

# Faculty Senate

March 11, 2026

ALL IN-PERSON ATTENDEES PLEASE SIGN-IN ON ONE OF THE SHEETS

ALL ZOOM ATTENDEES PLEASE SIGN-IN VIA THE CHAT

SENATORS: Name and Department

FACULTY GUESTS: Name and Department

NON-FACULTY GUESTS: Name and Affiliation

PRESS: Name and Affiliation

# Gayogóhó:nq' Land Acknowledgement

Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogóhó:nq' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogóhó:nq' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York state, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogóhó:nq' dispossession and honor the ongoing connection of Gayogóhó:nq' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

This land acknowledgment has been reviewed and approved by the traditional Gayogóhó:nq' leadership.

# Rules of Engagement

## HYBRID FORMAT

In-person and remote attendance

## ZOOM CAPTIONING

Choose “Live Transcription” in the Zoom menu

## TO SPEAK

2 minutes to pose a question or make a statement

Identify yourself: First name, Last name and Department

Order: Zoom first, Floor next, Back to Zoom, Back to Floor, etc.

## CHAT

Want to attend to statements on the floor; set to everyone

Do not want to disadvantage in-person attendees

Limit chat to sharing resources with each other, published ‘as is’ publicly on DoF website

## RECORDING

Started at 3:30PM, Video, audio, and chat posted publicly after the meeting

## THREE MICROPHONES

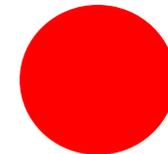
To ensure all perspectives are fairly represented and discussed



Comments in favor



Neither in favor or opposition



Comments in opposition

# **Approval of Zoom Transcription Minutes**

**February 11, 2026**

Unanimous consent requested

Raise hand (in-person or remote) for corrections only

# **Remarks from the President and Provost**

President Michael Kotlikoff, Molecular Physiology

Provost Kavita Bala, Computer Science

# Senate Q&A

# **Introduction**

Kyle Kimball, Vice President for University Relations

# Senate Q&A

# Lectures – Open To All on Monday March 16, 2026



**A.D. White Professor-at-Large**

**May Berenbaum '80**,  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign,  
Entomology

**What's so funny about science anyway?**

When: 12:10 - 1:10PM

Where: Morison Room (A16), Corson Hall,  
and Zoom



**A.D. White Professor-at-Large**

**Keri Putnam**  
Former CEO & Executive Director,  
Sundance Institute

**Future of Storytelling**

When: 6:00PM

Where: Bloomberg Center Auditorium  
at Cornell Tech, NYC



**Messenger Lecturer**

**Guðni Th. Jóhannesson**  
Former President of Iceland

**"My Fellow Citizens": The Need for National Unity  
and the Positive Role of Heads of State**

When: Noon – 1PM

Where: Warren Hall 175

## **Proposed resolutions:**

**Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to Review Policy 6.4**

**Request an Annual Report on Academic Freedom**

Senator Bryan Sykes, Brooks School of Public Policy

Senator J. Nathan Matias, Communication

## **Request an Annual University Report on Academic Freedom**

***Be it therefore resolved that* the Faculty Senate requests that the University Administration strengthen trust in the university's processes without disclosing confidential information by publishing an annual university transparency report on academic freedom. Such a report would disclose the number of external requests and internal disciplinary proceedings that involve the University Administration regarding faculty, student, and staff speech and behavior. The report would also include aggregate counts of incidents by group (faculty, student, and staff) across types of protected action (speech, behavior, etc.) and stage of disciplinary proceedings (complaint, investigation, resolution, appeal, etc.).**

# **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**

***Be it therefore resolved that* the Faculty Senate create an Ad Hoc Committee (henceforth “the Committee”) composed of members of the Faculty Senate, faculty, the Cornell Office of Civil Rights (COCR), and the Office of General Counsel (OGC);**

***Be it further resolved that* the Committee to produce a Policy Report that reviews and evaluates points of similarity and difference in how COCR and the Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status of the Faculty (AFPSF) investigate complaints, define and interpret statutory language, evaluate evidence, and issue decisions (henceforth “COCR & AFPSF procedures”). This committee will consult with other parts of the university who hold relevant information, including COCR, AFPSF, and the Office of General Counsel;**

# **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**

***Be it further resolved that* the Committee's policy report reviews, evaluates, and recommends revisions to Cornell's multiple Policy 6.4 documents (henceforth, CUP 6.4), with the goal of reducing future differences in outcomes of the COCR, AFPSF, and decisions by the University Administration;**

***Be it further resolved that* the Committee's policy report, at a minimum, examines and recommends possible revisions to CUP 6.4 for ambiguous language; points of administrative discretion; excess confidentiality that impairs or limits Faculty Senate deliberation on matters or resolutions that involve decisions within the jurisdiction of COCR & AFPSF; different evidentiary and evaluation standards between decision-making bodies (COCR, AFPSF, etc.); the temporal ordering and review times of processes related to complaint investigations, resolutions, appeals, and imposed sanctions under CUP 6.4 and Faculty Handbook Section 6.6; and the role and duties of the faculty co-investigator in COCR;**

# **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**

***Be it further resolved that* the Committee's policy report identify, classify, and explain any additional Cornell policies, procedures, and handbooks that may be in contradiction of shared governance principles, contain ambiguous language about processes or procedures, and/or reserve administrative discretion in adjudicative processes (initial complaint decisions, appeals procedures and determinations, etc.);**

***Be it further resolved that* the Committee's policy report include a summary of the standards of evidence used by other universities in New York State for civil rights and academic freedom cases, and a mixture of the two, as well as the results of an independent legal analysis on the question of which standards of evidence to use in such cases, including citations to case law.**

# Senate Discussion

# **Academic Integrity code and Accepting Responsibility pilot program update**

Liz Karns, Provost Fellow for Undergraduate Education, Statistics & Data Science and  
Senator Michael Ryan Clarkson, Computer Science

# **Proposed Changes to Code of Academic Integrity**

Presented to Faculty Senate  
March 11, 2026

Michael Clarkson and Liz Karns

# Our Core Principles Remain Unchanged

“Integrity entails a firm adherence to a set of values, and the values most essential to an academic community are grounded on the concept of **honesty with respect to the intellectual efforts** of oneself and others...”

“A Cornell student’s submission of work for academic credit indicates that **the work is the student’s own**. All outside assistance should be acknowledged...”

[from the current Code of Academic Integrity]

# Major Academic Integrity Proposals

Stem from Academic Integrity Working Group convened by DoF in AY 2024–5:

1. Accepting Responsibility
2. Centralized record keeping
3. Graduate School clarifications

# 1. Accepting Responsibility: Background

- Cornell is currently **punitive**, compared to other universities
- Accepting Responsibility (AR) is a new process focused on **educational intervention** instead of grade penalties
- Spring 2024: Started pilot in Bowers
- Now: Expanded to **60+ courses** across CALS, CAS, Duffield
- Nearly **300 students** have participated in pilot; only two real cases of detected recidivism
- Intervention focuses on values, choices, and habits for the student's future — beyond academic integrity

# 1. Accepting Responsibility: Process

- **Alternative resolution process** to Academic Integrity Primary Hearing
- If elected by both instructor *and* student:
  - Event is **not** recorded as a violation of AI Code
  - No Primary Hearing held; student waives right to appeal to AIHB/Dean
  - Penalty is capped to work involved (no F in course, etc.)
  - Student must attend **workshop** and complete written assignments on values, choices, habits
- A student is eligible only if they have never violated/participated before

## 2. Centralized Record Keeping

- Record keeping is currently decentralized across colleges, but centralized records will be essential for implementation of Accepting Responsibility
- Plan: create a **centralized web portal** for faculty to formally report academic integrity events (charges, decisions, etc.)
- This is an opportunity to streamline letter creation, automate emails, and ensure consistency of academic records

### 3. Graduate School Clarifications

Code needs to surface some concerns raised by Graduate School:

- Academic misconduct in **published and professional work, including manuscripts under review for publication**, related to integrity in the conduct of scholarly and scientific research and communication is addressed in Cornell University Policy 1.2
- AIHB panel must include appropriate **representation by graduate faculty and students** when an alleged violation is committed by a graduate student

# Next Steps

- Redline edits of Code of Academic Integrity are currently under review by council of **AIHB** chairs and recorders, and by **EPC**
- Goal: bring proposed resolution to Senate in April

# Contacts and Resources

Liz Karns ([karns@cornell.edu](mailto:karns@cornell.edu))

Michael Clarkson ([mrc26@cornell.edu](mailto:mrc26@cornell.edu))

[Accepting Responsibility Pilot](https://acceptingresponsibility.cis.cornell.edu/)

<https://acceptingresponsibility.cis.cornell.edu/>

# Senate Discussion

# **Good of the Order**

Richard Bensel, Government  
Caroline Levine, Literatures in English



# CORNELL UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE



#IAMYOURSENATOR