



Cornell University

The University Faculty

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2025-2026 Annual Report

As this academic year concludes, so too does my service as Dean of Faculty. This final report provides an opportunity to reflect on a period shaped by a strong institutional commitment to academic freedom and academic excellence, sustained faculty engagement, principled shared governance, and deep collaboration across Cornell University. It has been a privilege to serve the faculty and to steward the structures that protect the conditions under which teaching, research, and inquiry can flourish across our campuses.

The Office of the Dean of Faculty is charged with responsibility for faculty shared governance and for safeguarding the academic values that underpin the university's mission. The office serves as a central liaison among the faculty, the Faculty Senate and its committees, the President, the Provost, and the Board of Trustees. It supports faculty-led deliberation and legislative action on academic policy, tenure and promotions, faculty titles, academic freedom, and matters affecting the academic experience of both faculty and students.

Each year, the work of shared governance relies on the volunteer service of hundreds of faculty members from across colleges, schools, campuses, and disciplines. The Office of the Dean of Faculty seeks broad representation across the Ithaca, AgriTech, and Tech campuses and across the Arts and Humanities, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Professional Schools, and Social Sciences through the Faculty Senate, its committees, and working groups. The office works collaboratively with academic and administrative partners across the university, including senior leadership and units such as the Office of the Registrar, the University Library, the Office of the Ombuds, Academic Human Resources, and Student and Campus Life, on matters central to scholarship, teaching, and faculty and student well-being. This work reflects the essential role of the faculty in sustaining academic excellence, academic freedom, and a vibrant intellectual community.

This work depends fundamentally on partnership. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for its thoughtful engagement with academic policy and for its continued respect for the faculty's central role in shaping the university's academic mission. I extend my sincere thanks to President Martha Pollack and President Michael Kotlikoff for their leadership, accessibility, and willingness to engage directly with faculty deliberation. I am deeply appreciative of Provost Michael Kotlikoff, Provost Kavita Bala, and Deputy Provost Avery August for their collaboration, sound judgment, and shared commitment to strengthening academic life across all campuses. I also thank the many vice provosts and deans whose partnership has been essential to advancing this work.

I am particularly grateful for the partnership with General Counsel Donica Varner and Interim General Counsel Deborah Hodys. In close collaboration with General Counsel Varner, the Office of the Dean of Faculty worked to safeguard academic freedom while ensuring the university's full compliance with its obligations under Title VI and Title VII. This work required careful alignment of free expression, nondiscrimination, due process, and the faculty's role in shared governance, particularly during periods of heightened campus tension and national scrutiny. Their legal judgment, integrity, and respect for faculty governance were essential in helping Cornell uphold its academic values while exercising responsible institutional stewardship.

Across five years, sustaining faculty connection, trust, and collegiality has been a central priority of the Office of the Dean of Faculty. The Monday Message and Faculty Senate Summaries served as consistent vehicles for transparency,

guidance, and shared understanding, reinforcing shared governance as a living and accessible practice. We have held faculty receptions three times each academic year following the first Faculty Senate meeting, the final Faculty Senate meeting of the fall semester, and the final Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year. These gatherings were intentionally designed to promote collegiality of faculty across the university and to strengthen connection across ranks and disciplines.

Community building also extended beyond Faculty Senate meetings. The Office of the Dean of Faculty subsidized daily faculty soup in the centrally located Regent Lounge at the Statler Hotel throughout the academic year. And, during 2025–2026, we hosted monthly pop-up faculty soup lunches across the Ithaca campus and one on the AgriTech campus. In addition, field trips were organized to provide interested Ithaca-based Faculty Senators opportunities to visit the Cornell Tech and AgriTech campuses and to deepen understanding of the university’s diverse academic contexts. Faculty engagement was further supported through faculty fora. This year we held a forum hosted by the Provost’s Committee on the Future of the American University and a forum convened by the University Librarian focused on sustainable access to scholarly journals. Together, these efforts reinforced that shared governance is sustained not only through policy and procedure, but through relationships, trust, and presence.

The Faculty Senate continued to serve as a vital forum for faculty voice, deliberation, and legislative action. Faculty participation remained strong across ranks, disciplines, colleges, and campuses, reflecting a shared commitment to governance as both responsibility and service. The resolutions passed this year reflect sustained faculty attention to academic integrity, academic freedom, collaborative scholarship, equitable recognition of faculty roles, and due process, and reaffirm the essential role of shared governance in shaping university policy.

The Office of the Dean of Faculty depends on staff whose knowledge of bylaws, policy, procedure, and institutional history provides continuity and rigor across governance cycles. Deep gratitude is owed to Jill Short, Carrie “CA” Shugarts, Cynthia Robinson, and Melissa Rooklidge for their professionalism, care, and sustained commitment to the faculty. Their stewardship of process and institutional memory made it possible for the office to operate with integrity and credibility, particularly during periods of transition and complexity. Sincere thanks are also extended to the Associate Deans of Faculty, Neema Kudva, Chelsea Specht, and Adam T. Smith. Their leadership and partnership are central to the effective functioning of the Faculty Senate, the work of its committees and working groups, and the continuity of faculty governance processes across the university.

I am grateful to the faculty of Cornell University for the trust they placed in the Office of the Dean of Faculty and for their sustained commitment to shared governance. The effective functioning of faculty governance depends not only on leadership, but on the willingness of faculty to serve in deliberative and advisory roles that require time, judgment, and institutional responsibility. That volunteer commitment, embodied in the Faculty Senate, its thirteen standing committees, and three working groups, is the engine of shared governance and essential to advancing academic freedom, academic excellence, and sound academic policy. The seriousness with which faculty across ranks, disciplines, colleges, and campuses have approached this service has ensured the legitimacy and durability of the university’s governance processes.

As I complete my service as Dean of Faculty, I do so with deep gratitude for the trust placed in this office and with confidence in the faculty’s continued stewardship of Cornell’s academic mission through shared governance, as they welcome and work with the next Dean of Faculty.

Yours truly,

Eve De Rosa



Dean of Faculty

Proposed Resolutions Under Vote

The following resolutions are under vote by the Faculty Senate at the time this report was prepared:

- Proposed Resolution: To establish an Extension Professor track
- Proposed Resolution: Single-Use Plastic Phaseout
- Proposed resolution: Updates to the Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education Bylaws

New Legislation Passed by the Faculty Senate

The following resolutions were passed by the Faculty Senate since the last annual report in May 2025:

- Resolution 213 - Updates to the Academic Integrity Code
- Resolution 212 - Create an Ad Hoc Committee to Review Cornell Policy 6.4, Faculty Handbook Section 6.6, and the Duties of the Cornell Office of Civil Rights Faculty Co-Investigator
- Resolution 211 - Request an annual University report regarding academic freedom
- Resolution 210 - Collaborative scholarship
- Resolution 209 - Concerning overuse of temporary suspensions
- Resolution 208 - Teaching Professor Title use – College of Veterinary Medicine
- Resolution 207 - Teaching Professor Title use – College of Human Ecology
- Resolution 206 - Teaching Professor Title use – College of Arts and Sciences
- Resolution 205 - Teaching Professor Title use – S.C. Johnson College of Business
- Resolution 204 - Cornell Transfer Credit Policy for Undergraduate Students
- Resolution 203 - Teaching Professor Title use – Brooks School of Public Policy
- Resolution 202 - Teaching Professor Title use – Cornell Bowers College of Computing and Information Science
- Resolution 201 - Teaching Professor Title use – Cornell Duffield College of Engineering

Faculty Senate Matters

August

- Faculty Senate Orientation for New Senators

September

- Proposed Resolution: S.C. Johnson College of Business Teaching Professor implementation proposal
- Update – College of Veterinary Medicine departments merger
- Update – Generative AI in the classroom, Vice-Provost for Academic Innovation Steve Jackson and
- Director of the Center for Teaching Innovation Rob Vanderlan
- Update – Cornell Office of Civil Rights (COCR), Associate Vice President for Cornell Office of Civil Rights Katie King

October

- Update – President Kotlikoff
- Update – Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards and the Review of Student Code, Vice President of Student & Campus Life Ryan Lombardi
- Proposed Resolution: Concerning Excessive and Unreasonable Delay in the Conduct of Disciplinary Hearings and Providing for Reform of Procedures under the Student Code of Conduct
- Proposed resolution: Condemning the Cancellation of Professor Eric Cheyfitz's Classes and Threats of Further Severe Disciplinary Action

Faculty Senate Matters continued

November

- Introduction to the Provost's Committee on the Future of the American University
- Proposed Resolution: College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Professor implementation proposal
- Proposed Resolution: College of Human Ecology Teaching Professor implementation proposal
- Proposed Resolution: College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Professor implementation proposal
- Update – Task Force for Institutional Voice
- Proposed Resolution: Concerning overuse of temporary suspensions

December

- Proposed Resolution: Collaborative scholarship
- Update – Academic Integrity Code and Accepting Responsibility pilot
- Introduction to Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education Thomas A. Lewis

January

- Update – President Michael Kotlikoff and Provost Kavita Bala

February

- Proposed resolutions: Resolution to Create an Ad Hoc Committee to Review Cornell Policy 6.4, Faculty Handbook Section 6.6, and the Duties of the Cornell Office of Civil Rights Faculty Co-Investigator
- Proposed resolutions: Resolution to Request an Annual University Report on Academic Freedom
- Proposed resolutions: Resolution to Create a Disciplinary Case Reporting and Attestation Tool
- Update – Student Code of Conduct with representatives of the Code and Procedures Review Committee
- Sustainable scholarly publication, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian and Vice Provost Elaine Westbrook
- New Faculty Misconduct Disclosure & Consent Form, Deputy Provost Avery August

March

- Update – President Kotlikoff and Provost Bala
- Introduction to Vice President for University Relations Kyle Kimball
- Proposed resolution: Create an Ad Hoc Committee to Review Cornell Policy 6.4, Faculty Handbook Section 6.6, and the Duties of the Cornell Office of Civil Rights Faculty Co-Investigator
- Proposed resolution: Request an Annual University Report on Academic Freedom
- Update – Academic Integrity Code and Accepting Responsibility pilot program

April

- Introduce Middle States Accreditation and Open Forum, Vice Provost for Academic Innovation Steve Jackson
- Proposed Resolution: Revise the Academic Integrity Code
- Dean of Faculty candidates: Kelly Musick, Chris Schaffer, and Chelsea Specht

May

- Proposed Resolution: Phase-Out Single Use Plastics
- Proposed Resolution: Establish an Extension Professor Track
- Proposed Resolution: Updates to the Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education Bylaws
- Update – Provost's Committee on the Future of the American University

Selected External Faculty Awards

2026 American Academy of Arts & Sciences

- Cathy Caruth, Class of 1916 Professor of English, Literatures in English and Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Sciences
- Michael Kotlikoff, President and Professor of Molecular Physiology
- Francesca Molinari, H.T. Warshaw and Robert Irving Warshaw Professor of Economics, Economics, College of Arts and Sciences

2025 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

- Lara Estroff, Herbert Fisk Johnson Professor of Industrial Chemistry, Materials Science and Engineering, Cornell Duffield College of Engineering
- Klaas van Wijk, Professor, School of Integrative Plant Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

American Physical Society (APS)

- Greg Fuchs, James R. Meehl Professor, School of Applied and Engineering Physics, Cornell Duffield College of Engineering
- Thomas Hartman, Professor, Physics, College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Energy (DOE) Early Career Award

- Debanjan Chowdhury, Associate Professor, Physics, College of Arts and Sciences
- Jennet Dickinson, Assistant Professor, Physics, College of Arts and Sciences
- Matthew Reid, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell Duffield College of Engineering
- Yu Zhong, Assistant Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, Cornell Duffield College of Engineering

2025 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Awards

- Natalie L. Cápiro '00, Assistant Professor, Biological and Environmental Engineering, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Sanjiban Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, Cornell Bowers College of Computing and Information Science
- Sarah Dean, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, Cornell Bowers College of Computing and Information Science

Selected Internal Faculty Awards

Community-Engaged Practice and Innovation Awards for 2025-26

- Brigid Beachler, Director, Engaged and Experiential Learning Programs, School of Industrial and Labor Relations
- Celia Bigoness, Clinical Professor of Law, Cornell Law School
- Sarah Dean, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, Cornell Bowers College of Computing and Information Science
- Nikhil Garg, Assistant Professor, Operations Research and Information Engineering, Cornell Duffield College of Engineering
- Erin Henry, Assistant Clinical Professor, Shelter Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Adam Hoffman, Assistant Professor, Psychology, College of Human Ecology
- Carla Ingrando, Visiting Lecturer, Cornell SC Johnson College of Business
- Pamela Karimi, Associate Professor, Architecture, College of Architecture, Art, and Planning
- Alexander Livingston, Associate Professor, Government, College of Arts and Sciences
- William Lodge II, Assistant Professor, Cornell Brooks School of Public Policy

Community-Engaged Practice and Innovation Awards for 2025-26 continued

- Keith Obadike, Professor, Art, College of Architecture, Art, and Planning
- Marvin Pritts, Professor, Horticulture and Global Development, School of Integrative Plant Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Lauren Stulgis, Swanson Director of Student Project Teams, Cornell Duffield College of Engineering

Center for Teaching Innovation Creative Teaching Awards 2026

- Misha Ailsworth, Assistant Professor, Psychology, College of Human Ecology
- Kathryn Fiorella, Associate Professor, Public and Ecosystem Health, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Anthony Ong, Professor, Psychology, College of Human Ecology
- Marvin Pritts, Professor, Horticulture and Global Development, School of Integrative Plant Science, School of Integrative Plant Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences