MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Appointment of Dr. Rachel Dunifon as Dean of the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the appointment of Dr. Rachel Dunifon as Dean of the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas pursuant to New York State Education Law §355(1)(e), the appointment of the head of each statutory or contract college (including the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University) by the governing body of each such institution requires the approval of the State University of New York Board of Trustees; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that Dr. Rachel Dunifon be, and hereby is, appointed Dean of the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University at an annual state salary of $200,000, effective immediately.

Background

On March 20, 2020, the Cornell University Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Dr. Rachel Dunifon as Dean of the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University. Dr. Rachel Dunifon has been employed at the Human Ecology school since 2001 and currently serves as Interim Dean of...
the Human Ecology School. Her appointment as Interim Dean was approved by the State University of New York Board of Trustees on January 23, 2018. She previously served as Associate Dean in the College of Human Ecology from 2015-2017, and as Senior Associate Dean since 2017, with responsibility for research, faculty development, graduate education, and outreach. She previously served as Director of Graduate Studies and as Department Extension Leader in Policy Analysis and Management.

Dr. Dunifon received her Ph.D. in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University. She joined the Cornell faculty in 2001 with responsibility for research and extension. Dr. Dunifon’s research focuses on child and family policy, examining the ways in which policies, programs and family settings influence the development of less-advantaged children. Her forthcoming book, You’ve Always Been There for Me: Understanding the Lives of Grandchildren Raised by Grandparents (Rutgers University Press) draws upon unique multi-method data to understand dynamics in households in which grandparents are raising their grandchildren. Dr. Dunifon is also co-director of Project 2GEN, which combines research, policy, and practice to address the needs of vulnerable children and their parents together. As a principal investigator, Dr. Dunifon has won numerous externally funded research grants, including from the National Institutes of Health, the USDA, and the William T. Grant Foundation. Her work has been published in top journals in developmental psychology, public policy, and family demography.

A copy of Dr. Dunifon’s curriculum vitae is attached.
LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Interim Dean, College of Human Ecology, Cornell University, July 1, 2018-present

- The College of Human Ecology has 1200 undergraduate students, 170 faculty (100 tenure-line), 220 staff, and 400 graduate students, and has an annual operating budget of $110M

- The College has five academic departments, nine undergraduate majors, two professional masters programs (MHA and MPA), a variety of doctoral programs, and several centers and institutes

- Direct reports include two Senior Associate Deans (for Undergraduate Affairs and for Research and Outreach), one Associate Dean (for Administration), one Dean’s Fellow, three Assistant Deans (for Communications, Development, and Human Resources), five department heads, and several center/institute directors

- Key accomplishments to date include:
  - Exceeding all College fundraising goals for FY19 by 77%
  - Hiring the largest number of, and most diverse, new faculty in College history
  - Securing state funding for and overseeing $40M renovation project
  - Launching Data Science and Programming Curriculum Initiative
  - Proactively addressing salary equity issues to retain top faculty
  - The College of Human Ecology leads all schools and colleges at Cornell in the percent of undergraduate students participating in research with faculty

- Service on University-wide committees and task forces:
  - Cornell Faculty Diversity Task Force (2017-2018)
  - Cornell External Education Committee (2018-2019)
  - Administrative and Support Cost Committee (2017-current)

Senior Associate Dean for Research and Outreach, College of Human Ecology, Cornell University, 2015-2018 (Associate Dean from 2015-2017).

- Areas of responsibility included:
  - Graduate education, including overseeing the integration of a large MPA program into the College
- Faculty development, including hiring, retention, promotion and tenure
- Overseeing the College’s public engagement mission, including the relationship with the State of New York
- College research, including developing and administering internal grants programs, overseeing external funding policies and infrastructure, managing research compliance, and analyzing external funding metrics and setting priorities

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Professor, Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University, 2013-present.

Associate Professor, Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University, 2005-2013.

Assistant Professor, Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University, 2001-2005.


**EDUCATION**


**AWARDS**

Inaugural William T. Grant Foundation Institutional Challenge Grant (2018)

Editor’s Choice Award, *Demographic Research* (2017)

Princeton University Industrial Relations Section “noteworthy book” (2010)

William T. Grant Scholars Award (2005)

David J. Allee and Paul R. Eberts Community and Economic Vitality Award (2005)

**BOOKS**


* Named as a “Noteworthy book for 2010” by Princeton University’s Industrial Relations Section

**JOURNAL ARTICLES** (* indicates student or postdoctoral co-author)


* selected to receive Editor’s Choice Award


* 3rd most downloaded article from this journal in 2011


BOOK CHAPTERS


BOOK REVIEWS


RESEARCH REPORTS

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

**PI or co-PI on grants totaling $2.6M in external funding (direct costs)**


USDA Food and Nutrition Research Program Grant: “State and Local Predictors of Household Food Security.” Award: $100,000 (direct costs). Funding Period: October, 2002-March, 2003, Co-Principal Investigator (with Judith Bartfeld).


INTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Cornell Population Center Seed Grant. “Religiosity as a Health-Promoting Resource for Custodial Grandparents”. Awarded: $8,000. PI (with Merrill Silverstein).


WORKING PAPERS AND PAPERS UNDER REVIEW


EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

Co-Director, Cornell Project 2GEN, which brings together faculty, policymakers, practitioners, and students to develop, implement and evaluate programs that take a family-based approach to improving the well-being of vulnerable families.

EXTENSION FUNDING


ADVISING AND MENTORING

Mariana Amorim (PhD student co-author): currently Assistant Professor in Sociology, Washington State University.

Ashish Bajracharya (PhD committee chair, 2008): currently Country Representative and Associate I, Population Council.

Anna Choi (PhD committee member, 2015); currently James Q. Wilson Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University School of Public Policy

Olivia Healy (undergraduate senior thesis advisor, 2012): currently PhD student at Northwestern University.

Hope Harvey (postdoctoral mentor, current): currently postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell.

Taryn Morrissey (PhD committee member, 2008): currently Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University.

Chris Near (postdoctoral mentor, 2016-2018): currently lecturer at University of Nebraska.
Natasha Pilkauskas (postdoctoral mentor, 2014-2015): currently Assistant Professor, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan.

Jessica Houston Su (PhD committee member, 2014): currently Assistant Professor in Sociology at UNC-Chapel Hill.