

## Jennifer Gerner

Jennifer Gerner is a Professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management. After completing her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, she became a member of the then Department of Consumer Economics and Public Policy in 1974. She has been an active member of the College of Human Ecology since her arrival, participating in the exciting and important changes that have occurred in that college over the past 30 years. She was Assistant and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs and Administration in the College of Human Ecology from 1994 to 2004. In addition, she has been involved in the development of West Campus, as a member of the West Campus Council, and in North Campus faculty programs, as Chair of North Campus and Collegetown Council (2005 to present). Currently she is the Chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB). She has been on a variety of university committees, including FACTA and the University Committee for Academic Programs and Policies. Her research has focused on various family policy issues, most recently the impact of age of beginning school on school performance.

“The faculty are the heart of the university, what makes us a great university. The Dean of the Faculty should be an advocate for the faculty and their role in the university and in university decision-making with the Board of Trustees and the university administration. In addition, the Dean of the Faculty should be a collaborator and facilitator, helping to set the stage for effective communication between the faculty, the administration and the Board of Trustees. To the extent that these groups can understand and appreciate their various points of views and objectives, we can create a strong partnership among them to improve programs that now exist and to develop new initiatives that take advantage of the strengths of the faculty and university resources.

“The Dean of the Faculty must also create an environment in which faculty can discuss their views on university matters, provide input and feedback about university initiatives, and express both support and concern as university decisions are being made. The Faculty Senate and its committees provide institutional structure for this, but the informal participation of the Dean of the Faculty in discussions with faculty and administrators is also important in assuring that lines of communication are open and effective.”