

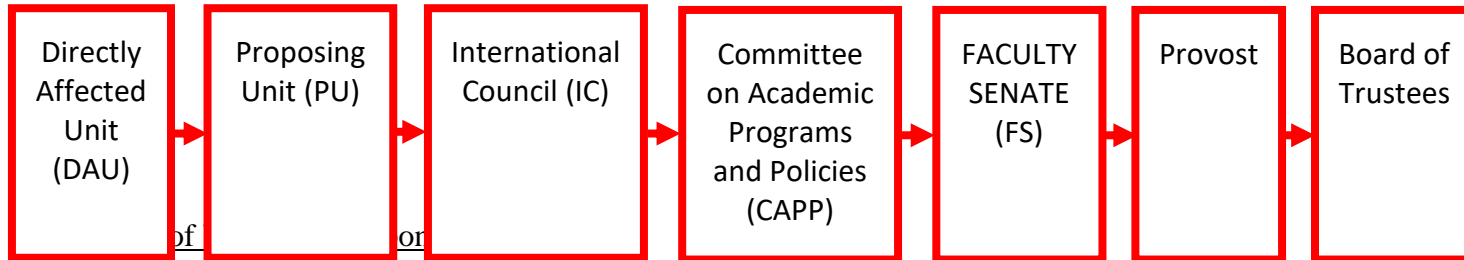
Resolution Specifying the Rights and Responsibilities of the Faculty Senate with Respect to Collaborative Agreements with Other Academic Institutions and Corporations

Background

The Faculty Senate began to discuss its responsibilities to advise and consent to the creation of academic arrangements with other institutions and private corporations when the Hotel School proposed a joint degree program with Peking University. After deliberations spanning parts of four sessions (February 24, March 10, 17, and 31, 2021), the Faculty Senate rejected that program. During that time, two resolutions concerning these types of programs were presented to the Faculty Senate and subsequently adopted (these are described at the end of this report). We have attempted to incorporate the intent and content of those resolutions in our framework. As part of the research in support of these resolutions, it was also discovered that Cornell had launched several additional dual degree programs, including one involving the Hotel School and China that had never come before the Faculty Senate. The Hotel School has also entered into “commercial agreements” with the Marriott Corporation in which Cornell provides course instruction that culminates in the awarding of a “certificate” issued by Cornell University, including one program in Saudi Arabia. The Faculty Senate has never reviewed these agreements. These facts indicate that a framework for reviewing such programs must include some mechanism for monitoring university decisions as well as evaluating the proposals that are submitted to the Faculty Senate. For both purposes, we propose the Committee on Academic Programs and Policies (CAPP) monitor university decisions both in terms of compliance with the process created by this proposal.

Our proposed framework for carrying out the responsibilities of the Faculty Senate builds upon a proposal presented by the Dean of Faculty at the March 31, 2021, meeting of the Faculty Senate (for that proposal, see [Online Senate Meeting March 31 | Dean of Faculty \(cornell.edu\)](#)). Our proposed framework sets out a process that begins with the unit or units that would be directly involved in the collaboration with another institution and proceeds as described below. We should note that the process asks that a report evaluating the proposed program be prepared at each stage and be passed on to the next stage so that the Faculty Senate would have all those reports available when asked to deliberate. We have also specified that the Faculty Senate be the last stage before the program proposal and relevant reports go on to the Provost, and that a negative decision by the Faculty Senate would mean that the proposed program would not go forward to the Provost. We define the responsibilities of the Faculty Senate to advise and consent to include: (a) all arrangements in which course credits earned at Cornell are, by agreement, accepted by another institution; (b) all arrangements in which course credits earned at another institution are, by agreement, accepted by Cornell; (c) all arrangements, including “commercial agreements,” with private corporations in which a Cornell unit provides formal course instruction (including, but not limited to, arrangements in which a Cornell unit awards a “certificate”); and (d) any other arrangement in which a Cornell unit provides course instruction for another institution or private corporation;

The Framework



Explanation of Roles at Each Stage

- 1) Directly affected unit (DAU): This is the unit that will contribute teaching and other course resources to the dual degree program. In many instances, this will be a single department or school. This unit would prepare a report which would contain: (a) a detailed description of the joint or dual degree program and the educational and research goals that would be furthered through the collaboration; (b) an evaluation of the academic environment of the collaborating institution with respect to academic freedom and the political environment of the host nation in terms of repression of dissent, violations of human rights, and civil liberty generally.
- 2) Proposing unit (PU): If the DAU is a single department or school, the proposing unit is usually the College that contains that department. This unit would receive the report prepared by the DAU and, if it chose to do so, comment and elaborate on its contents. If this PU chose to comment, it would prepare a separate report that would become part of the proposal dossier.
- 3) International Council (IC): This is the “charge” for the International Council: “Cornell's International Council, chaired by the Vice Provost for International Affairs, includes senior leaders from each college on the Ithaca campus as well as Weill Cornell Medicine.

Council members play leadership roles within their colleges to incorporate a priority for internationalization into strategic planning—for example, by formulating college-specific ways to internationalize the curriculum.” The proposal dossier would be received by the International Council and they would prepare their own evaluation of the academic environment of the collaborating institution with respect to academic freedom and the political environment of the host nation in terms of repression of dissent, violations of human rights, and civil liberty generally, including a summary conclusion addressing whether or not the proposal should be approved. The IC would then send on the proposal dossier to the Committee on Academic Programs and Policies (CAPP) of the Faculty Senate.

4) Committee on Academic Programs and Policies (CAPP): The short description of CAPP’s current responsibilities is: “The Committee on Academic Programs and Policies (CAPP) concerns itself with academic programs and policies which are independent of or extend beyond the single or joint jurisdiction of a school or college faculty. It initially screens formal proposals for new academic programs, degrees, or policies. CAPP also examines policies governing the use of, and plans for, University-wide academic facilities and services, such as libraries, classrooms and computers.” A more detailed description can be found in the Faculty Handbook: [Academic Programs and Policies | Dean of Faculty \(cornell.edu\)](#) . This unit would receive the reports of the DAU, PU, and IC. CAPP would then evaluate the proposed program both in light of its traditional responsibilities and, in addition, would prepare its own evaluation of the academic environment of the collaborating institution with respect to academic freedom and the political environment of the host nation in terms of repression of dissent, violations of human rights, and civil liberty generally, including a summary conclusion addressing whether or not the proposal should be approved. CAPP’s report would then become part of the proposal dossier which would then be presented to the Faculty Senate for a decision.

5) The Faculty Senate would deliberate on the contents of the dossier and consider whether or not the proposal should be approved. If the proposal is rejected by the Faculty Senate, the proposal would not go forward to the Provost. If it were approved, the Faculty Senate’s decision would be sent on to the Provost with the rest of the proposal dossier.

Faculty Senate Resolutions Related to Dual Degree Programs:

1) On March 31, 2021, the Faculty Senate voted to reject the dual degree program with Peking University proposed by the Hotel School.

2) On April 7, 2021, the Faculty Senate passed Resolution 160: Regarding vetting of International Dual Degree programs by a vote of 72 to 6: [Resolution 160: Regarding vetting of International Dual Degree Programs | Dean of Faculty \(cornell.edu\)](#). The resolution cited two clauses from the [Guidelines on Ethical International Engagement | University Statements | Cornell University](#) that describe Cornell University's commitment to "free and open inquiry and expression; diversity, inclusion, and non-discrimination; justice and human rights; and respect for the national environment" and that Cornell units should "avoid partnering with colleagues, organizations, agencies, or companies that are under credible and direct suspicion of malfeasance or serious legal or human rights violations." One of the resolves states: "...the Faculty Senate for an immediate revision of the vetting and approval process for International Dual Degree Programs (IDDP's), including greater transparency about the details of proposed programs and their contexts, and active consultation with the Faculty Senate and its committees, to ensure compliance with the Guidelines on Ethical International Engagement and to promote and protect Cornell's interests and purposes as a higher education institution."

3) On April 7, 2021, the Faculty Senate passed Resolution 161: Regarding Joint or Dual Degree Programs Involving Other Academic Institutions by a vote of 78-6:

Whereas one of the primary responsibilities of the Faculty Senate under the University Bylaws (Article XIII, Section 2) is "to consider questions of educational policy which concern more than one college, school, or separate academic unit or are general in nature; and to recommend to the Board of Trustees, with the approval of the appropriate college or school faculty, the establishment, modification or discontinuance of degrees.";

Whereas the proposed dual degree program between the Hotel School and Peking University clearly falls under this provision of the University Bylaws;

Resolved, The Faculty Senate reaffirms its responsibility to consider and advise on all joint or dual degree programs involving other academic institutions, including those with other colleges and universities.