



Barbara Baird, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Arts & Sciences

Barbara A. Baird is the Horace White Professor and Chair of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Cornell University. She received her B.A. in Chemistry from Knox College and her Ph.D. in Chemistry from Cornell University. Her postdoctoral studies were carried out as a Damon Runyon Fellow in the Immunology Branch of the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health before she joined the Cornell faculty in 1980. Dr. Baird has led a number of programs at Cornell; recent positions include Director of the Nanobiotechnology Center (a Science and Technology Center of the National Science Foundation), Director of Graduate Studies in Chemistry, Director of Cornell's NIH training grant in Molecular Biophysics, Co-Director of the W.M. Keck Foundation Program run jointly with faculty at Weill Cornell Medical College on Molecular and Cellular Biophysics of Signal Transduction. Dr. Baird has served on the Council of the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and on scientific advisory/review committees for Los Alamos National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and centers at several universities. She is Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Baird research laboratory integrates biochemical, biophysical, and nanotechnology approaches to investigate basic mechanisms by which cellular receptors mediate transmembrane signals in immune and other physiological responses.

Statement:

I agreed to serve as a candidate for faculty representative on Cornell's Board of Trustees because I think it would be a very interesting learning experience, and I think I have something to contribute. From the individual Trustees I have met over the years, I know that the members of this group are highly talented and accomplished, and deeply loyal to Cornell. Their considerable contributions of time and energy to guide Cornell toward achieving ever new heights, in the presence of ever new challenges and opportunities, inspires awe as well as respect. However, representation on the Board by faculty, employees, and students is clearly vital because we are Cornell. An outstanding faculty is the hallmark of an outstanding university. Beyond the obviously important task of educating students toward excellent citizenship in tomorrow's world, the faculty lead in scholarly activities and research, both to understand the complexities of our existence and to solve the world's many problems. The faculty also must take responsibility for making the university work well, weathering storms and taking advantage of opportunities. I am currently Chair of a department that teaches chemistry to nearly 3000 undergraduates each semester, and this together with my own teaching and advising experience gives me a practical as well as idealistic perspective of Cornell's educational mission. I have also served as Chemistry's Director of Graduate Studies. My research program in biophysical chemistry connects both to physical and life sciences and to engineering. I know the importance of communicating effectively. During my service as Director of the Nanobiotechnology Center and other programs I could capitalize on my own

interdisciplinary experience while I worked with faculty and students across the campus to excel in our collective research efforts within the administrative systems of Cornell and the outside funding agencies. I will be very interested gaining an even larger appreciation of Cornell operations by participating on the Board. As a faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences, I am particularly interested in the new opportunities offered by our new Tech campus in New York City and its potential to enrich our entire university.