

UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2011



AGENDA

- Call to Order – Steve Beer
- Report from Nominations and Elections Committee (Fred Gouldin)
- Report from the Dean of Faculty (Bill Fry)
- Report from the Financial Policies Committee (Ron Ehrenberg)
- Resolution to allow Cornell Faculty to obtain a Cornell Degree
- Approval of Minutes from Meeting on September 14, 2011
- Address from President Skorton
- Good and Welfare



REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE FRED GOULDIN, CHAIR OCTOBER 12, 2011

Faculty Advisory Board for Information Technologies
Paul Velleman, Chair, School of Industrial and Labor Relations

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Lisa Fortier, College of Veterinary Medicine
Dave Lin, College of Veterinary Medicine
Christiane Linster, College of Arts and Sciences

University Assembly Committee
Robert Kay, College of Engineering

University Benefits Committee
James Turner, College of Arts and Sciences

University Conflicts Committee
Chris Ober, College of Engineering

DEAN OF FACULTY REPORT BILL FRY

OCTOBER 12, 2011

Campus Trustees' Listening Session
18 October, 4:00-5:00 pm, Mann 302

In advance of the Cornell Board of Trustees meeting on 20-22 October, the faculty, student and staff members of the Cornell Board of Trustees (the "campus trustees") will hold a listening session open to all members of the Cornell community.

The objective of this meeting is for the campus trustees to hear faculty, staff, student, and local alumni thoughts, opinions, and concerns related to matters that are relevant to the Board of Trustees. We are interested in understanding better which issues members of the Cornell community feel are important and what their perspectives are on these issues. The perspectives shared at this meeting will inform discussions by the campus trustees with the Board both at the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting and going forward.

Faculty Trustees: Rosemary Avery, Nelson Hairston.

University Faculty Committee meets with members of the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, 19 October. Please inform us (law1@cornell.edu) of issues you'd like addressed.

REPORT FROM THE FINANCIAL POLICIES COMMITTEE (FPC) RON EHRENBURG OCTOBER 12, 2011

2011-2012 Financial Policies Committee (FPC)

Joe Burns (ENGR)
Ronald Ehrenberg (ILR)
John Cawley (CHE)
Tom DiCiccio (ILR)
Kifle Gebremedhin (ENGR)
Amy McCune (CALS)
Stephen Pope (ENGR)
Tony Simons (HOTEL)
Shawkat Toorawa (A&S)
Mildred Warner (AAP)
Peter Wolczanski (A&S)



REPORT FROM THE FINANCIAL POLICIES COMMITTEE (FPC) RON EHRENBURG OCTOBER 12, 2011

Summer 2011

Ron Ehrenberg met twice with Vice President Elmira Mangum to keep up to date with the financial issues that Cornell was facing and to discuss the agenda for her discussions with the FPC in the fall.

September 15, 2011

Vice President Mangum discussed with us:

1. The progress Cornell was making on eliminating the structural deficit in the annual operating budget;
2. The implications of the special draw on the endowment for financial aid dollars ending in FY2014;
3. Trustees' concerns about the levels of reserves/fund balances at the university and the explanations that she gave them that assuaged their concerns;
4. In response to committee questions, why the structural deficit arose;



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5. The progress on the evolving budget model and the issues that she would be discussing with the deans, the college business officers, and then the FPC during the fall semester:

- a. Undergraduate tuition treatment
- b. Graduate tuition treatment
- c. Facilities and Administration (F&A) (formerly called indirect cost) revenues – to whom do the funds accrue and who pays the costs for which the funds come to the university?
- d. University “Support” Pool – what should the “tax” rates on what revenue streams be to support central administrative costs and to provide funds to support new initiatives and to stimulate cross-college activities?



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October 4, 2011

On a strictly confidential basis, the Provost briefed the committee on the financial plans (capital and operating) for the proposal for the NYC Campus that Cornell will submit to NYC later this month. The purpose of our meeting was to allow us to question him about the likely impact of the NYC project on the finances of the Ithaca campus. Committee members shared with him concerns that they had about a number of the assumptions upon which the plans were based. With the permission of the Provost, after our meeting Amy McCune and I discussed FPC members' concerns with the two faculty trustees so that they would know them before the trustees as a whole discussed the proposal this week.

Reminder of the Semester

We will meet with VP Mangum to discuss the topics noted above. She will also discuss with us in November or December the FY13 budget that the Provost will bring to the Trustees in January or later. I am hopeful that we will be able to arrange to have the Provost or VP Mangum make a presentation to the Faculty Senate on the FY13 budget before it is adopted by the Trustees.



**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE UNIVERSITY BYLAWS TO ALLOW CORNELL FACULTY TO EARN
A GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE FROM CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

Whereas: Currently the University Bylaws stipulate that “No member of the University Faculty may be a candidate for a degree administered by Cornell University,” forcing these faculty to pursue graduate studies at a competing institution which may lead to faculty retention issues. Additionally, some cases of dual career faculty retention could be addressed with additional opportunities for faculty pursuing academic degrees at Cornell.

Whereas: Academic scholarship is changing to include greater emphasis on interdisciplinary activity, understanding, and collaboration. In some cases, this may foster an interest in faculty to obtain advanced degrees in more than one disciplinary area. Some current faculty at Cornell may wish to pursue a Ph.D. or professional degree (e.g., J.D.) in a field beyond their core discipline.

Whereas: The General Committee of the Graduate School agreed in November 2010 to changes that would be necessary in the Code of Legislation to allow University Faculty to be a candidate for a Cornell degree. The General Committee voted to “endorse changes in the Code of Legislation, Cornell University bylaws, and other pertinent university policies and procedures to allow tenured Cornell University faculty members, upon recommendation by their academic dean and with approval by the Provost, and upon admission by a Cornell graduate or professional degree program, to earn a Cornell University graduate or professional degree, when such pursuits are judged to provide institutional benefits and to be in the long-term interest of the university.”

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Whereas: This potential policy change was discussed with the Vice President for Human Resources and with University Counsel. The next steps for considering this policy change involve the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees. Changes will be required to the University Bylaws, the Faculty Handbook, and the Code of Legislation of the Graduate Faculty. Because the University Bylaws trump the other two policy documents, the University Bylaws must ultimately be changed first, before changes to the Faculty Handbook and the Code of Legislation may be made, even if endorsed by the faculty. However, faculty endorsement (from the General Committee as attained above, and from the Faculty Senate) is necessary before moving this forward to the Board of Trustees.

Whereas: Including a provision in the University Bylaws to prohibit any voting faculty member to be a candidate for a degree administered by Cornell University was likely motivated during a time when the university faculty was much smaller, when parochial interests and concerns about political favors were more common and there was a perceived need to guard against department or graduate programs falling prey to favoritism or antagonism in assessing degree candidates from faculty in other departments, and when much less emphasis was placed on the value of interdisciplinary training and scholarship.

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Be it resolved that: Articles XIII.2 and XIV.2 of the University Bylaws be amended to strike the sentence “No member of the University Faculty may be a candidate for a degree administered by Cornell University.” And replace it with the sentence “A tenured member of the University Faculty may be a candidate for a graduate or professional degree administered by Cornell University upon recommendation by the faculty member’s academic dean and with approval by the Provost, and upon admission by a Cornell graduate or professional degree program, when such pursuits are judged to provide institutional benefits and to be in the long-term interest of the university.”

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 14, 2011
FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

OCTOBER 12, 2011



