Cornell Leadership in Honesty and Reliable Knowledge

Appendix

We encourage concrete actions that go beyond public statements, although such statements are valuable. Some actions can be performed by faculty alone, but most will benefit from, if not require, support from University staff and administrative units for planning and implementation (e.g., University Relations for developing and disseminating educational and outreach materials, the Library for developing and managing web pages, Development offices to raise funding for outside speakers and for producing videos and other materials). It is important that public activities focus on honesty and reliable knowledge, that they leverage reputable and trustworthy sources of information, and that they be non-partisan. Whenever possible, these should be developed in collaboration with other universities and academic organizations. The Cornell University leadership is encouraged to develop coalitions towards achieving these goals.

Examples of Potential Concrete Leadership Activities

On-campus education

- Encourage *explicit* teaching in individual classes about how we gain reliable knowledge in this domain.

- Campus-wide: weekly seminars, forums, outside speakers on how we determine reliable knowledge, honesty and dishonesty. (e.g., a named annual lecture analogous to the Iscol Distinguished Environmental Lecture).

Off-campus education and outreach

- Developing and distributing instructional materials (K through college level) for discriminating fact from opinion, validating facts, and establishing what is reliable knowledge.

- Instructional materials to explain how scholars seek the truth in different fields.

- Create "popular" videos on reliable knowledge: scientific method, efforts to undermine reliable knowledge (tobacco & cancer, etc.), fake news, etc.

- Develop and maintain a web-page portal for the public to submit questions to Cornell experts

Public structures

- Web pages providing links to reliable information on socially relevant current questions and facts relevant to current public issues (i.e., the "reference librarians to the world").

- Creating and promulgating standards for online journalism to provide links to supporting information and primary sources of information and data.

- Support partnerships between academia and public communication professionals, on digital communications challenges in a democratic society.

- Library support for public access to and preservation of endangered data.