

REPORT FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT AND PROVOST MICHAEL KOTLIKOFF

Acting President and Provost, Michael Kotlikoff: “Good afternoon. Just have a brief update, and be glad to take some questions. First of all, I would like to remind the faculty of the memorial for Beth Garrett that will be tomorrow afternoon at 3:00 in Bailey Hall. The events will take about half an hour to 40 minutes, and there will be a brief reception in the plaza outside of Bailey Hall after that.

“This is obviously a difficult time for the university and a period of transition coming after an extended period of transition between David Skorton's announcement and the search for President Garrett.

“Just to update the faculty that the chairman of the board of trustees has begun the process of consulting to put together a search committee, and consulting with the search firm -- Bob Harrison has consulted with the previous search firm that was used in the Garrett search, which was fortunately not that long ago. And the plan is to try and assemble a search committee for a president of university, permanent president of the university, and to have that search committee consult broadly with the campus, now thinking about what the attributes of the next president for Cornell are optimal.

“I'd also say that during this period of transition, it's a period in which we all need to work together. It's my intention to work with faculty, students and staff, and I think that effort will be very important as we think about how we continue to make progress at Cornell.

“I'd like to update a couple of things in that spirit. First of all, the Cornell College of Business, the committees that we have established are working, and particularly the Faculty Governance Committee has been making progress. The plans are to come up with some unified proposals. The issues there are an organization that provides both some school identity and governance, as well as some disciplinary identity and governance across the three schools. And that's the principal tension that's being worked on, and a proposal along those lines will come forward, and the intention will be to bring that to this body as well, to have the senate consider those proposals.

“In addition to that, the Curriculum Task Force -- and if I could have the next slide. I will just remind the faculty senate I have established several committees that are populated by faculty members of the UFC, members of the faculty senate.

“I will talk a little bit about an update on administrative and supportive costs and strategic capital planning, but I point you to the Curriculum Oversight Committee.

That's a committee that's been looking at common curricular elements, governance, procedures to govern the creation of courses that overlap with other courses; and then access to gateway courses.

So that committee is split into three different subcommittees, the first chaired by Ross Brann, the second committee on governance by Ron Harris-Warrick, and gateway courses is by Chris Ober from Engineering. Thanks, Patty.

“So again, the intention of that committee will be to bring those proposals back to the faculty senate, particularly any curricular governance -- either common curricular elements or curricular governance processes are matters that will be brought before the faculty senate. If I could have the next slide.

“Just to say a word about Administrative and Supportive Cost Committee, we have established a committee to try and think strategically about our costs at the university. This is a way to try and think about how we most efficiently control costs and, by so doing, most effectively invest in academics. And you see the membership of the committee here.

“We have Larry Blume from FPC and Chris Schaffer from the UFC. Bruce is on the committee from the Library Board. That committee and next -- see a number of vice presidents as well as college officers, and that committee is meant to try and get some institutional memory and knowledge about institutional costs and how we can control them. And so we have met a couple times, thinking about some benchmarking strategies and some strategies to move forward to control those costs and try and deliver administration at the university as efficiently as possible. Next slide.

“Similarly, we've established a Strategic Capital Planning Committee. And that Capital Planning Committee is meant to take a strategic look at facilities construction at the university. That facilities process has tended to be one in which projects that either have money or have some momentum move forward and get to a point at which they have not really considered other contextual elements on the university.

“So, for example, if a project seeks to build new space that hasn't necessarily had to consider what current space exists that might be utilized for that activity, if we build new classrooms, what current classrooms are available and what the occupancy of those classrooms are.

“So again, a way to try and strategically control our expenditures. And you will see that the committee has memberships from the FPC and UFC, as well as deans and vice

presidents and vice provosts, as well as facilities personnel. With that, I would stop and take any questions as time allows.”

Speaker Lewenstein: “We have about five minutes.”

Professor Margaret Rossiter, Science and Technology Studies: “Are you likely be a candidate for president?”

Acting President and Provost Kotlikoff: “I don't think so. I think I was chosen to be provost. That's a job I want to do. And so I think that we need a provost, and that's my current intention.”

Professor Cynthia Bowman, Law School: “How are you managing to do two jobs? Have you had to do administrative reorganization in order to accomplish that?”

Acting President and Provost Kotlikoff: “We have done some and we also scaled back. So I have done some of Beth's travel commitments and other speaking commitments, but we have scaled some of those back, so there are some trips that we canceled. I'll just say to the community that we're not planning on this situation of provost and an acting president continuing for an extended period. So that's about all I can say on the matter, but it's not the intention to have me do two jobs for an extended period of time. “Any other questions? Thank you very much.”

(APPLAUSE)

Speaker Lewenstein: “Thank you, Provost Kotlikoff. Next on the agenda is the debate among the dean of the faculty candidates. I'm going to ask Parliamentarian Sam Nelson, who as you know is also the coach of the Cornell Forensics Team, to run the show.