ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

NOTE: Refer to the Cornell Policy website (http://www.policy.cornell.edu/vol1_2.cfm) for the most current policy.

According to the bylaws of the university, the “…functions of the University Faculty shall be to consider questions of educational policy which concern more than one college, school or separate academic unit, or are general in nature…”

Responsibility of: Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status. The Committee considers matters relating to academic freedom and responsibility; freedom of teaching and learning; professional status of the faculty, including policies and procedures relevant to faculty appointments, promotion, retirement, separation, and tenure; and receives and reviews written complaints brought by or against a faculty member when other specific procedures have not been designated for hearing those grievances. It reports to the Faculty Senate.

October 14, 1998, Records, pp. 8118-8123S, Appendices A&B

Assistant Professor Melissa Hines, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status, indicated at the October 1998 meeting that the committee has been working on a proposed revision to the Academic Misconduct Policy. The stimulus for the revision came from the Office of Research Integrity at the DHHS when they determined that Cornell's policy was not in compliance with their policies. Three major problems were identified: (1) no provision for possible conflict of interest with investigator; (2) no provision allowing for protection of people, funds, or equipment during investigation stage; and (3) reporting to sponsors requirement.

The amendment to the paragraph entitled "Inquiry" on p. 5 of the policy changes what happens if the Dean of Faculty has a conflict of interest. It reads:

Upon receiving such a report, the Dean of the Faculty will conduct a preliminary Inquiry into the allegation or other evidence of possible academic misconduct. Should the Dean of the Faculty have a real or apparent conflict of interest with the case, the Secretary/Associate Dean of the Faculty will serve as the Inquirer. Should the Secretary/Associate Dean of the Faculty have a real or apparent conflict of interest with the case, the Provost will appoint a member of the professorial faculty to serve as the Inquirer. The purpose...conduct of the Inquiry.
The amendment carried.

The body then returned to discussion of the three cited problems and the proposed resolution to the policy. The resolution, as contained in Appendix B of the minutes, carried.