



Cornell University The University Faculty

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2024-2025 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 elected University Faculty Committee, the elected Nominations and Elections committee, the Faculty Senate and its twelve committees. Each year, we rely on hundreds of faculty members, beyond our local academic units, for volunteer service to university 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 on the Senate committees. 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. Thus, the DoF has legislative, advisory, and communication functions that provide opportunities for the faculty to collaborate and network across the entire university.

The Faculty Senate represents three campuses—AgriTech, Ithaca, and Cornell Tech—but we learned that many Senators, primarily based in Ithaca, had never visited the AgriTech or Cornell Tech campuses or heard directly about the unique aspects of faculty life in Geneva or on Roosevelt Island. To address this, our office organized visits: Senators toured Cornell Tech in the fall and AgriTech in the spring, engaging in small-group conversations with faculty. What began in the Fall as an initiative to envision the future of Cornell University for the incoming Provost evolved by the Spring into a broader reflection on the future of higher education, shaped by shifts in the national political landscape.

Throughout the year, faculty shared ideas to strengthen collaboration and innovation—such as interdisciplinary co-teaching, co-mentoring, more affordable publishing models, joint funding efforts, and shared support for colleagues facing research funding cuts. Separately, we've seen a continued rise in faculty engagement with the Faculty Senate, reflected in increased voting participation and a broader range of voices in Senate meetings and Faculty Fora hosted by the Dean of Faculty Office. This year, we also launched two working groups: one to modernize academic integrity procedures across all student levels, and another to improve the Senate's decorum and effectiveness.

We continue to focus our attentions on working collaboratively with various units across the university, such as with representatives of the President, Provost and Deans, Office of General Counsel, Office of the Registrar, University Library, Office of the Ombuds, Academic Human Resources, and the Office of Student and Campus Life on issues critical to the advancement of scholarship as well as the undergraduate and graduate student academic experience and welfare, e.g., workplace climate and inclusion, titles, career development, grievance policies, admissions, mentorship, academic requirements, academic materials, academic integrity, and academic accommodations. The faculty are essential for creating enriching experiences for Cornell students, other mentees, as well as creating opportunities for collaborations with each other.

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.

Sincerely,



Eve DeRosa
Dean of the Faculty

New Legislation

The following resolutions were passed by the Faculty Senate since the last annual report May 2024:

- [Resolution 197](#) – Visibility of the chairs letter to the dean in tenure cases
- [Resolution 198](#) – Concerning Increased Police and Security Cameras on Cornell’s Campus
- [Resolution 199](#) – Concerning Violations of Faculty Academic Freedom
- [Resolution 200](#) – Concerning the Selection Process for External Reviewers in Tenure Cases
- [Sense of the Senate Resolution](#) – Academic Listservs to focus on Academic Matters

The following resolutions are in the process of being voted on:

- Proposed resolution to Adopt a Unified Transfer Credit Policy for Undergraduate Transfer Students
- Proposed Resolution – Teaching Professor academic title in Bowers Computing and Information Science
- Proposed Resolution – Teaching Professor academic title in the Brooks School of Public Policy
- Proposed Resolution – Teaching Professor academic title in Cornell Engineering

Faculty Senate Matters

September

- Faculty Senate Orientation for New Senators
- Proposed Resolution – Enhancing transparency in the tenure process: External reviewers
- Engaging viewpoint diversity in the classroom
- Update — Graduate Student unionization
- Established academic integrity working group

October

Update — Resolution 181: Prospective Part-time Bachelor’s Degree for Non-Traditional Students
Student Code of Conduct – Use of academic and non-academic temporary suspensions

- Proposed Resolution – Violating Faculty Academic Freedom
- Field Trip to Cornell Tech campus
- Faculty Forum – Imagining the future of “any person...any study...” as a faculty member

November

- Sense of the Senate Resolution for Academic Listservs to focus on Academic Matters
- Proposed resolution – Visibility of the chair’s letter to the dean in tenure cases
- Cornell Committee on Expressive Activity (CCEA) draft report
- Proposed Resolution – Violations of Faculty Academic Freedom

Faculty Senate Matters Continued

December

- Proposed Resolution – Selection Process for External Reviewers in Tenure Cases
- Proposed Resolution – Violating Faculty Academic Freedom
- Proposed Resolution – Concerning increased policy and security cameras on campus

February

Introduction to Provost Bala
 Local Child Care Development
 Student Evaluations of Teaching project
 Faculty Forum – Building trust and inclusivity in Faculty Senate

March

- Interim President Kotlikoff
- Update – Video surveillance on campus
- Update – Electric vehicle infrastructure on campus
- Update – Graduate Student unionization
- Guidance and resources website available regarding executive orders
- Recognition and moment of silence for Professor Emeritus and former Dean of Faculty, Joseph Burns

April

- Proposed Resolution – Adopt a Unified Transfer Credit Policy for Undergraduate Transfer Students
- Proposed Resolution – Teaching Professor academic title in the Bowers Computing and Information Science
- Proposed Resolution – Teaching Professor academic title in the Brooks School of Public Policy
- Proposed Resolution – Teaching Professor academic title in Cornell Engineering
- Field Trip to AgriTech campus
- Faculty Forum – How can faculty collaborate to support one another and contribute to Cornell?

May

- Updates – Policy 6.13
- Update – Generative AI Advisory Council
- Proposed Resolution – Adopt a Unified Transfer Credit Policy for Undergraduate Transfer Students
- Proposed Resolution – Teaching Professor academic title in the Bowers Computing and Information Science
- Proposed Resolution – Teaching Professor academic title in the Brooks School of Public Policy
- Proposed Resolution – Teaching Professor academic title in Cornell Engineering

Selected External Faculty Awards

2024 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

- **Jed Sparks**, professor, ecology and evolutionary biology in the College of Arts & Sciences

2024 Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists

- **Britney Schmidt**, associate professor of astronomy in the College of Arts & Sciences and of earth and atmospheric sciences in Cornell Engineering

2025 American Academy of Arts & Sciences

- **Kavita Bala**, provost and inaugural dean of the Bowers College of Computing and Information Science
- **Anurag Agrawal** is the James A. Perkins Professor of Environmental Studies in the Department of Ecology and Environmental Biology in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

Selected External Faculty Awards Continued

American Physical Society (APS)

- **Judy Cha**, Ph.D. '09, professor of materials science and engineering in Cornell Engineering
- **Yuval Grossman**, professor of physics in the College of Arts & Sciences

Department of Energy (DOE) Early Career Award

- **Anil Damle**, assistant professor of computer science in Bowers College of Computing and Information Science

Enrico Fermi Presidential Award

- **Héctor D. Abruña**, Émile M. Chamot Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in the College of Arts & Sciences

2025 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Awards

- **Leslie Babonis**, assistant professor, department of ecology and evolutionary biology
- **Xiaomeng Liu**, assistant professor, department of physics
- **Jack Hare**, assistant professor, department of electrical and computer engineering
- **Angeline Pendergrass**, assistant professor, department of earth and atmospheric sciences
- **Chris Roh '12**, assistant professor, department of biological and environmental engineering

2025 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)

- **Andrew Hein**, assistant professor, computational biology
- **Tashara Leak**, associate professor, division of nutritional sciences
- **Zhiting Tian**, associate professor and Eugene A. Leinroth Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellow, Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Selected Internal Faculty Awards

2024 Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, Teaching and Service through Diversity

- **Tashara M. Leak**, associate professor in the division of nutritional sciences in the College of Human Ecology
- **Aditya Vashistha**, assistant professor of information science in the Bowers College of Computing and Information Science

2024-25 Community-Engaged Practice and Innovation Awards

- **Michael Charles**, assistant professor, biological and environmental engineering
- **Pamela Karimi**, associate professor, architecture
- **Amiel Bize**, assistant professor, anthropology
- **Laurie Miller**, senior lecturer and associate director for public engagement
- **David Goldberg**, associate professor, operations research and information engineering
- **Misha Inniss-Thompson**, assistant professor, psychology
- **Krucky Ksiazek**, Civic Researcher and High Road Fellowship Coordinator, Buffalo Co-Lab
- **Angela Cornell**, clinical professor of law
- **Trent Prezler**, professor of practice in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management
- **Paul Maza**, associate professor of practice, biomedical sciences
- **Angelique Taylor**, assistant professor, information science
- **Aditya Vashistha**, assistant professor, information science
- **Anyanate Gwendolyn Jack**, assistant professor of clinical medicine, Department of Medicine