

I write to respond to the Faculty Senate resolution from November 10, 2010 which states

The Senate strongly urges the Cornell Administration, and in particular, the Provost, to reverse the decision to close the current faculty luncheon facility and keep it open until a suitable replacement is found, and recommends that a serious planning effort be undertaken, with Administration support and involvement, to ensure a sustainable faculty center that includes a luncheon facility.

The Statler Faculty Club and the associated lunch have accumulated a deficit of over \$700,000, despite an annual subsidy by the provost's office of \$60,000/year. Cornell's Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer has informed me that the growing deficit must be resolved and funds transferred to balance the account.

I will work with the Dean of the School of Hotel Administration to resolve the \$700,000 deficit, which I expect will be primarily the responsibility of the Hotel School to fund. However, I am unwilling to allow the deficit to accumulate again. Thus, effective this semester, I am transferring the \$60,000/year lunch subsidy to the Dean of Faculty's office and am asking Dean Fry to determine how these annual funds can best facilitate the strategic plan objective referenced in the resolution, namely "Objective 6: Foster an exciting intellectual environment by providing opportunities for more dialogue and engagement." (page 19)

I am requesting that Dean Fry investigate whether the colleges and schools are willing to contribute funds to match the \$60,000 subsidy in order to sustain an economically viable faculty lunch in the Statler and to also investigate whether there are less costly venues. Finally, I am asking that Dean Fry consider whether there are alternative uses for the funds that might more effectively achieve the objective.

Sincerely,

Kent Fuchs