

Office of the Dean of Faculty

2020-21 Annual Report

Submitted by Charles Van Loan, Dean of Faculty

Highlights

We helped the faculty navigate two difficult pandemic semesters. We worked all year on the Antiracism Initiative. We held an election with Professor Eve DeRosa elected as the next Dean of Faculty.

Selected Faculty Awards

Always the best part of the report...

American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS)

[John Abowd](#) (Edmund Ezra Day Professor of Economics)

[Susan Daniel](#) (Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering)

[John W. Fitzpatrick](#) (Executive Director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

[Natalie Mahowald](#) (Irving Porter Church Professor of Engineering)

[Jeremy Searle](#) (Professor of ecology and evolutionary biology)

American Academy of Arts and Sciences

[Maureen Hanson](#) (Professor, Molecular Biology and Genetics)

Schwartz Research Fund for Women and other Underrepresented Faculty in the Life Sciences

[Tory Hendry](#) (Assistant Professor, Microbiology)

[Tashara Leak](#) (Assistant Professor, Nutritional Sciences)

[Atieh Moridi](#) (Assistant Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)

Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering

[Barbara Baird](#) Horace White Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Feigenbaum Prize (Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence)

Carla P. Gomes (Ronald and Antonia Nielsen Professor of CIS)

ACS National Award in Analytical Chemistry

Héctor D. Abruña (Emile M. Chamot Professor of Chemistry)

American Academy of Arts and Letters

J. Meejin Yoon (Dean, College of Architecture, Art, and Planning)

National Academy of Engineering

Jefferson W. Tester (Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering)

Margarita McCoy Faculty Award

Mildred Warner (Professor of City and Regional Planning)

NSF Early Career Awards

Rachit Agarwal (Assistant Professor, Computer Science)

Eshan Chattopadhyay (Assistant Professor, Computer Science)

Chris De Sa (Assistant Professor, Computer Science)

Owolabi Legunsen (Assistant Professor, Computer Science)

Yudong Chen (Assistant Professor, Operations Research and Information Engineering)

Damek Davis (Assistant Professor, Operations Research and Information Engineering)

Madeleine Udell (Assistant Professor, Operations Research and Information Engineering)

Alex Townsend (Goenka Family Assistant Professor of Mathematics)

Ziv Goldfeld (Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering)

Kirstin Petersen (Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering)

Atieh Moridi (Assistant Professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering)

Cindy (Hsin-Liu) Kao (Assistant Professor of Design and Environmental Analysis)

New Legislation

The following resolutions were passed by the Faculty Senate:

[Resolution 162](#)

Resolution regarding Research Integrity Policy revisions

[Resolution 161](#)

Resolution regarding joint or dual degree programs involving other academic institutions.

[Resolution 160](#)

Resolution regarding vetting international dual degree programs

[Resolution 159](#)

Resolution to change Senate Bylaws on Dean of Faculty Election Slate Size

[Resolution 158](#)

Resolution regarding crime alerts and race

[Resolution 157](#)

Resolution in support of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech and Expression

[Resolution 156](#)

Resolution in support of naming a residence hall after Barbara McClintock

[Resolution 155](#)

Resolution on RTE percent limitation approval process

[Resolution 154](#)

Resolution on the Changes to the Code of Academic Integrity prompted by the S20 Semester

[Resolution 153](#)

Resolution on RTE percentage caps in the CVM

[Resolution 152](#)

Resolution on JCB Professor of Practice Policy

Faculty Senate Highlights

The Senate met nineteen times this year—a record.

[August 5](#)

The [Anti-Racism Initiative](#) was outlined. On issues regarding the F20 reopening, concerns were voiced over the new quarantine plan and its fairness across income levels. The messaging with respect to the announcement renewed concerns about students learning about policy modifications before the faculty. Professor Peter Frazier answered questions about the modeling effort and what the simulations are saying in light of the evolving pandemic.

[August 26](#)

The Provost gave an overview of the F20 reopening that touched on testing, enrollment, facilities, classes, and student life. Pat Wynn provided a positive snapshot of the move-in process. Students from [DoBetterCornell](#) led a discussion about components of the anti-racism initiative that require faculty action.

[September 9](#)

A [unified Professor of the Practice policy for the S.C. Johnson College of Business](#) was presented for Senate approval. Three proposed changes to the code of academic integrity were

[presented](#) with an eye towards providing feedback to the [EPC](#). There was an [update](#) on the antiracism initiative. Current activity is centered on the formation of various ad hoc committees that will provide recommendations to the Senate.

September 30

Several items mentioned in the [antiracism petition](#) are already on the [Senate's Fall Agenda](#) including curriculum review, standardized tests, developing a Center proposal, and a Toni Morrison building renaming. The proposed [charges](#) for the three antiracism working groups was discussed. The charge for [Working Group C](#) (the Center) was edited as a result of the conversation. Relevant to the design of an antiracism-related educational requirement for faculty, Angela Winfield discussed a comparable [program for staff](#), and Avery August and Yael Levitte discussed multiple programs offered through the [Office of Faculty Development and Diversity](#) and provided data that renders an overall perspective on how we are doing.

October 14

A [presentation](#) entitled “Indigenous and Decolonizing Perspectives on Social Justice” was given by faculty from the [American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program](#). The Educational Policy Committee is [recommending three changes](#) to the Code of Academic Integrity. If this [resolution](#) is approved then (a) a staff member could serve as an independent witness at a primary hearing, (2) in large cases the instructor can delegate the running of a particular primary hearing to a faculty colleague provided the hearing is recorded, and (3) switching the grade option for S/U to LET becomes an option in situations when an S/U student is found guilty of a Code violation. Important to post comments and concerns [here](#). President Pollack was in attendance and thanked the faculty for their ongoing and heroic teaching efforts. She also gave an update on a number of important issues that face the university.

October 28

The Senate will vote at its next meeting on a proposed recommendation to the North Campus Building Naming Committee that one of the new residences be named after Nobel Laureate [Barbara McClintock](#) (B.S., '23, M.S. '25, PhD '27). A detailed protocol whereby a college can modify its RTE faculty cap limitation percentage was [presented](#). Prompted by its clinical faculty needs, the College of Veterinary Medicine [presented](#) a proposal that would modify its RTE percent limitation. There was a [presentation](#) about the positioning of breaks for the upcoming S21 semester. By a five-to-one margin most senators favor having 2 or more break days with the centroid of opinion being that they come as two one-day breaks..

November 11

Provost Kotlikoff gave a [budget update](#). Jon Burdick (Vice Provost for Enrollments) set the stage for subsequent Senate discussion on the [role of standardized tests](#) in freshman admissions. Associate Vice President Laura Rugless and Professor Risa Lieberwitz gave an update on the [stakeholder review](#) of Policy 6.4 (Harassment, Bias, and Sexual Misconduct.)

December 2

Now active is a 2-month [project](#) whose goal is to develop a response protocol for when a faculty member is the target of a threatening communication. [Overview](#). General Counsel Madelyn Wessel gave a detailed [overview](#) of the close-to-finalized Student Code of Conduct. [Details and opportunity to comment](#). Risa Lieberwitz discussed a planned revision of the Faculty Handbook's [statement](#) on academic freedom.

December 16

In a pair of Sense-of-the-Senate votes, the Department of English [name change to 'Literatures in English'](#) was approved (Y=55 , N =3 , Abs = 11) as was the [Freshman Admissions Advisory](#) motion (Y = 61 ,N = 1, Abs = 1). An [update](#) on the [Anti-Racism Initiative](#) was given with an eye towards receiving feedback before the [WG-F Draft Report](#) and the [WG-S Draft Report](#) are finalized in early February

January 20

Part of the Senate's [Academics On\(The\)Line](#) discussion thread being staged this semester involves getting a handle on all the podcasts that are hosted or co-hosted by a Cornell faculty member or academic unit. The Senate approved this [resolution](#) thereby expressing support for this [revised University statement](#) on academic freedom and freedom of speech and expression. (Yes = 83, No = 0, Abstain = 2). There was a [presentation](#) of the [draft report](#) from the Working Group that is proposing the creation of an Antiracism Center

February 10

The Senate approved the formation of a faculty [Admissions Advisory Group](#). A [proposed dual degree](#) program between the School of Hotel Administration and the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University was [presented](#) by Professor Alex Susskind. A proposed [major revision of Policy 1.2](#) that is concerned with research misconduct was [presented](#) by Chief Research Compliance Officer Dr. Mark Hurwitz.

February 24

A resolution on crime alerts and race was [presented](#). Read more and post comments [here](#). There was this [update](#) from the Ad hoc Committee that is looking into the development of response protocols for when a faculty member is the target of a threatening communication. Draft resource docs for [faculty](#) and [unit heads](#) were shared. Professor Peter Frazier discussed the [current work](#) of Cornell's covid-19 modeling team referencing this detailed [report](#) on S21.

March 10

Following this brief [introduction](#) that previewed the [agenda](#), four faculty colleagues offered four frameworks for thinking about international dual degree programs (IDDPs):

March 17

Vice Provost for International Affairs Wendy Wolford gave this [presentation](#) on Cornell University and International Collaborations. "Next steps" regarding international dual degree programs and related issues will be relayed later this week. WG-C's [final report](#) to the Senate on a Center for Antiracist, Just, and Equitable Futures was discussed.

March 31

A Sense-of-the-Senate vote was staged regarding the [SHA Proposal](#) for a dual degree program with the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University. Should the program be approved? Senate Vote: Yes = 16, No = 39, Abstain = 20, DNV = 51.

A Possible IDDP Approval Process from the UFC was [presented](#). Next step is to collect feedback and collaborate with the Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs to develop a specific recommendation. Probable action within a month.

April 14

There was a [presentation](#) of the Antiracism Initiative final Working Group Reports. There was a Q&A with DoF Candidates [Eve DeRosa](#) and [Risa Lieberwitz](#). [Candidate Profiles](#)

April 21

The resolutions associated with the three antiracism initiative working groups reports have been reframed. [Background and Details](#). There was a summary of concerns that have been voiced about the three WG reports and statistics were presented that shed light on the scope of the problem we are trying to solve.