Debbie Cherney is an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Science, CALS. She received her B.S. in Animal Science at the University of Florida, her M.S. in Agronomy at Louisiana State University, and Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition at the University of Florida. Debbie had Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Purdue University for two years. More recently Debbie completed a M.A. in bioethics at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Debbie has served on the University Library Committee, is a member of the HCEC, and serves on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. In CALS, Debbie serves on the Academic Achievement and Petitions Committee, the Academic Human Diversity and Resources Committee, and the committee for support of teaching and learning. Debbie has a husband on the faculty and two sons, one at Cornell and one a senior at Ithaca High School.

Shared governance is the process by which Cornell University’s faculty share in the important decisions affecting us, our students, and the future direction of Cornell University. Given recent economic stresses and the addition of many much needed non-academic administrative services, some feel that the role of a Faculty Senate is out dated or even interferes with the processes of a modern university. One need only read the Resolution from the committee to review faculty governance (http://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/) to see that this is not the case. The philosopher David Hume said that “It is seldom that liberty of any kind is lost all at once.” What we need are Faculty Senators who feel that the Senate is relevant and will keep it involved. I would be honored to be one of those Senators.