2023-2024 Annual Report

The Office of the Dean of Faculty (DoF) is charged not only with the responsibility to liaison with the Board of Trustees, the President, and the Provost, but also to work closely with the faculty-elected University Faculty Committee, the faculty-elected Nominations and Elections committee, the Faculty Senate and its twelve committees. Each year, we rely on hundreds of faculty members for volunteer service to university, beyond our local academic units, and to provide a diverse perspective on educational topics. We aim to have faculty representation from the Ithaca, Geneva, and Tech campuses, span all of the Colleges and Schools, and the major scholarly disciplines of Arts, Humanities, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Professional Schools, and Social Sciences in faculty governance. Some of our collective responsibilities are to provide guidance on academic programs, policies, and procedures, financial policies, tenure and promotions, teaching awards, and cultural events like the A.D. White Professors-At-Large program and the Cornell Concert Series. Thus, the DoF has legislative, advisory, and communication functions that provide opportunities for the faculty to collaborate and network across the entire university.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Faculty Senate deliberated on a range of critical topics. The topics under discussion included the introduction of new academic titles, the ongoing integration of Research, Teaching, and Extension (RTE) faculty into faculty governance and life, governance responsibilities related to expressive activity, and academic policies directly impacting student experiences—such as eliminating graded work during breaks and removing median grade notations from transcripts. Additionally, the Faculty Senate made decisions regarding the basic swim competency requirement for undergraduates. While maintaining this requirement, the Faculty Senate updated it to align with industry standards set by the Red Cross, emphasizing life-saving skills. Over the course of the year, the Faculty Senate engaged with campus leaders, including President Pollack, the Ombuds, and the new Chief Information Officer, and discussed matters related to academic integrity, research integrity, and cutting-edge generative artificial intelligence (AI) initiatives.

Efforts to increase faculty engagement have been successful, resulting in greater attendance, more diverse voices, and broader perspectives during Faculty Senate meetings. The Faculty Senate’s improved vibrancy has fostered collaboration between the faculty and administration, enriching university life. This includes collaborative efforts with various university units, including the President, Provost, Deans, Ombuds, Office of General Counsel, Office of the Registrar, Academic Human Resources, Office of Student and Campus Life, and the University Assembly. Together, we address critical issues related to campus and workplace climate, academic titles, career development, grievance policies, mentorship, academic requirements, integrity, and accommodations.

Please find listed on the following pages the new legislation and faculty accomplishments over the academic year. We thank all of the faculty for their commitment to our Cornell community and shared governance.

Sincerely,

Eve De Rosa, Dean of Faculty
New Legislation

The following resolutions were passed by the Faculty Senate since the last annual report May 15, 2023:

Resolution 187 - Bowers College of Computing and Information Science adopt the Professor of Practice title
Resolution 188 - Bowers College of Computing and Information Science adopt the Research Professor title
Resolution 189 - Structural Equity and Inclusion for Research, Teaching and Extension (“RTE”) faculty
Resolution 190 - Brooks School of Public Policy proposed use of the Professor of the Practice title
Resolution 191 - Graded Academic Coursework During Breaks
Resolution 192 - Eliminate a transcript notation for a grade of incomplete when substituted another grade
Resolution 193 - Discontinue posting median grades on student transcripts
Resolution 194 - Faculty Senate’s governance responsibility to the Interim Expressive Activity Policy
Resolution 195 - Establish a Teaching Professor Track
Resolution 196 - Maintaining a Basic Swim Competency Graduation Requirement for all Undergraduate Students

Faculty Senate Matters – Fall semester

August 30, 2023
• Faculty Senate Orientation for New Senators

September 13, 2023
• Local Economics Snapshot FY2022
• New Generative Artificial Intelligence Resources
• Discussion about establishing a Teaching Professor track
• Introduction to the new Dean of the Cornell School of Continuing Education

October 11, 2023
• Presidential Task Force on Undergraduate Admissions report, 2022-23
• Introduce proposal in support of a resolution to eliminate a transcript notation for a grade of incomplete when the instructor has submitted another grade
• Research Integrity Council annual report, 2021-2023

November 8, 2023
• President Pollack
• Course policies on recording and privacy in the classroom
• Cornell – Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) service agreement
• Introduce proposal in support of a resolution to discontinue posting median grades on student transcripts

November 29, 2023 - Faculty Forum
• Sharing experiences using Generative Artificial Intelligence resources in the classroom

December 6, 2023
• Update: Resolution to eliminate a transcript notation for a grade of incomplete when the instructor has submitted another grade
• Update: Resolution to discontinue posting medial grades on student transcripts
• Update: Proposal toward establishment of a teaching professor track

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We’re an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.
Faculty Senate Matters – Spring semester

February 14, 2024
• Update on harmonizing the eight-year tenure clock in the S.C. Johnson College of Business
• Update on the proposed part-time bachelor’s degree for non-traditional students
• Feedback to the University Assembly about the Interim Doxxing and Free Expression policies

February 28, 2024 - Faculty Forum
• Interim Expressive Activity Policy

March 13, 2024
• Update: Office of the Ombuds
• Interim Expressive Activity Policy
• Proposed resolution concerning the Faculty Senate’s governance responsibility to consider and vote on the Cornell Interim Expressive Activity Policy

March 27, 2024 - Faculty Forum
• Proposal to establish a teaching professor track

April 10, 2024
• Update on Resolution 181: Prospective Part-time Bachelor’s Degree for Non-Traditional Students
• Proposed resolution to establish a teaching professor track
• Proposed resolution: Maintaining a Basic Swimming Competency Requirement for Graduation of all Cornell University undergraduates
• Presentation regarding the Generative AI Advisory Council

May 8, 2024
• Cornell Bowers College of Computing and Information Science - Academic Integrity pilot program
• University response to student protests on campus
• Sense of the Senate resolution condemning the suspension of four students
• Introduction to the new Chief Information Officer, Ben Maddox

Selected External Faculty Awards

2023 American Academy of Arts and Sciences
• Peng Chen, Peter J.W. Debye Professor, Chemistry and Chemical Biology
• Timothy Ryan, M.S. ’86, Ph.D. ’89 is Tri-Institutional Professor of Biochemistry
• Mariana Wolfner, ’74 is Distinguished Professor, Molecular Biology and Genetics

Department of Energy (DOE) Early Career Award
• Laura Gunn, Assistant Professor, Plant Biology

Packard Foundation Fellow
• Noah Stephens-Davidowitz, Assistant Professor, Computer Science
Selected External Faculty Awards continued

2023 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Awards
- **Mohamed Abdelfattah**, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- **Mostafa Hassani**, Assistant Professor, Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- **Saleh Kalantari**, Assistant Professor, Human Centered Design
- **Sijin Li**, Assistant Professor, Smith School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
- **Karan Mehta**, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- **Francesca Parise**, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- **Christina Lee Yu**, Assistant Professor, Operations Research and Information Engineering (ORIE)

2023 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- **Ailong Ke**, Robert J. Appel Professor, Molecular Biology and Genetics
- **David Shmoys**, Laibe/Acheson Professor of Business Management and Leadership Studies, ORIE
- **Martin T. Wells**, Charles A. Alexander Professor of Statistical Sciences, Statistics and Data Science

2024 Sloan Research Fellows
- **Anna Y.Q. Ho**, Assistant Professor, Astronomy
- **Chao-Ming Jian**, Assistant Professor, Physics
- **Rene Kizilcec**, Assistant Professor, Information Science
- **Karan Mehta**, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

MIND (Maximizing Innovation in Neuroscience Discovery) Prize
- **Fernandez-Ruiz**, Nancy and Peter Meinig Family Investigator in the Life Sciences, Neurobiology and Behavior

Selected Internal Faculty Awards

2023 Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, Teaching and Service through Diversity
- **Christine Balance**, associate professor in the Department of Performing and Media Arts (PMA)
- **Linda Nicholson**, professor in the Department of Molecular biology and Genetics

2023-24 Community-Engaged Practice and Innovation Awards
- **Julie Ficarra**, Associate Professor of Practice, Global Development
- **Suzanne Lettieri**, Assistant Professor, Architecture
- **Derek Chang**, Associate Professor, History
- **Alexandra Dufresne**, Professor of the Practice and Director of State Policy Advocacy Clinic
- **Eilyan Bitar**, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- **Heeju Park**, Associate Professor, Human Centered Design
- **Esta Bigler**, Director, School of Industrial and Labor Relations’ Labor & Employment Law Program
- **Sandra Babcock**, Clinical Professor of Law
- **Laura Georgianna**, Senior Lecturer, Management and Organizations
- **Dave Lin**, Associate Professor, Biomedical Sciences
- **Nicki Dell**, Associate Professor, Information and Computer Science, Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute
- **Sreyoshi Das**, Assistant Professor of the Practice, Statistics and Data Science
- **Madeline Sterling**, Associate Professor of Medicine, Cornell Weill, General Internal Medicine

Schwartz Research Fund Visionary Grant
- **Elizabeth Johnson**, Assistant Professor, Nutritional Sciences

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