

Daniel (Pete) Loucks

Pete Loucks has served on the faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering for over 40 years. He is a graduate of Penn State and Yale and finally Cornell. During these years Pete has also spent some time teaching at Harvard, MIT, University of Colorado, and at universities in Australia, Germany and The Netherlands. On other leaves he has worked at the UN and World Bank and for other public and private organizations here in the US and abroad. At Cornell he, like most of us, has served on various university and college committees, as well as chair of his department and as an associate dean in the College of Engineering. His teaching, research and consulting have focused on the development and use of computer-based models for predicting various physical, economic, environmental and ecological impacts of alternative policies for managing our natural resources.

“Anyone stepping into the shoes of Dean of Faculty Charlie Wolcott better have some big feet. In my view Charlie has done a magnificent job of carrying out the duties of the Dean. He has worked effectively with the administration and the Board of Trustees to address faculty concerns and make Cornell a more desirable place for all of us. If elected Dean I will try to do the same, and I hope as effectively as has Charlie. My view of the job of any university administrator is to support the faculty in ways that make it easier for faculty members to teach, create new knowledge, and serve their professions. Organizational charts typically show boxes representing higher paid administrators, like the President and Provost, on top connected to lower level boxes representing lower paid administrators – and finally down to boxes representing the faculty under each department chair or school director. Such charts look like the administrators are being served by those under them. In my view such charts for universities should be turned upside down. The higher paid university administrators earn more because they have more people to carry, i.e., to support. In the case of the box representing the Dean of Faculty there is no one under or on top of it so it doesn't matter how the organizational chart is viewed, yet the job of supporting the all the faculty is real, and important. I believe the Dean of Faculty's job is to address university-wide issues of concern to the faculty and to try to resolve them through a continuing respectful and positive dialog between those in the administration that have the authority to make changes and the faculty. With the help of the Faculty Senate and its various committees, the Dean should work with the university faculty and the administration towards reaching a consensus on how we can best serve and benefit each other, and Cornell as an institution.”