Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
February 13, 2002

Professor Howard Howland, Neurobiology and Behavior and Speaker: "I would like to call the meeting to order. I would like to remind the body that no photos or tape recorders are allowed during the meeting, and I would like to ask speakers to identify themselves and their department when they speak. We don’t have any speakers for Good and Welfare today. I would like now to call on Provost Biddy Martin for a report."

1. REPORT BY PROVOST MARTIN

Provost Biddy Martin: "Good afternoon. I am pleased to be here. It seems as though it has been a long time since we met. That’s actually true. Today I just want to make a few remarks and then actually ask if you have questions that I can answer, which I would be glad to do. First of all, you will have received or you will soon receive a memo from the Financial Policies Committee of the Senate (Appendix 1). It is a memo that outlines the work that Carolyn Ainslie, our head of Planning and Budget, and I have been doing with the Financial Policies Committee. We are extremely pleased about the help we have gotten from the FPC and the cordial relationship that we have developed. They will continue, that is those who are on the FPC, will help us as we pursue the financial policies that are enumerated on this handout. If you have any questions about those, specifically about the faculty salary program or any of the other policies that are listed here, please feel free to ask. I won’t go through them simply because most of you are shaking your heads that you’ve received them and that’s unnecessarily redundant.

Professor Martin Lindau, Applied and Engineering Physics: "I wanted to ask you about the endowment. As I understand it right now, it’s more or less that the money is held and spent centrally, and for the endowed chair this is very different from what is done in other departments at other places. Is there any consideration of changing that, to give those directly to the department so they can do what they want?"

Provost Martin: "Well, there are a number of assumptions embedded in your question that I think are probably not entirely accurate. So we had better take it apart. The university’s endowment itself is held centrally, is that what you are asking?"

Professor Lindau: "Yes."

Provost Martin: "No, it isn’t actually. That’s one of Cornell’s strengths and its weaknesses. The endowments are not held centrally. I mean we do get a yield from the endowment that comes to the general purpose budget and fuels the general purpose budget, so a certain amount of it gets yielded and is then received centrally, but we have endowments in every college actually, not just the endowed colleges, so the endowment is held in a relatively decentralized manner."

Professor Lindau: "What I’m talking about is the endowed chair."

Provost Martin: "Oh, endowed professorships. That’s right. The endowed professorships are pooled, and that funding is held centrally and the salaries are paid from the endowment. Are you asking whether we might start paying salaries directly out of the individual endowments?"

Professor Lindau: "Yes, I am asking if that would be possible."
Provost Martin: "No. It wouldn’t be a good idea, because many of the endowed professorships don’t actually yield enough money to pay the salaries of the faculty who hold them. Pooling is the way that we are actually able to spread the funding across the different professorships in the way that we need to do. So we would have a bigger salary problem were we to align the endowments with the individual professorships and their salaries. I don’t know if that’s entirely clear."

Professor Richard Durst, Food Science and Technology, Geneva: "In their memo it indicates that they are supporting the 8% overall salary increase."

Provost Martin: "That was for this amount here."

Professor Durst: "OK, and for the future are they still supporting it? I’m curious¾ with the flat or declining budget, something has to give. And if you are going to give an 8% salary, that’s quite a large sum of money. What is going to be lost in the process?"

Provost Martin: "Can everyone hear the questions? The question was they, by they you mean the Financial Policies Committee, I assume?"

Professor Durst: "No, I mean Cornell University."

Provost Martin: "OK. The memo was sent by the Financial Policies Committee, which supported the 8% increase that we were able to deliver this past year in faculty salaries. I think the question that Dick Durst is asking is whether or not we are going to continue to be able to raise faculty salaries at that level, given the constraints on our budget. The answer is we don’t yet know at what level we will be able to increase faculty salaries for this next year, but we hope to be¾ we will continue to be aggressive. Will there be an 8% increase overall in any particular college or across the university? We simply don’t know yet. It will depend on what we and the individual colleges need to do and can afford to do, but are we sticking to our faculty salary goals and an aggressive program? Yes. In short, the 8% number is accurate only for this past year. What the number will be in the individual colleges and for the university as a whole for this next year, we yet don’t know. Will it be aggressive despite budget constraints? Yes. Something has to give. What will it be? Pretty soon my sanity I would think, but aside from that I don’t have a concrete answer for you at the moment. You do know . . . and I didn’t get to these remarks, because you had questions immediately, which I think are more important than my remarks, so I will say this very quickly. You know that we have a workforce-planning group in place to work out long-term strategies for reducing costs at the university, specifically on the administrative staff side. We are hoping to reap savings adequate to meeting some of our other needs, which, frankly you’re right, we can’t continue to meet while pursuing the aggressive salary program and all the capital projects we have (and need to have) underway without doing something about our costs."

Professor Douglas Fitchen, Physics: "The faculty salary program is partly a catch-up program to try and bring averages up to peers. Do we have any feedback yet on what peers did last year, whether 8% puts us way out in front?"

Provost Martin: "Well, we don’t yet have the feedback. The survey results will come to us probably sometime in March, and as soon as we get them we will report to the FPC and to the Senate and to the rest of the world whether the news is good or bad. Will we have gained enormous ground? I would doubt it. Will we have been more aggressive on salary improvement than some of our peers? I would expect yes, but whether that will permit us to catch up and make up as much ground as we would like, I just don’t know yet. But as soon as we get some word, we will pass it along. We do feel like we are all in this together, this effort to catch up on faculty salaries, and so whether the news is good or bad, you’ll hear it right away. Any other questions? There were some other hands up. No? No other questions? I don’t think my time is up, is it?"

Speaker Howland: "No, please . . . ."
Provost Martin: "Well, if not, then I would like to give a speech. I would like to just make a few comments about the clinical professor title. I have a strong opinion about it, and my opinion is that we need an additional title at Cornell. Why do we need an additional title at Cornell? This is my own opinion. I have a keen sense of the obvious in saying that, I guess. But why do we need an additional title? For many reasons, which I’m sure you will hear from the people who are bringing this forward; it’s not my initiative, nonetheless I would simply like to express an opinion about it.

"Why do we need additional titles? Because I’m convinced that we need to move away from the pattern, which we have had here historically at this major research university of having peoples’ workload distribution have a quite small research component. I think that it is not appropriate at a top research university to have faculty workload distribution or effort distributed in such a way that research represents a relatively small, sometimes almost minimal portion, of what faculty are expected to do here. What is the solution to that particular problem of having faculty workload distributed in such a way that a very minor part of it at a research university for tenure-track faculty is devoted to research? I think the solution to it is to create an additional title or perhaps more than one additional title. Other universities have them. I think some people hear that this could be a potential slight against tenure or tenured professorships. I think it would actually be a strengthening of the significance and the meaning of the tenure-track professorship, because it will preserve the possibility that research makes up a significant component.

"But there is a humane reason, and that’s the one I want to emphasize, because other people here can give far better explanations for why this title might be useful in specific schools than I can. The humane reason is this. We have a lot of people at this university in different colleges who are just as qualified, sometimes more qualified, to teach or to do the kinds of technical work that they are doing than those of us who hold tenure-track professorships, and they are in positions, almost across the board, known as lectureships or senior lectureships. These titles don’t at all accurately reflect the level of their expertise, their training, and their skill. This uniformity imposes on our workforce. They are often insulting to the people who hold these titles. They don’t accurately distinguish between those people on our teaching or faculty core who primarily teach courses and don’t do research and don’t have special expertise gathered somewhere other than in research as it’s traditionally understood, but nonetheless gathered in ways that deserve our respect and deserve to be acknowledged in the kinds of titles we award them. It is for that reason that I think it is important to have more accurate titles, to have a different title, like Professor of the Practice or Clinical Professor, to represent accurately what many faculty at this university do that is distinct from what lecturers and senior lecturers do. None being more or less valuable necessarily than the other, but being quite different. For what I am going to call humane reasons, and perhaps I can say for reasons of accuracy in advertising, I hope that we will not permit cynicism about administrators wishing to have titles so that they can decrease the numbers of tenure-track faculty or degrade the significance of a tenure-track position, I hope we won’t let that stand in the way of doing what would be right as a way of acknowledging the forms of expertise and the kinds of work that some of the faculty at this university do.

"As I said in the chairs’ meeting last week, I think we have got enough bright minds here to be able to figure out how we can construct a new title in such a way as not to in any way threaten what the tenure-track professorship means or should mean or how they will be used in the various colleges. So you will forgive me, I hope, if you are sorry that I have expressed an opinion on this subject, but I have lived quite closely with the problems involved in calling everyone who has not got a primary research appointment on a tenure-track line a lecturer. I think we do some of our colleagues a disservice not to create titles that recognize the experience, the training, the expertise and the enormous quality that they bring to their work. Thank you for letting me go on."

Speaker Howland: "Thank you, Provost Martin. The speaker would now like to call on Dean Cooke for remarks."

2. REMARKS BY DEAN COOKE
Professor J. Robert Cooke, Dean of the University Faculty: "I just want to call attention to the conversation that is scheduled to occur in this room a week from today, a forum on the topic that we will begin discussion on today. The forum is to give everyone in the university an opportunity to be heard. It will have a few speakers who will present previously prepared remarks, and then will be open for anyone for three minutes, and then you can speak a second time after everyone who wishes to speak has had a chance to do so. I think this is one of the most important conversations that we have had in quite a long time, because it has a lot of implications for how well we function, as well as how we treat people. It has ramifications that are probably not at all obvious to the bystander, so I hope for us to have a serious and real conversation about an issue of real importance.

"I’m pleased to say that the Faculty Handbook (Judy Bower revised it) is almost ready for distribution. It’s not yet bound, but it will be out. We have made a small number of copies this time, because it is ‘on demand’ printing, so we can make other copies. We have several issues pending that will immediately affect that manuscript. The last one lasted ten or twelve years, so we now can do this on demand and we will add another addition within a year with modifications that we know are in progress. We also have an on-line version coming, a PDF file. That will be on our web site, and you can download it and it is readable in Adobe Acrobat. You simply take the mouse and touch one of these items, and it will take you to that entry or you can turn to the table of contents. Instead of leafing pages, it will turn the pages for you. If you go to the index at the back it will do the same thing. One last thing I’m adding before we release it is that when you click on one of these, there will be a marker on that page so that you can find all of the related entries without flipping back and forth to the index. I hope that will be something useful, and it will make it readily accessible for the whole community. In some of the issues we deal with timeliness is important. For example, if you have a case of academic integrity, you want to see the rules now, not in two or three days when the campus mail reaches you.

"You know already that we have a task force, a second one, on Appeals and Grievances Procedures for the Small Schools. The problem that we are addressing is that in the larger colleges there is a level of review at the department, and the dean has not already been a party to the conversation and has not already taken a position. In the four smaller units in the university, the dean is involved from the get-go. So we are trying to find a way that will remove that level so that persons in those units would still have a level of appeal that the rest of the faculty have.

"We also have just mounted a Task Force on Suspension Policies. The idea is that we have given enormous attention and detail to dismissal of tenured faculty or non-reappointment and so on, but much to my dismay, the rules on suspension, including suspension without pay, seem to have not been thought out. So I am asking a group to look at those rules that we currently have for dismissal and see which ones that pertain to academic freedom ought to be transferred over to cover this other case, because putting someone on suspension without pay for some of us would be tantamount to dismissal. I don’t see any serious objection with the university, it is just a hole that has not been filled yet. There’s also a Task Force on Academic Integrity Code. Their main task is to bring it before the student body and the faculty, make it more real to us. They may also look at some of the issues that have come into play since some of the technology has changed as far as getting information around. Here are the names of the chairs: Michael Gold and Martha Fineman on the first one, Peter Stein on the second., and Lynne Abel on the third, in the event that you wish to communicate with them before it shows up on the schedule.

"Finally, a couple of notes about things that are also underway. Here are some issues on scheduling that we are trying to address½ evening prelims, evening courses, in-class prelims, final exams, and other activities (Appendix 2 - Overheads). We are trying to look at how the 24-hour day is used by students. A cursory look at the schedule says that 8:00 classes are not that popular and Saturday classes are not that popular, so we are squeezing the effective week, and that puts more pressure to put things at night. The Educational Policy Committee is going to use this data that we gather, and we will share it with you in due course. We are also going to look at some support services for the faculty. This again is trying to look at some issues that were started earlier but have not come to completion. We want to do parallel things that we have done for the courses in getting photographs to
the teachers; we want to get photographs for the advisors, because these people see the student less frequently than the instructor, so we think that could have a humanizing dimension.

"We have tried in the past to have a campus-wide database for seminars and other academic events, so that you could file a personal profile that would say that anytime some speaker on campus for next week is speaking on genomics, I would like to know about it this week so I can put it on my schedule. The richness of what’s available here largely goes untouched unless you are really keyed in with a particular group, and given this era of interdisciplinary work, it really is important for us to be able to talk across department boundaries.

"We also want to look at the question of digital distribution of course lists, of matching the course grades in digital submission. Some people, many people, have repeatedly complained about the "mark in the bubble" forms that are time consuming, but more than that, they are also error prone. We will look for something with that. We will also look at the question of e-mail support for enrolled students, so that that can be provided on an institutional basis, so as the drop-add list changes, you don’t have to keep updating your list of people getting e-mail from you. And some other ideas that have come from the forum we had last December 10."

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2001 FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Speaker Howland: "The speaker would now like to call for approval of the minutes of the November 14, 2001 Faculty Senate Meeting. Any amendments, changes? Hearing none, I presume we have your unanimous approval. The speaker would now like to call on Associate Dean and Secretary, Charles Walcott, for a Nominations and Elections Committee report."

4. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: CHARLES WALCOTT, ASSOCIATE DEAN AND SECRETARY OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Professor Charles Walcott, Neurobiology and Behavior, Associate Dean and Secretary: "Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have for your consideration, and I think you also got it in your handout of the meeting, the list of people appointed to various and assorted committees [Appendix 3]. While I show you this, I would like to remind you that we are still collecting nominations for faculty elected trustee until this Friday, until tomorrow. We are particularly interested in nominations for the Nominations and Elections Committee; self-nominations are gratefully received. Perhaps as a threat, by being on the committee you avoid being nominated to another committee, so perhaps that would be an incentive. In any event, if you have ideas please let me know, and that is the second of my transparencies and that is my report."

Speaker Howland: "Thank you, Secretary Walcott. I ask now for . . . yes, questions. I’m sorry."

Professor Steven Shiffrin, Law School: "I think we are also looking for self-nominations or other nominations for At-Large members to the Faculty Senate with the same deadline."

Speaker Howland: "Any other comments? The chair asks for unanimous consent for acceptance of the report. Hearing no objections, it is accepted. Thank you. The chair would now like to call on Professor Elaine Wethington, Human Development and Chair of the University Committee on Human Subjects for a resolution on the composition of the University Committee on Human Subjects."

5. REOLUTION ON COMPOSITION OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SUBJECTS: PROFESSOR ELAINE WETHINGTON, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND CHAIR, UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SUBJECTS

Professor Elaine Wethington, Human Development and Chair, University Committee on Human Subjects: "I’m back on one of my increasingly frequent visits to the Faculty Senate. We live in a very fluid environment in regard to federal regulations for human subjects research, and that has made it necessary for me to come back again and ask for revision of faculty legislation that establishes the Committee on Human Subjects. The Office of
Human Research Protections in DHHS is the regulatory body over committees on human subjects research, and we have learned that there will be guidelines coming soon requiring that universities, in important ways, change the membership of those committees. Our current legislation dates from 1967 and was written in a very different era of human subjects protection, and it is not flexible enough to respond to a couple of different things.

"Our current legislation allows us to seat only one member of the community on the committee. One of the changes that we anticipate is that we will be asked to increase community representation on our local institutional review board. University legislation also makes it more difficult for us to recruit a sufficient number of experts in health to serve as expert reviewers on various types of proposals that we are seeing in ever increasing numbers, and finally our current legislation prescribes the number of faculty sitting on the committee in a way that will allow us not to be able to add non-faculty to the committee who may either be community members here in the Ithaca area or areas of expertise in health. The current description of the committee is that it has eighteen members, thirteen to fifteen members (of the university faculty, with one of them being from the faculty of law, two physicians representing the university health services and at least one member not otherwise affiliated with Cornell University. We have asked that this be replaced with "The Committee shall consist of eighteen members, two physicians representing the university health service, a representative from Cornell Environmental Health and Safety, at least two members not otherwise affiliated with Cornell University (those are the community members), and the remainder members of the university faculty, with one being from the faculty of law."

Speaker Howland: "Thank you. So that is the motion before you. Do we have discussion on it? Yes."

Professor Tony Simons, Hotel School: "I’m curious, given the increasing workload that is going to be placed on you, why you are not asking that the committee be enlarged?"

Professor Wethington: "That’s a very good question. We enlarged from twelve to eighteen last semester."

Professor Simons: "OK. It’s already been."

Professor Wethington: "It has already been done. That is when I discovered that the language was relatively inflexible given what we know is coming in the regulation revisal."

Speaker Howland: "Additional questions or discussion? Seeing none, I think we are ready for a vote."

Professor Robert Bland, Operations Research and Industrial Engineering: "I do have one question. There is an implicit lower boundary of at least one faculty member, because there has to be someone from the Law School. There is no expression that the number of faculty has to be any greater than that."

Professor Wethington: "That’s deliberate. It would take me more than five minutes to explain it, but one of the proposals that is now being floated is that IRBs would have to consist of 50% members from the community, non-university faculty. I don’t think it will go that high, but I wanted flexible language for that reason. We are committed to maintaining a majority faculty presence on the committee, and I think that’s how it will be done."

Speaker Howland: "Yes, a quick reply and then over here."

Professor Douglas Gurak, Rural Sociology: "Just a query. Is it intended in the new wording that no more than one representative from the Law School ever be on the committee?"

Professor Wethington: "No, we can have more than one. That’s not intended."
Professor Gurak: "There should be ‘at least one’, then."

Professor Wethington: "'At least one.' Can we amend that? I’m not sure of the rule here."

Speaker Howland: "Does anybody object? No, then the wording is ‘at least one.’ Thank you."

Professor Andrew Ramage, History of Art: "I would like to propose an editorial amendment in the third section where ‘proscribe’ be replaced by ‘prescribe.’"

Professor Wethington: "Oh, that would be fine."

Speaker Howland: "Unanimous consent? No objections?"

Professor Wethington: "I’m sold on that one."

Speaker Howland: "Are we now ready for the vote? I think we are. All those in favor of the motion so amended, say ‘aye.’" (Appendix 4 - amended resolution.)

"AYE."

Speaker Howland: "Opposed? No opposition. Thank you very much. The speaker would now like to call on Professor Alan Bell, Animal Science and Chair of the Task Force on Professorial Titles for a presentation on the creation of a new, non-tenure track professorial title — Clinical Professor."

6. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON CREATION OF A NEW (NON-TENURE TRACK) PROFESSORIAL TITLE — CLINICAL PROFESSOR: ALAN BELL, PROFESSOR, ANIMAL SCIENCE AND CHAIR, TASK FORCE ON PROFESSORIAL TITLES

Professor Alan Bell, Animal Science and Chair, Task Force on Professorial Titles: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to be very brief, extremely brief in fact, because I will yield the floor to two of my task force colleagues who have put in an enormous amount of work over the last sixteen months or so. I just want to get your attention focused on two or three things here. First of all, you should all have received mailings of beautifully color-coded materials. There are three stapled pieces that I want to call your attention to. The first is a brief report from our task force (Appendix 5) that outlines background, the membership, which I think is broadly representative of our community, the charge and our activities. It is by no means an exhaustive report, but I hope you have read it and it does give you some perspective on what we have been up to.

"The second, which is much more specific to the topic we are going to discuss today, is titled ‘Proposed Enabling Legislation.’ (Appendix 6) It has been pointed out to me that this is perhaps not quite a correct title in that this is not in legislative form; this is more background and rationale for the legislation that may be brought to the Senate, perhaps as early as next month. With that piece, there are two appendices. One is simply a list of currently available academic titles, which was certainly the consideration that we began with when we started our work back in the fall of 2000. There are two individuals in the group today who can speak with some authority and knowledge of this appendix¾ Professor Lynne Abel and Professor Don Cooke have a lot of historical knowledge and functional knowledge of this, if there are questions for them. Then the dark yellow piece, the Appendix B, here is central to the discussion we are going to have today and at the faculty forum next week. This is specific to the clinical professor title that the Provost also gave comments on. The third piece (Appendix 7) that was in your mail is not something produced by our task force; it was a discussion piece that was used in the considerations of the Vet College when they were wrestling with the issue of a clinical professor title last fall.

"I remind you that our task force went into hibernation for two or three months, because we were waiting for the Vet School, as a major unit with a specific interest in the clinical professor title, to provide some direction
on what faculty sentiment might be. Once the Vet School had considered and voted on this, we felt that we were in a position to bring this to the Senate. Those are the pieces that you have. I’ll now call on Professor Abby Cohn who has put much effort into what I am still calling enabling legislation, who will speak to us for perhaps eight or ten minutes, and then Professor Mike Kotlikoff who will provide some background on issues more specific to the title. Then there will be lots of time for general discussion. Some of the other information here in my last overhead has already been represented, but just to get together information about how the task force hopes things will proceed here. We will proceed with our discussion today without vote. The faculty forum has already been arranged for next Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. and there was a notice that the Dean of Faculty had on the board, and, although this is not set in stone, I guess the task force is hoping that a formal resolution can be brought to this body as early as next month’s meeting. I now call on Professor Cohn.

Professor Abigail Cohn, Linguistics and member of the Task Force on Professorial Titles: "The central question that the task force has addressed is, 'Is Cornell’s set of available academic titles adequate?' (Cohn overheads - Appendix 8.) We have actually considered a wide range of issues including temporary positions, status of non-tenured faculty positions in general, and the status of faculty close to retirement. These questions will be addressed in the task force’s final report. What we want to focus on today is the specific question of long-term, non-tenure track appointments. These are term appointments that meet specific functions, and these are renewable without restriction. This is a slightly rearranged version of Appendix A. What I have done is put the tenured and tenure track titles together and the temporary titles down at the bottom. The question we are really asking is, 'Is this set of long-term, non-tenure track appointments adequate?' Academic titles at Cornell are approved by the Board of Trustees, and any proposed additions to this must be approved by the trustees. However, this is an academic matter and not an administrative one, and that’s why we have this task force.

"There are two areas of inequity that we discussed at great length within the task force, and the first is within the clinical sphere. These are individuals carrying out essential teaching and service functions in a clinical setting. These are found primarily in professional colleges, and these individuals are typically in lecturer or senior lecturer positions. The second sphere is the research sphere where there are individuals carrying out certain research functions usually on soft money, primarily in the laboratory sciences. These individuals are typically in research associate or senior research associate positions. Both of these categories are positions that are largely single function and do not include the full range of teaching, research, extension and service associated with tenure-track professorial lines. In fact, we find that the current set of available titles is not sufficient.

"There are a number of problems. I might mention that Biddy has spoken to some of these problems in her remarks. The guidelines for hiring and promotion of individuals in these positions do not fit well with the actual duties and responsibilities of these individuals. Many aspects of the employment of these individuals serving these functions are ad hoc, leaving both the individuals and the institution vulnerable. Cornell finds itself at a serious competitive disadvantage in trying to attract and retain the most qualified individuals. Our strongest peer institutions make use of a richer array of job categories, and finally, individuals in these roles at Cornell find themselves at a disadvantage when competing for external funding resources.

"We would like to suggest that what is needed are appropriate career paths that have the potential to be long-term and include clear guidelines for hiring and promotion, as well as grievance procedures. It is crucial to define these positions with appropriate rights and responsibilities as well as respect for those individuals who play an integral role in the academic endeavors at Cornell, but who find that they do not fit in the canonical tenure track categories. Appropriate new titles and corresponding policies and procedures would address the problems that we have outlined above. In the proposal that we are presenting today, we are actually addressing only the clinical sphere. The crux of the proposal is that this should be on a college by college basis. These issues are much more pressing in some colleges than others. So we believe that an across-the-board enrichment of professorial titles would not be the most effective solution. Rather we suggest offering the option of introducing a limited set of new professorial non-tenure track titles for the clinical sphere on a college-by-college basis. The
proposed legislation would not dictate the availability of these titles but rather enable individual colleges to
develop proposals meeting the set proposal guidelines for use of these titles within a particular college. In
particular, we are proposing the titles clinical professor, associate clinical professor and assistant clinical
professor.

"If the proposed enabling legislation is supported by the Faculty Senate, the steps involved would be as follows.
A college would develop a proposal for the creation and use of the title clinical professor, which would be
presented to the full tenure track faculty of that college. If the proposal is supported by the majority of the
tenure track faculty voting by ballot, the college would consult the appropriate Faculty Senate committee to be
sure the proposal fits the proposal guidelines and then submit the proposal to the Provost for consideration.
What we are now presenting to the Senate is at least the concept of the enabling legislation, that if approved by
the Faculty Senate and subsequently by the Provost and the Board of Trustees would allow implementation of
the titles clinical professor at the assistant, associate and full ranks on a college-by-college basis, and a specific
proposal approved by the majority of tenure track faculty of the Vet College to implement this set of titles. We
present these two in tandem since if the Faculty Senate was asked to approve the general approach and
enabling legislation but without a substantive proposal from a specific college, there is no compelling
motivation for the Senate to endorse such legislation. For this reason the task force has worked in parallel with
the Veterinary College where such a proposal was already in an incipient stage when the task force was
constituted. I should mention as well that the Law School has begun to consider this question but does not yet
have a formal proposal. The task force endorses the Veterinary College’s proposal for implementing these titles.
More generally, we endorse the selective expansion of current academic titles to include the use of these titles
by specific colleges when so approved by their faculty and conforming to the general guidelines of these
positions. The question that we would like to bring to you then is, ‘Should this legislation be enabled?’"

Professor Michael Kotlikoff, Biomedical Sciences and member of the Task Force on Professorial Titles: "I’m here
on the part of the Veterinary College and also on the part of the task force, and my task is made easier by the
comments of Provost Martin and Professor Cohn. (Kotlikoff overheads - Appendix 9.) Let me start by
summarizing quickly the process that we have gone through in the Veterinary College and reported on this to
the Senate about six months ago. A committee from the Veterinary College developed a proposal for a clinical
professorial track. That committee met for about two years. At the end of that, they brought forward a proposal
that was also in sequence with a proposal that came out of the task force. We took that proposal to every
department in the Veterinary College and met with the faculty of every department. We also met with the
General Committee faculty and modified the proposal based on comments by both the faculty in the
departments and comments in the General Committee meeting. We then considered the proposal at a faculty
meeting and decided on rules or guidelines by which we would consider this proposal. That is we decided, for
example, that we wouldn’t have just a faculty meeting and then vote on it, but that we would that we send out
a ballot and have all tenure track faculty vote on this proposal. We also decided we would have two college
town meetings, and we did have two town meetings. Then we had yet another faculty meeting where we
discussed the proposal prior to a vote. So there was ample opportunity for all of us, including me, to be multiply
redundant. At the end of that time, the Veterinary faculty voted 52 in favor and 30 opposed to this proposal,
with one abstaining.

"Let me just briefly outline the problems that we see, and these have been outlined, so I’ll go very quickly. First,
the competitiveness. Apparently nineteen out of twenty-six veterinary colleges have a clinical track, and we are
in the constant situation of recruiting faculty to come to Cornell where they have been offered positions as
professor or associate professor or assistant professor at another veterinary college, and we are offering them
the title of lecturer. So we are at a distinct competitive disadvantage, and I believe over time we will not get the
best individuals that we are seeking. Secondly, fairness, which was brought up by the Provost and Professor
Cohin, I would make two points. First, we have individuals in tenure track lines that have substantial clinical
responsibilities far in excess of the 50% guideline that the Provost has talked about for research that would be a
target as a minimum for a great research university. Those people are competitively disadvantaged at time of
tenure. Secondly, we have individuals who substantially contribute to the reputation and professionalism of the college. Those individuals really have a passion for clinical work and teaching, and they really support the mission of the college. Those people, I would assert, are treated unfairly in the sense that they know that they could be titled otherwise, a professor, at another institution and they are not at that title at Cornell. Thirdly, I would just point out two facts of life. One is that medicine has expanded dramatically over the last two decades. This has resulted in the creation of areas in medicine that didn’t exist before. That has required new faculty and expansion of our faculty. At the same time we have a fixed amount of tenure lines. So what can we do? We can take lines from another part of the college. That would weaken another part of the college, and I would argue would not be the solution to this problem. The suggestion is to increase flexibility and not try to fulfill that need through a cadre of lecturers or senior lecturers who should be otherwise titled.

"Going very quickly, two more overheads. The Veterinary College has had a vigorous and extensive debate about this matter. Many faculty that I respect and admire have argued passionately in opposition to it. Those individuals have brought up many points, but those arguments have not been compelling to the veterinary faculty. I would therefore suggest that the relevant issue for the Faculty Senate be not whether this is a good thing for the Veterinary College but rather whether the Veterinary College should be so enabled to do what it has decided it should do. Or stated another way, whether such a proposal or title in some way violates the core principles of the university. Lastly, I would argue that the current range of titles may not serve the best interests of all the colleges at Cornell. These colleges may determine an expansion of professorial titles to include non-tenure clinical professors would enhance their competitiveness and would be fairer. The proposal does not undermine fundamental principles of the university. I would argue, thirdly, as the Provost said that in fact the proposal will result in more consistent policies relative to tenure at Cornell."

Speaker Howland: "Thank you, Professor Kotlikoff. The topic is now open for discussion, and the committee is particularly interested in receiving feedback on this particular issue of clinical professors. I see several hands. We’ll go across here."

Professor Chirstine Ranney, Applied Economics and Management: "Do other universities that use these positions, are they all non-tenure track positions at the other universities?"

Professor Kotlikoff: "The nineteen out of twenty-six that I mentioned are all non-tenure track."

Professor Stephen Vavasis, Computer Science: "The proposal right now seems to be sort of limited to veterinary medicine. Most other departments don’t have clinical positions. I’m wondering about the other part of the proposal. The research professorship would have it seems a much broader impact, and why is that not part of the current proposal? Will it be part of a proposal coming up very shortly?"

Professor Bell: "We have considered the research title at some length, and at one point we had hoped that the proposal, there was also considerable interest in this title in the Vet College, that the clinical and research titles might be considered in tandem. People in the Vet College can say very well why that didn’t come to pass. It was a sufficient challenge I think to consider this first clinical title. However, I guess in the expectation that our task force work is not yet done, we expect that if this particular proposal has legs, then we will turn to the research proposal. I agree with you that it does have broader applications. I should also point out that there is interest outside the Vet School in the clinical title. The Law School has already begun at least to consider this particular title. Whether it would be called clinical professor or professor of the practice or something similar, I don’t know, but the concept at least has interest for that school and I think a couple of other units have also expressed interest."

Professor Bud Tennant, Clinical Sciences: "I just want to point out that the schools that have these non-tenure track titles, they don’t all use ‘professor.’

The University of Minnesota that has more than half their faculty in non-tenure positions, at least the Small
Animal Medicine and Surgery Department has less than half of their faculty as tenured faculty. They use a specialist title; you’re an assistant specialist. And professor, which is really one of the key issues as far as I’m concerned, is unrelated. Our peer institutions, the University of California, as I understand, have three of these people out of a faculty that exceeds 150.

Professor Manfred Lindau, Applied Physics: "I would like to get a clarification regarding the research aspect of this. As I understand it, this is intended to be something which has been discussed in the Vet School, in particular for those individuals who are strongly involved in clinical work. I understand this means primarily dealing with patients. On the other hand, there is this aspect of research, talking about those who at present have other sorts of titles and work mostly on soft money and so on. I’m not exactly sure how important it would be to have those people in a group where you offer a non-tenure track sort of option. I think the idea is probably that you have faculty members who do a lot of research and a little teaching, and much of this is on soft money, and it would compare with what happens a great deal in the medical schools. Those colleagues would usually, or in many cases (all I know) would be in tenure track positions. Would that be excluded in this way, and I would like to hear about it?"

Professor Kotlikoff: "Sure, I would be glad to respond. The first thing is that the issues were different enough. Both issues were brought before the Veterinary College, but the issues were different enough that we felt that we ought to deal with them separately. So the clinical issue was of most immediate import, and that was brought forward. The point that you raised about research professors - there are at Weill Medical College non-tenure research faculty. Those are faculty that are on soft money; they are primarily single function; they are primarily research, and they are non-tenure track. There are also, I’m sure as you point out, tenure track faculty that do mainly research and don’t do too much teaching. The feeling was that these issues are separate enough that they should really have separate Faculty Senate consideration. That is, the Faculty Senate might decide that clinical professors are something that they feel should be enabled; they might feel that research professors are also something, but they may not feel that both should be enabled at Cornell."

Professor Lindau: "So this title is not intended for research professors at the Vet School, because that’s what it sounded like."

Professor Kotlikoff: "Not at all."

Professor Tony Simons, Hotel School: "I come at this with some ambivalence. I understand my school is quite interested, or at least the Dean has told me that they are very interested in the titles. At the same time I’m hearing concerns from faculty. There are concerns about diminution of intellectual capital. There are concerns about what is the professionalism requirement of that position. Are we going to start hiring a manager, someone who was a general manager of a hotel and say, ‘OK, we’re now going to call you a ‘professor?’ If that’s the case, some people are worried that it makes the word professor not mean very much any more. I just wanted to throw that out. What has been the thinking in terms of professionalism requirements of someone who is going to be called a professor?"

Speaker Howland: "Is anyone ready to respond? Professor Kotlikoff?"

Professor Kotlikoff: "Yes, we spent a lot of time thinking about those issues, and felt that the current notion of the proposal is an improvement in that regard, in the sense that we outline guidelines in this proposal for national and international searches for these positions, departmental approval for these positions, guidelines for promotion for these positions to associate level, etc. So all of those things that are meant to provide the quality control that would I think address some of the concerns that you are raising, I would point out that currently none of those seem to be¼ well, I shouldn’t say none of those, but the way the current titles are handled are very diverse across colleges."

Professor Joseph Hotchkiss, Food Science: "I’ve heard a similar discussion at other universities and read of that.
In part eventually that discussion gets around to concern that their administration, certainly not ours, their administration might use this as a way to bring in a different kind of person who would have many of the responsibilities that normally you might dedicate to a tenure track line, therefore as a way of really diluting or decreasing the tenure track lines and bringing in people to do similar jobs in non-tenure track lines. I’m wondering if the committee discussed this concern. Administrations change, and a new administration might not be so willing to support the tenure track system. In essence move this slowly. What safeguards are in your proposal to assure that this kind of movement not happen?"

Professor Cohn: "There are a number of very important issues that you have raised, many of which we have discussed at length. The assumption that we have been working with is that there is indeed a cap on the number of tenure track lines at Cornell. We have been told that by the President and other members of the central administration. We understand implicitly that there is no intention in reducing that number of lines, but of course we have no guarantees, and whether or not we pursue this particular path, we have no guarantees in that regard. In fact, when we started to look at these problems closely, it turns out that in many cases what is more at issue is not the risk of diluting the tenure and tenure track faculty, but really addressing how we treat the existing quite large cadre of non-tenure track personnel at Cornell who serve very important academic roles. While there are no guarantees with respect to the first point, we really do feel that this issue is much more about the second point, which is supporting and regularizing the individuals who are already in the non-tenure track roles. In addition, each college that chooses to pursue developing a proposal has to establish for themselves the guidelines under which these positions would hold. In the Vet proposal for example there is a cap¾ is it twenty-five percent?"

Professor Kotlikoff: "Twenty-five percent of tenured faculty."

Professor Cohn: ". . . in any given department, which particularly in the case of the Clinical Department is going to greatly restrict how extensively that title is used. With individual colleges putting those kinds of safeguards and controls in place, there would at least be a mechanism by which there shouldn’t be wholesale shifts. Of course there are no guarantees."

Professor Richard Durst, Food Science and Technology, Geneva: "I apologize for yelling so loudly with people sitting right in front of me. Well, first of all, I am fully supportive of this enabling legislation, based on what I read in the documents and what I heard today. However Professor Kotlikoff indicated that there were fairly large number of faculty in the Veterinary College who had arguments against this legislation, but these were not compelling. I think to give a balanced picture, I would like to hear some of the concerns that this faculty had."

Professor Bell: "Could I just make a comment? Yes, we would like to hear, and I know there are voices in this room who I’m sure will be heard. I also should comment that we are structuring the faculty forum next week to include some balance in this consideration. Of course once the invited speakers get their pieces said quickly, there will be plenty of time for all voices."

Professor Steven Shiffrin, Law School: "The Law School met last week. It was the general sense of the faculty that they wished to support the enabling legislation. I just want to say a word about what clinical professors do as opposed to tenure and tenure track faculty. The clinical professors in the Law School are attorneys of record in cases in which students help represent the clients, and they teach the students how to represent the clients. I would say that the overwhelming majority of tenure and tenure track faculty in the Law School would be utterly incompetent to do that, simply because my colleagues, with some very conspicuous exceptions, would be very good at writing briefs in appellate courts but would be terrified at the prospect of representing a live client from the beginning and just don’t have the experience. They have been hired after a couple of years out of law school. They were hired on the theory that they could write and that they could teach, and many of them can, but the clinical faculty have skills that the tenured and tenure track faculty do not. They are called lecturers. They don’t lecture. It is an utterly inappropriate title."
"Having said that, I am interested in the arguments in the Vet School that were opposed to this proposal. In the Law School I am quite confident that if the proposal were changed, it would be an exercise in humanity not an attempt to expand non-tenured faculty at the expense of tenured faculty and so forth. At the moment I’m agnostic on the Vet School, but I suspect I am going to favor it. However I would like to know% were the arguments against this proposal, ‘This deems the . . . I am a professor, and I don’t want somebody else to be called a professor?’ And my answer to that is, ‘Why don’t you write some good books, and then you’ll get dignity.’ If the claim was that somehow this is working to the disadvantage of the very people that are claimed to be helped, then I would like to hear those arguments."

Speaker Howland: "That is the second appeal that we have had for that. Is there anybody from the Veterinary College who hasn’t spoken before who wishes to speak?"

Professor Robin Gleed, Clinical Sciences: "There have been several arguments against this proposal in my department. Most of them seem to focus around the issue of tenure. I think there is no question that this proposal provides a mechanism whereby the university can expand its academic core without addressing tenure. I hope that the discussion today and the discussion next week will focus a little bit on that context, whether expansion of the academic core without tenure is good or bad."

Professor Alice Pell, Animal Science: "Did the task force actually speak to the people who are currently in the senior research associate positions or the inappropriate lectureship positions to ask what their reactions to these title changes were? My experience is that they are mightily unhappy with their current titles."

Professor Bell: "Not directly. We do have one senior lecturer on the task force but not from the Vet College. He is from Arts and Sciences. One of the early considerations of the task force was the situation of folks in these positions. I think we will be considering that issue later and separately. But it is a significant issue, a campus wide issue. In the Vet School itself I’m not quite sure how this was addressed, if at all."

Professor Kotlikoff: "Well, I can answer briefly. I have spoken to such individuals and tried to recruit individuals, and my own impression is that the culture of the young people coming in is such that they are more interested in an appropriate job description that allows them to do what they want to do, than whether they have tenure or not. That would be point one. The second is that they very well know that they could go someplace else and be a professor, and that Cornell is telling them they are not."

Professor Richard Baer, Natural Resources: "The equity thing of having titles that fit the seriousness of the work and the ability and so on makes sense. I’m a little more concerned about why society wants tenure. It seems to me the major argument we can defend is academic freedom that you have a certain ability to say what you think without pressure from colleagues or the administration to do otherwise. It seems to me that varies a great deal with disciplines. In some ways I think you could argue there is probably much less need for that in math or certain areas of physics or chemistry, say, than in political science and philosophy and areas like that. I’m concerned about - do we want a sizable amount of the teaching and or research in controversial areas done by individuals who do not have the protection of academic freedom? This is an age of political correctness, and I don’t like the thought that a lot of faculty in some of the departments where there is a lot of controversy and a lot of conflict over ideology will not be protected in what they say. We have that now, so this doesn’t make us any worse off, but I think in that sense; the issue is really, really important in terms of the nature of a university in a free society. We really value academic freedom very, very highly, and in certain areas of research, in certain areas of teaching it’s unusually important. I’m uneasy having too many current instructors without tenure, and if that somehow gets institutionalized with a professor title that they still don’t have that protection. I think we ought to think very, very carefully about doing that. The other part about equity and treating people fairly for similar work, I think is very, very persuasive. I would support it there, but the academic freedom component of it, which I think is almost the only persuasive argument we have for tenure, we ought to think pretty carefully about that."
Professor Ronald Booker, Neurobiology and Behavior: "I think that’s a consideration, a serious one, a concern of mine in terms of academic freedom that derives from the tenure system. It gives you a certain degree of protection, but we actually have a fairly large number of individuals that are already in a position of teaching and doing research, but they are not on the tenure track. So what we need to do is address the situation of those individuals. In a sense de facto, although I have heard people argue against it, de facto we are already doing the very thing that everyone is speaking against, except we sort of lie to ourselves and say, ‘Well, because we don’t use the term professor, we are covered.’ I don’t think that’s fair to those individuals. I think that’s the real problem that we need to address. We need to be honest about what we are doing in this particular case, and I don’t think it’s honest to say that the term professor is somehow protected, and we’ll deal with these people some other way. Lecturers, senior research associates, senior extension associates, we need to be fair to those individuals.

"To be honest, I’m a little bit disappointed that the committee in actually putting together this package didn’t really involve those individuals in that effort. Now, I would hope that in the faculty forum that is held next week that an effort is made to make sure there is fair representation of those individuals on the panel, so we can actually find out how they feel, because in a way I think Provost Martin is correct. This is about how they feel, their perceptions of what we think the role they play in this community is, and we need to make sure that they are treated fairly. We have considerations to make in terms of academic freedom. Tenure is a really nice system, but we also have to think about a manpower issue and how the individuals that are employed by this university¾ how are they treated and is that treatment fair?

"It’s a complicated issue, which means that we have to do some self-policing here. That, in the long run, will always be the case. Now the fact that the administration at some point wants to try to take advantage of this situation in some way, as some people have said, to try to manipulate it so that they can actually reduce the number of faculty FTE’s that we are using, the tenure track for non-tenure track, it’s our responsibility to make sure that that doesn’t happen. We cannot be asleep at the wheel on this.

"I favor this. I’m also disappointed that we don’t have the research professor position being considered in this case, because I think in this particular case I feel as though this is just something to satisfy the needs of the Vet College. If we are really concerned about individuals in the workplace, then we can’t try to structure our legislation to only handle subsets of that employee base. We need to be fair to everyone, and I can’t see most colleges taking advantage of the title; it’s restricted because of the phrase ‘clinical.’ If it is possible, I would like us to try to debate the full issue of the range of titles we need to have, and it’s going to be hard. I mean, I know partly it’s probably because there is some fear that individuals might try to block it for the Vet College, but I think this is something that the university needs to address, openly and fairly, being honest about it."

Professor Kay Obendorf, Textile and Apparel: "We’ve talked a lot about clinical and professor of the practice and research professor. I want to know what is the consideration for the extension/outreach mission of the university, the extension associates the senior extension associates?"

Professor Bell: "That has been discussed, but not explicitly addressed by the task force. I applaud the comments that were made here a moment ago. I think all I can say is that (this isn’t completely addressing your question, Kay) the task force found as we wrestled with so many different particular issues here that the only way we could make progress was to do one thing at a time. We recognize that we will, I think, have to address all of the issues that have been raised here in the last few minutes."

Professor Obendorf: "I think that this is very encompassing, so I hope that we can address that in the forum."

Professor Bell: "I think there is a danger that if we broaden this too much, next week for example, that it will be very easy to get this thing sidetracked."

Professor Risa Lieberwitz, Industrial and Labor Relations: "It seems to me that we are talking about two separate
issues at some level. First, we have heard, as we all know, against the background nationally that there has been an erosion of tenure track lines, and that has come from the administrations at different universities. I don’t think it’s being cynical to recognize that that is the national background that we are looking at and to have concerns for that, because of the issues of academic freedom. That’s our background, but then we have the current situation being raised that I think is very important in terms of dealing with employees who are currently employed here in positions which do not recognize, either through their titles or the rights that they are given, the actual work that they do and the kind of recognition that is deserved. I think everybody seems to agree that that should be addressed. The question is how to address it.

"I would endorse the sentiments that I have heard from some people here today, that one way to address it would be to increase the scope of tenure track lines and to give tenure to people who do clinical work, recognizing that as the position of professor with all of the bundle of rights that include tenure and full academic freedom and full job security that go along with it, rather than saying somehow certain types of professors deserve tenure and academic freedom and the job security that go with it, but other types, those clinical types, don’t deserve that. Well, I would go just the full way and say, ‘Look, let’s just expand tenure to everybody in the position of professor.’ If you get the title, you should get the tenure too. So that’s one issue that we have to deal with¾ those who are currently in those jobs.

"But then the issue that’s raised by the Vet School proposal seems to me to be different, because as we heard Professor Gleed from the Vet School say (I thought I heard you say) that in fact some of the concerns had to do with the fact that this would grow the academic positions, which have been tenure track to be non-tenure track positions. If you read the Vet School proposal, I think it’s quite clear from reading that and what I’m hearing that this is to add a new layer of non-tenure track jobs in the Vet School. That seems to me to raise all of the questions that have already been raised which is why not, instead of growing those positions as non-tenure track positions in the clinical practice, why not have them get the promotion process that looks like tenure? Have academic freedom fully connected to a tenure position. In fact, have clinical tenured positions if you need them, rather than making them second-class positions. Who is going to hold those second class positions at this new layer? I’m afraid it will probably be primarily women in these jobs. In fact, I have seen some statistics, which I’m sure you people have seen, at the University of Pennsylvania where when they added a new layer of clinical non-tenure track positions, it was overwhelmingly held by women, I think sixty some percent. So it seems to me that’s a real issue of adding yet another layer of non-tenure track jobs and we should I think oppose that and at the same time address the issue of under evaluation of people who currently hold instructor or lecturer positions."

Professor Terrence Fine, Electrical and Computer Engineering: "I have a great deal of difficulty with this proposal, as you might have expected Provost."

Provost Martin: "I didn’t actually."

LAUGHTER.

Professor Fine: "I sense almost a sea change here, because there is a huge whale under the surface, which is about to breach on us. I think the tenure thing is a very important issue and the impact of this on tenure. I don’t hold the title of professor lightly, not at all. But I don’t even think that that’s the major thing. I think there is an issue here about tenure. I have been reading Frank Rhodes’ book on The Creation of the Future and realize that tenure is not secure and well in the United States of America. There is a management view, which says it increases flexibility if you don’t have all these long-term commitments. What we have here is a little like something I heard recently, Amos Oz was speaking about tragedy as being good versus good. It’s very simple when it’s good versus bad, but we’ve got good versus good here. We have people taking a position which says that maybe something needs to be done for a class of people who have been teaching and doing research in the university, that their situation needs improving. But somehow I would like to see a very strong wall built
between doing that and doing damage to the other side. All right? Doing damage to the tenure system, doing damage to our ability to hire tenure faculty that is the core of the university, not these peripheral things. It’s the multi-function appointments.

"Now, in fact I’m not even at all clear¾ in this proposal, whereas on one page they talk about largely single function, in the actual Vet School proposal, depending on how you read it, they are talking about people doing clinical research, teaching or administrative activities. Basically, this sounds like a multi-function appointment. On a very small scale, I’m surprised that anybody would want to do this by a majority vote. Is this an issue that is so mundane, so everyday, that you just decide it by a majority vote? It seems to me that this is something a lot more like changing your by-laws or your constitution. If you are going to make a change in a college about how you construe faculty, how you construe professors, what you do with your resources, where you spend them, you don’t spend them on tenure lines, you spend them on all these rolling tenure lines, then I think that ought to be decided by more than a simple majority. In fact, I notice, I would have said two thirds, except that may seem maybe in some sense self-serving for my argument, because it would have failed in the Vet School if you had had to have two thirds. I’m mostly curious whether there are only 83 tenure track faculty in the Vet School. Was that a complete vote?"

Professor Kotlikoff: "There were 115 eligible faculty."

Professor Fine: "OK. So we are not even talking about a majority of the tenure track faculty, but everyone that was sent a ballot. So let me then call attention to the fact that they talked about the majority of those voting. You can have a rather strange thing here, it seems to me, to decide to change very much how you do business on the basis of the majority of those voting. I would much rather see two thirds, a much higher threshold to make a change as important as this. If the Law School is of as like a mind as has been indicated to us, no problem, you will have your two thirds. All right? This is not a minor matter, just a sort of little procedural thing you do by majority vote.

"I think this is a step in two directions at once, trying to do something that is right for a group of people but something that has implications that are very wrong to the very heart of this university. I would like to see somehow, in the time before this comes to the floor, a much stronger wall built between these two functions; that you don’t impair the critical function of the university carried out by the tenured faculty, by some device like this being run by majority rules. You’ll notice that at the moment you need the trustees to approve this. Once you have done this by majority vote in any college, you can get anywhere you want. To this point it’s considered to be a very significant move, we can’t sit here and decide that, we need the trustees to do that. Once you have done that, no, it’s completely just ordinary business. I think that is completely wrong."

Professor Stephen Barr, Clinical Sciences: "The proposal that is appended here as being the proposal that was voted on by the Veterinary College, I would ask this body look very closely at that proposal. Now, I personally voted against it, because I think if you look at what the Veterinary College actually voted for, or again, you will find that it contains a considerable research, albeit scholarship, component. I would ask this body to look very carefully - if you are going to make a decision and sort of isolate the Vet School and say, ‘It’s fine. If they want it, they can go ahead and do it.’ But on the basis of not even twenty votes out of the college, you need to make sure that what they were voting on was the correct proposal. So I would ask you, this body, in fact the whole faculty of this university, to be given a draft, Draft Nine as it is called at the Vet School."

Speaker Howland: "This may be just a point of order, but Professor Kotlikoff?"

Professor Kotlikoff: "I’m frankly confused, Steve. I think that the appendix here, unless there was some secretarial computational mistake, was the proposal that we voted on in the faculty meeting. It was the last proposal that was presented; it was modified based on comments from the faculty at our meetings, and I believe that that was the last draft that we voted on at the Veterinary College Faculty."
Professor Shrifrin: "I have a point to make and a question. First, the point I would make is I did not represent that the Law School was going to pass a similar proposal by some unanimous vote. What I did represent was that the Law School supports, that it was the sense of the faculty to support, enabling legislation to allow us to consider the question. I would never predict what my colleagues would do. The question I would like to ask is this - I’m sure that there is a reason, and I could even give you the answer that I would like to hear, for having colleges decide independently what they are doing and then have it sent to a committee and then Provost, as opposed to adding this title to the list of titles, and I’m curious as to why you did that. One possibility, the answer I would like to hear, is that the Provost, in examining such proposals, will be looking to make sure that this is not a matter of exploitation, of adding a whole lot of untenured faculty at the expense of tenured faculty with disadvantages. I don’t know what your thinking was, and I’d like to."

Professor Steven Beer, Plant Pathology: "I just wonder whether the task force considered in their deliberations whether or not tenure should be attached to the newly proposed position. Even if they did or did not, is it crystal clear in the collective mind of the task force, what the criteria are or should be that separate a tenured position from a non-tenured position?"

Professor Bell: "I think the Provost spoke eloquently to part of this. We considered multi-functionality. We considered a major research component as being necessary for a tenured faculty position, and yes, we did discuss the first issue you commented on, in the sense that much of our discussion was predicated on the belief that the number of tenure track positions in this institution are capped."

Professor Lindau: "On this same issue, maybe I’m repeating a question in a different manner. Multi-functionality is probably also associated with these positions since if we call them professor positions, I assume there is some minimal teaching obligation associated with it. So could you more clearly define why these particular positions would not be suitable for offering tenure track?"

Professor Kotlikoff: "Let me answer two questions, yours and the other hanging question. The first is that these positions are predominantly clinical or teaching/clinical, so they are appointments that far extend beyond the guidelines of a 50% research component to an appointment. So that in itself makes them substantially different, and in the absence of making a different track it seems to me what it does is it changes tenure as some have suggested here we ought to do. But it certainly puts a pressure on what you consider tenure at the time of that evaluation. The other hanging question that I would respond to is that the task force considered that one, that what is the solution for every [sic] culture might not be a solution for other cultures, so it might not be appropriate for us to impose on the university (on other colleges) a title that they may or may not want. This was represented by some of the members of the task force that said, ‘Look this works fine in our context. Everybody understands it; it works fine. It’s not a competitive problem; it’s not any kind of problem.’ However, we did put in¾ it is not something that anything goes once this is passed. Once the title is enabled, it allows the separate colleges under the guidelines in the proposal to develop a full proposal that is considered by a committee of the Faculty Senate that decides, ‘Does it conform with this enabling legislation?’ And, then it is considered by the Provost."

Speaker Howland: "We are down to about three minutes. Yes, in the back."

Professor Michael Shapiro, Communication: "Like a lot of people here, I find myself with several minds on this, but I also find myself very nervous about adding large numbers of non-tenured people. I would just like to point out that this may very well be an opportunity for us to enhance what we feel about teaching and enhance teaching by forcing us to define much more clearly what excellence in clinical practice and excellence in teaching and scholarship in those areas means on the road to getting tenure in those situations."

Professor Tennant: "I appreciate all the active discussion on this subject. I did not have any difficulty understanding what side of the fence Provost Martin is on on this issue. I hope none of you will leave here
wondering where I stand. It’s pretty much the reciprocal of the position taken by the task force and the administration. I have objections that are objections in fact.

"It has been said that these titles exist at the Medical School, but nothing else about the way those titles are used there. The Medical School has five or six tracks ¼ tenure track lines. All assistant professors are appointed with tenure track. After a six-year probation, some go on and have tenure and some go into one of these several other tracks, including the tracks where the title is clinical professor, clinical associate professor or clinical assistant professor. When those titles are used, the people are almost all volunteers. They almost all have their own private practices and the idea that these titles are used . . . . For example, in this proposal it says, ‘Stanford University, Harvard University have these titles and use them as we would use them.’ The clinical assistant professors and clinical associate professors at Stanford, again, are almost all voluntary people that volunteer, work in hospital, and do teaching but have their private income. I’m not sure about all of Harvard, but certainly at Massachusetts General Hospital that is the case as well.

"The introduction and background justification for this says, ‘The College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University has a tradition and reputation of producing world-leading clinicians and clinical educators. Our recent emphasis on bench laboratory research . . . .' (I’m not sure what laboratory would be without a bench.) ‘. . . is seen as discouraging the development, recruitment or retention of leading clinicians of the future.’ The idea that research, somehow, in the Veterinary College (bench research) discourages the development of clinically qualified faculty members doesn’t make any sense to me. If anything, it ought to improve the likelihood that these distinguished people would want to come here. But, I would like to ask that if I just change this phrase and I say, ‘Our recent emphasis on legal scholarship is seen as discouraging the development and recruitment and retention of leading attorneys,’ what would the Law School think about that? If the same thing were said for engineers doing research, would this discourage the development of leading engineers? I don’t think it would, and I don’t think . . . I have practiced veterinary medicine for 35 years, and I don’t think it has had a negative impact on Cornell or the clinicians at Cornell."

Speaker Howland: "Gentlemen and ladies, we are out of time. I entertain a motion to adjourn."

SO MOVED.

Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Walcott, Associate Dean and Secretary