



**Risa Lieberwitz**

Candidate for Cornell University Dean of Faculty (election of 2016)

### **Biographical Information**

I am a Professor of Labor and Employment Law in the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR School), where I have been on the faculty since 1982. I am currently Chair of the Department of Labor Relations, Law, and History, and previously served as Chair from 2003-2006. I am a co-director of the Cornell University Law and Society minor. One of my primary areas of research is academic freedom and faculty governance in the university and the role of higher education in a democratic society. In recognition of my expertise on these issues, I was appointed, in 2014, to the prestigious position of General Counsel of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Prior to this, I was appointed to the AAUP Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure (2012-2014). My publications on academic freedom and faculty governance include: *Faculty in the Corporate University: Professional Identity, Law, and Collective Action*, 16 Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy 263 (2007), and *University Science Research Funding: Privatizing Policy and Practice*, in “Science and the University” (Paula E. Stephan and Ronald G. Ehrenberg, eds., University of Wisconsin Press 2007). My active engagement in Cornell faculty governance includes: Chair of the Faculty Senate Committee to Review Faculty Governance, which produced an extensive report and recommendations in March 2007; University Faculty Committee (2013-2016; 1998-2004); Faculty Senate (1996-2004); Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status (2002-2005, 2009-2012); Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Corporate Alliances (2003-2005); and Faculty Senate Committee on Affirmative Action (1997-2000).

### **Statement of Interest**

Choosing strong and effective leaders of the University Faculty has never been more important. The University Administration’s unilateral action of creating the College of Business, without consulting with the Faculty Senate, confirms that there is a crisis in governance. This was only the latest in a series of Central Administration decisions about educational policy made without consultation with the Faculty Senate.

We need a Dean of Faculty to advocate vigorously for the interests of the faculty and to re-establish the Faculty Senate’s central role in shaping university policy and programs. I have the expertise, experience, and dedication needed to do this. For half of my 34 years as a professor of labor and employment law in the ILR School, my research has focused on academic freedom and faculty governance. My expertise has been nationally recognized with my appointment to the prestigious position of General Counsel of the AAUP, which is the preeminent voice for faculty academic freedom and shared governance. I have dedicated countless hours of service in faculty governance at

Cornell – in the Faculty Senate, UFC, Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status, and as Chair of the Faculty Senate Committee to Review Faculty Governance.

Top-down decision-making has grown not only in the University Central Administration, but also in College-level Administrations. I would work with the Faculty Senate and college governance bodies to revive the role of faculty governance at all levels. This, in turn, will encourage active faculty participation in governance, which will improve the quality of deliberations and decisions on matters of educational policy.