

**Remarks to the Faculty Senate on 10 April 2002
Regarding the CAPP Motion Concerning
Implementation of the Garza Agreement**

by

Terrence L. Fine, Chair CAPP

Two Principles:

What, after careful consideration, the Senate and the Administration mutually undertake must be accorded a high level of respect and attention by both sides to ensuring that these obligations are met.

We accord great respect to academic due process by providing ample opportunities for dialogue and debate. This respect is open to abuse for the sake of delay.

The Problem:

- We do NOT raise issues with respect to either the FCI or the position of Dean for CIS as leader of the FCI with a mission of outreach as described in the Garza Agreement.
- We address solely the issue of the element in the Garza Agreement, “ The Computer Science Department will be located in one or more of the existing colleges based on the recommendations of the 5 year academic plan.”
- The Computer Science Department is currently under the academic management of Dean for CIS Robert Constable.
- CSD should be located in one or more of the existing colleges (particularly Engineering and Arts and Sciences) in conformity with the Garza Agreement and with uniform academic practice.
- The current situation has had unfortunate consequences for the Engineering College,
has damaged collegiality,
is unwarranted by the nature of the CSD, and
contradicts well-established patterns of academic governance.

Brief History:

Spring 1999: Provost Randel creates the position of Dean for CIS and appoints Robert Constable, former chair of the CSD, to this position.

Summer 1999: The anomalous location of the CSD occurs in the summer of 1999, against the desires of the then Dean of Engineering John Hopcroft and against the expressed desires of the chairs and directors of the departments in that college. There is a University Faculty Forum on these matters in Sept. 1999.

The Provost's actions, and task force reports urging the incorporation of computational thinking and methods across the academic fields at Cornell, led to Senate involvement with these issues in September, October (twice), December of 1999, and February, April and May of 2000.

Vice Provost Cutberto Garza was charged by the Administration with developing a plan to implement task force recommendations.

This plan was presented to the Senate in February 2000 and reported to the Senate in May as having been accepted by the Administration.

The FCI was formed and began operation in June 2000.

Provost Martin declares that she will not decide the location of the CSD in 2000-2001.

In Fall 2001 Dean Craighead of Engineering begins a dialogue with the CSD leadership that is then terminated.

Difficulties:

- It has been suggested, as recently as the February meeting of the UFC, that either this Agreement, developed in good faith with wide participation, can be set aside unilaterally or that its statement of “location” is sufficiently ambiguous as to accommodate to the current situation of the CSD.
- Provost Martin declared that she would not resolve the “location” issue in 2000-2001, nor would she allow it to be a point of negotiation with candidates for Dean of Engineering.
- Negotiations by Dean of Faculty Cooke with Dean Constable have failed to achieve agreement that would have avoided the need for this motion.

Solution:

- Point (7) of the motion before you from CAPP urges activation of the process of location of the CSD and suggests a deadline of six months from now for its completion.

If this plan is followed then it will correct a situation that has existed for the substantial period of three years.

- Point (8) of the motion explicates what the Senate means by “location”, consonant with the intentions of the Agreement. This is critical in view of the resistance to this interpretation.
- Point (9) ensures that the Senate remains informed of progress towards achieving the objectives of the preceding.

Key Issues

Respect for a carefully developed agreement:

The appearance that the Administration can just choose to disregard an agreement once it has served a purpose of quieting the faculty.

The desirability for the Senate to maintain continuity with itself.

Administration of Academic Units:

Departmental and College structures are the norm at Cornell and at our peer institutions.

Computer Science Department:

Issues involving the disposition of the CSD have been discussed at length.

- The numerous debates held on the floor of the Faculty Senate (and documented in its online transcripts) in Sept, October and December of 1999,
- The heated debate on September 15, 1999 at a university-wide Forum (also documented in an online transcript).
- The extended discussions conducted by a Vice Provost that led to a compromise that was presented to the Senate on February 7, 2000. Subsequently that Vice Provost reported to the Senate (May 2000, transcript also online) reported publicly that that compromise had been accepted as university policy by the President and Provost.