matters that include but are not necessarily limited to support of Cornell's land grant mission; the adequacy of facilities; and the state of collaboration on a) faculty recruitment, promotion, and retention, b) research and teaching, and c) graduate student recruitment and support.

We are probably not prepared at this time to take action on the recommendations to create several unallocated endowed chairs and a substantial group of full-time research social scientists and post-docs. Finally, we took no position on the proposal to facilitate collaboration across divides.

The report of the Provost's Task Force on the Future of the Social Sciences at Cornell can be accessed on the University Faculty website under "Active Forums/Discussions, University Faculty Forum on Social Sciences" <<http://www.cornell.edu/UniversityFaculty/index.html>>. In addition, other related documents will be posted under this site and a Faculty Feedback mechanism is in place to accommodate your comments.

I urge you to participate in the on-line forum, attend the open meeting on February 3, and send comments to Dean Cohen at dean_gradschool@cornell.edu.