BIO

Bruce V. Lewenstein is Professor of Science Communication, with appointments both in the state-supported Department of Communication (CALS) and in the endowment-supported Department of Science & Technology Studies (Arts & Sciences), where he is currently department chair. His research, teaching, and outreach focus on public communication of science and technology, and his expertise spans the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Much of his work deals with public engagement in policy discussions. He served as co-chair of a National Research Council committee on “Learning Science in Informal Environments” and he is currently serving on two National Academy of Sciences committees. He is an author or editor of four books, former editor of the journal Public Understanding of Science, an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the incoming chair of its section on General Interest in Science and Engineering. He has worked both in the United States and around the world, including India, China, Brazil, South Africa, and various other European, Asian, and Latin American countries.

At Cornell, he currently serves as Speaker of the University Faculty Senate; member of University Faculty Library Board; Faculty Fellow at the Atkinson Center for Sustainable Future; and a faculty affiliate of the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research. His previous university service includes membership on the University Faculty Senate; the University Faculty Committee; the Graduate School’s General Committee; the CALS Faculty Senate; the Provost’s Task Force on “Life in the Age of the Genome”; and the university-wide Communications Review Executive Leadership Team, as well as other committees and advisory boards. He has collaborated extensively with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell Plantations, the Science Center, the Museum of the Earth, and various nanotechnology centers on campus and nationally on issues of outreach and social & ethical issues. In addition, he has served as a Faculty Fellow in several residence halls and advisor to several student publications.

STATEMENT:

Cornell is a complex, wonderful, challenging, exhilarating institution. Over many years, a series of developments have highlighted tensions between faculty governance and administrative action in managing that complexity. We must find new ways of bringing together the principle of faculty governance with the reality of how educational institutions respond to opportunities and needs in the 21st century.

If elected as a faculty trustee, I will seek both to represent faculty interests on the Board of Trustees and to foster greater participation of faculty members in critical policy discussions. We need to use existing formal mechanisms such as the university and individual college senates, as well as more informal forums. We also need to develop new mechanisms. I believe that constructive dialogue to address complex issues requires deep understanding of multiple perspectives, and I would seek to represent the full range of faculty positions. I believe I am particularly well-placed to do so. My own intellectual work is at the boundaries of humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. My research, teaching and service have connected me to faculty, students, and issues across the university. I am a fully participating member of college faculties on both state-supported and endowed sides of the university, so I understand the creative tension generated by Cornell’s diversity. As Speaker of the University Faculty Senate, I have heard and explicitly had to moderate among opinions across the spectrum of faculty positions. I would strive to help make all of those positions present at the Board of Trustees.