

## 2020-2021 Annual Report, Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status of the Faculty

### 1. Members of CAFPS during 2021-2022

B. Gillian Turgeon (Chair, SIPS, CALS)  
Ritchie Patterson (A&S)  
Tracy Stokol (VET)  
Bruce Van Dover (ENG)  
Diane Burton (ILR)  
Michael Scanlon (SIPS, CALS)  
Beth Lyon (LAW)  
Ellen Gainor (CAS)

Preston Hanley (graduate student)  
Valeria Valencia (undergraduate student)

Eve DeRosa (Dean of Faculty, ex officio)  
Neema Kudva (Associate Dean of Faculty, ex officio)

### 2. Activity during 2021-2022

The main issues discussed by CAFPS during the academic year were:

**A. The tenure project.** The UFC placed two pending resolutions that were sponsored by the AFPSF committee on the Senate agenda. Tracy Stokol presented to the senate on Nov 10, 2021.

**Proposed resolution 1:** [Resolution on No Contact Lists in Tenure Cases](#)

Presentation of the Resolution – Member, Academic Freedom and Professional Status of the Faculty (AFPSF) – Senator Tracy Stokol, Population Medicine & Diagnostic Science

This was adopted as [Resolution 177](#)

**Proposed resolution 2:** [Resolution on the External Reviewer Selection Process in Tenure Cases](#)

Presentation of the Resolution – Member, Academic Freedom and Professional Status of the Faculty (AFPSF) – Senator Tracy Stokol, Population Medicine & Diagnostic Science

This was adopted as [Resolution 178](#)

Pending legislation: [Resolution on the Visibility of the Chair's Letter to the Dean in Tenure Cases](#)

#### **B. Discussion of the part-time Bachelor's program imagined by the Provost**

**[Committee Report: Part-Time Bachelor's Degree for Non-traditional Students](#)**

Committee on Academic Freedom and the Professional Status of the Faculty — Member, J. Ellen Gainor, Performing and Media Arts

[Provost's Response](#) – March 9, 2022

[Provost's response clarification](#) – March 21, 2022

**Prospective Part-time Bachelor's Degree for Non-Traditional Students**

[Revised Resolution](#) Presentation — Senator David Lee, University Faculty Committee, Applied Economics and Management [5 minutes].

This was adopted as [Resolution 181](#)

C. [SA Resolution #39: Zoom Live Transcript Implementation Request](#), which calls for the use of automatic live transcription (closed captioning) feature on all applicable academic zoom meetings to better accommodate students through the current and possible future online/remote learning period. Our committee discussed after we read The President's response. We were joined by a representative of the Student Assembly, Valeria Valencia.

Basically, we agreed with the President's response

- In principle, we were supportive of the resolution.
- We felt this resolution has missed its intended timing since, as noted, we were in person this semester. That said, we acknowledge the situation may change, and we need to be prepared.
- The technology for live transcription is mediocre at best (depends on the instructor remembering to turn it on, words are garbled, it can't cope with technical terms, lectures always need manual correction which takes a huge amount of time).
- This puts a heavy burden on instructors (set up zoom, turn on transcription and then manually correct the text). We gather ADA compliant technology is not yet available at Cornell.
- Student engagement and morale are reduced if lectures are recorded and available afterwards.
- As Martha indicates, students can work with SDS, if needed.

We also noted our discussion did not incorporate a more nuanced exploration of the range of course types at Cornell, but we need to bear in mind the full scope of instructional forms, from first-year and advanced undergraduate seminars, to labs and discussion sections, to smaller lecture/discussion classes, to large lectures. While the issue at hand may pertain most to the last of these, much undergraduate instruction occurs in all these other environments, and if we are to find ways to meet the needs of our students if remote learning must resume, we would want to think expansively about the best way to ensure access and engagement.