

**University Faculty Senate  
Meeting**

**March 11, 2009**

# AGENDA

- Call to Order by Speaker Steven Beer
- Dean of Faculty Remarks: Bill Fry (10 minutes)
- Remarks from the University Faculty Committee: Rod Dietert (5 minutes)
- Approval of Minutes of the February 11, 2009 Senate Meeting (2 minutes)
- Report from the Library Board Concerning Open Source Publishing: John Hermanson (5 minutes)
- VIVO Report: Medha Devare (18 minutes)
- Report from Educational Policy Committee on the Academic Calendar: Georg Hoffstaeter (20 minutes)
- Resolution Concerning Construction and Renovation of Buildings: Abby Cohn, et. al. (25 minutes)
- Good and Welfare (5 minutes)

# COMMENTS FROM BILL FRY

Budget Deliberations

Next Steps – Strategic Planning

Faculty Governance

## Budget deliberations

### UFC/FPC/Faculty Trustees

- Structural Deficit (recurring)
  - \$100M – projects, programs, people, buildings
    - \$50M-FY10, \$50M-FY11
    - \$ 35M - financial aid
      - \$35M endowment payout annually
    - \$ 80M - reduced endowment
      - FY10, FY11, FY12 → \$80M
- “credit card debt” (one time) ~ \$150M
  - “reserve allocation”
    - \$75M FY09, \$75M FY10
    - FY09: 33%-of provost; 5.2% of “other”

## Next Steps: Strategic Planning

orchestrated by Provost Fuchs

suggestions from many groups  
(UFC/FPC/Faculty Trustees)

## Recommendations (intercollege issues):

- Overarching Task Force:
  - review plans/suggestions from others
  - make recommendations to the Provost
  - composition: faculty, vps, deans
- Specific Task Forces:
  - recommendations to overarching task force
  - composition (reflects topic)
  - topics: size of university, academic structure, revenue enhancement, cross college allocation structures (AI, CAM, etc), shared/duplicated services, ...

Faculty Governance Committee Recommendations

slow progress

joint meeting of Committee and UFC

**UNIVERSITY FACULTY COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

**Rod Dietert**

**March 11, 2009**



**REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY  
BOARD CONCERNING OPEN  
SOURCE PUBLISHING**

**John Hermanson**

**March 11, 2009**

# REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE

## JOHN HERMANSON

Premise: the current model of faculty publishing is not sustainable.

There is a discussion among the “Ivies Plus” to experiment with open access models of publishing.

This discussion is made more important by current economic challenges, reflected locally by a reduction in the materials budget for the Cornell University Library.

Faculty Senate- May 11, 2005

“The Senate strongly encourages all faculty, especially tenured faculty, to consider publishing in open access, rather than restricted access, Journals or in reasonably priced journals that make their contents openly accessible shortly after publication.”

Library Board- February 23, 2009

Supported a proposal by the University Librarian to provide limited funding, \$25,000, if matched by the Provost's office, to start a fund for Cornell authors who submit work to an open access publication.

Library Board, February 23, 2009

Questions arise:

Who will determine the actual course of dispensing these funds?

How will submitted publications be judged as “suitable” for this endeavor?

What if the designated funds prove insufficient?

Propose consideration of how oversight may be implemented by the Faculty working in collaboration with the Library and the Provost.

Work within current framework of the Library Board or generate additional faculty membership on a committee specifically designated to provide open access oversight.

At present these are discussion points intended to alert the Faculty to open access initiatives and to initiate appropriate reflection from the Faculty Senate.

Other issues- Library Board

Budget, the economy, and more economy!!

Olin Library renovation and life safety issues.

Collaborations with other library systems  
(Columbia University) to avoid purchase  
redundancy.

New Library Gateway.

# **VIVO REPORT**

**Medha Devare**

**March 11, 2009**



**VIVO**

<http://vivo.library.cornell.edu/>

**REPORT FROM EDUCATIONAL  
POLICY COMMITTEE ON THE  
ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

**Georg Hoffstaeter**

**March 11, 2009**

- There is an opportunity to adjust the Cornell academic calendar in the future because fall orientation will be shortened by one day. The Faculty Educational Policy Committee (EPC) has initiated a discussion to develop a recommendation that results from this situation and would like the various constituencies to weigh in on the options.
- The EPC recommends that classes start on Wednesday instead of Thursday in the fall. This would add one day to the fall semester, which is shorter than the spring semester.  
( Spring has 14 full weeks minus 50% of one Saturday  
Fall has 14 full weeks minus 50% of a Saturday  
and minus a full Monday, a full Tuesday and 50% of a Wednesday )
- The following options are available if this recommendation is adopted:

- **(A)** Add the Wednesday and take no additional day off.
  - **Pro:** The difference in length between spring and fall semester would be reduced.
  - **Con:** Concerns about Labor Day, Thanksgiving break, school vacations, etc.
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- **(B)** Take Labor Day off.
  - **Pro:** Child care is hard to find on this national holiday. Does not impact the payroll of employees.
  - **Con:** The first full week of instruction is disrupted, e.g. for large lab classes. A long weekend might encourage too much social activity, e.g. drinking. It is hoped that shortening orientation by a day helps to reduce such activities during orientation week.

- **(C)** Take Labor Day off and teach Monday classes on the Friday before.
  - **Pro:** As for (B).
  - **Con:** Some lab setups might not last over the weekend, this calendar might confuse newly arrived students, and the long weekend might encourage too much social activity.
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- **(D)** Take the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off.
  - **Pro:** Students have more time to travel home.
  - **Con:** More students would take Monday and Tuesday off and leave during the weekend before Thanksgiving. It frees up only half a day because the break starts at 1:00 PM Wednesday. Tuesday evening is prelim evening, so it is not easy to give a Tuesday off after 1:00 PM.

- **(E)** Make Fall break longer by one day.
  - **Pro:** Fall break would then coincide better with some school calendars, e.g. Ithaca and Lansing.
  - **Con:** Taking other days off may be more important because child care during this time is easier to find than during Labor day.
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- **(F)** Other alternatives...
  - We would be happy to discuss this issue with you, and we would appreciate it if you could discuss it in your unit and provide an opinion to the EPC. We expect the discussion to proceed for the next several months, and intend to decide on a recommendation to the faculty senate before the end of this academic year.

The responses received are characterized as follows:

	For	Against
No additional day off _____	3	
Labor day off _____ 8 _____	3	
Labor day with Mo classes on Fr _____		2
Wednesday before Thanksgiving off _____	9	
Make fall break one day longer _____	5	1
Cancel fall break and start after Labor Day _____	2	
Larger changes of the calendar needed _____	2	
MLK day should be considered _____	2	
Start to eliminate evening prelims _____ 1 _____		

- **The opinions on the subject of changing one day of the academic calendar are very diverse**
- **No constituency has voiced a uniform strong opinion.**

## **The EPC therefore**

- (1) Encourages all senators to consult with their units and to communicate opinions to the EPC before Monday, March 23.**
- (2) Will meet on 26 March to evaluate all communications about the calendar change and determine whether or not to recommend an additional day off, based on the opinions communicated under (1).**
- (3) Submit the following resolutions to the April 8 meeting of the faculty senate:**
  - (a) Resolve to start instruction in the fall semester on**



**RESOLUTION CONCERNING  
CONSTRUCTION AND  
RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS**

**Abby Cohn, Et. Al.**

**March 11, 2009**

- Whereas Cornell is facing serious financial challenges that have resulted in a 5% cut in the base operating budgets across campus, with further cuts to come, and a freeze on filling all but a handful of new faculty positions, dramatically affecting the core operations of the university,
- Whereas Cornell's financial problems have been exacerbated by the practice adopted by past administrations of initiating the construction of new buildings before sufficient funding has been secured,

- Whereas completing construction projects without sufficient funding has required Cornell to undertake a substantial amount of debt financing at a time when the yield from Cornell's endowment and new gifts from alumni are much lower than in recent years,
- Whereas Cornell has made important commitments to other worthy objectives such as increasing financial aid for students and making Cornell a carbon-neutral campus,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

- We call upon President Skorton and the University Trustees to adopt a new policy for governing the construction and renovation of all buildings, the Full Disclosure Policy, that requires a comprehensive plan for securing the funding of the construction and operation of each building before the construction begins, and that this plan for financing each building should be made available in advance to the campus community,

- In addition, consistent with the announced construction pause, we call upon President Skorton and the University Trustees to evaluate the financial status of ongoing construction projects, and if a comprehensive plan for the funding of a project has not yet been established, to delay the construction timetable until an acceptable plan for financing is in place,

- We also call upon President Skorton and the University Trustees to enforce strict standards for energy efficiency in the design of new buildings and renovations of existing buildings to reduce future operating costs, and in addition, to reflect the increased public concern about energy security and climate change and to facilitate the transition to a carbon-neutral campus.

Valerie Bunce, Government, senator-at-large  
Eric Cheyfitz, English, senator  
Abby Cohn, Linguistics, senator-at-large  
Shelley Feldman, Developmental Sociology, senator  
Martin Hatch, Music, senator  
David Levitsky, Nutritional Sciences, senator  
Risa Lieberwitz, ILR, senator-at-large  
Vicki Meyers-Wallen, Biomedical Sciences, senator  
Marilyn Migiel, Romance Studies, senator  
Satya Mohanty, English, senator  
Timothy Mount, AEM, senator  
Carol Rosen, Linguistics, senator  
Elizabeth Sanders, Government, senator