



BIO

Elaine Wethington is a professor of Human Development in the College of Human Ecology, Sociology in Arts & Sciences, and Gerontology in Geriatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine. She joined Cornell in 1987 in Human Development. She was the Chair of the Cornell Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Human Participants in 2000-2006 and remains on the IRB to this day. A specialist in the sociology of aging, mental health and medical sociology, Wethington is the co-principal investigator and pilot studies director for the Cornell Edward R. Roybal Center for Translation Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences in Aging, funded by the National Institute on Aging. The Cornell Roybal Center fosters the development of community-based research on aging in New York City by engaging gerontologists, physicians, communication scientists, and other social scientists at Cornell's geographically dispersed campuses in research projects that directly relate to addressing the needs of aging people in New York City and New York State. Wethington has also collaborated with Cornell physicians, social psychologists, and nutritionists to develop new interventions to prevent weight gain and obesity.

External to Cornell, she is a frequent reviewer for the National Institutes of Health; active in the American Sociological Association and the Gerontological Society of America; the member of journal editorial boards; and the lead editor of *Society and Mental Health*. Wethington has a long history of service and leadership in the Department of Human Development and the College of Human Ecology. She has served as Director of Undergraduate Studies in Human Development, Director of Graduate Studies in HD, as well as on a number of college and university committees on educational policies and academic integrity. She most recently served as Acting Director of the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research in CHE.

Wethington is a former member of the University Faculty Committee and the Faculty Senate (from Human Development). She is the recipient of the SUNY Chancellors Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Carpenter Prize for Excellence in Advising.

STATEMENT

Elaine Wethington has worked in academic and community partnerships for many years. Cornell is very much in need of transparent and productive partnerships between its faculty and administrators, both within and across colleges. One role for the Dean of Faculty is to encourage partnerships. My view after many years on the Cornell campus is that effective partnerships represent a wide variety of faculty constituencies on campus, engage the best minds on academic policies, and give value to sometimes dissenting voices. For the last decade I have worked closely with younger faculty at Cornell and at Weill Cornell Medicine who are launching their careers. In my recent interactions with them I note their rising concerns that governance at Cornell lacks transparency and discourages their meaningful participation: that their fate is out of their hands. We are poised at Cornell to renew our faculty. We need to be ready to communicate with them effectively about the role of faculty in governance; respectful and productive discourse with administrators (and each other); and our obligations to contribute to the management of this wonderful institution of learning. I can think of no better way to do that than to invest and renew in the tradition of faculty governance at Cornell.