



Statement

Cornell is a great research and teaching university with a unique mission as both a land-grant and an Ivy-League university. But in recent years the university has undergone a number of radical changes initiated without consultation of the faculty or justification in terms of teaching and research. If elected, my aim would be to help tip the balance in favor of the intellectual mission of the university by arguing for mutual respect between trustees and faculty. This must be based on the recognition that the faculty are the major stakeholders in the university and that they constitute the fundamental repository of knowledge about the running of the university. Our realization of the university's mission is hindered and our knowledge is wasted when the trustees and administrators make far-reaching decisions without consultation. Faculty input before e.g. the creation of the Tech Campus and Business College may have led to better results as well as a more united university. As a faculty trustee I would work to promote sustained and direct communication between faculty and trustees on the effect of future decisions on teaching and research.

Bio

Charles Brittain is a professor of Classics and Philosophy, and the current holder of the Susan Linn Sage Chair of Philosophy and Humane Letters. Brittain works in the field of ancient Greek and Roman philosophy. He is a specialist in the study of Hellenistic epistemology and psychology and in philosophy in Latin from Cicero to Augustine. Brittain came to Cornell in 1996 as an assistant professor. He is a recipient of the Carpenter Advising Award, an Apell Teaching Fellowship, the Provost's Award for Distinguished Scholarship, and an Alice & Constance Cook Award. He served as Chair of the Classics Department from 2007 to 2014 and on the council for the Society of Humanities in 2000-03 and 2014-16. He has been a longstanding member of college and university committees that serve undergraduates, including the Academic Records Committee for A&S and the Rhodes-Marshall committee and the HCEC for the university; he has also been a constant advocate for the University Library, including stints on the Humanities Research committee and the University Library Board. He has served as a faculty senator and alternate senator and as a member of a current faculty senate investigative committee.