

MR. JOSEPH ROWLAND

Unendorsed candidate; petitioned to be on ballot



"Considering that globally, 16 of the 17 hottest years have occurred in this century due to the burning of fossil fuels, I believe the most important issue faced by the board members, both institutionally and on an individual basis, is how we shift expeditiously away from the fossil fuel-based energy paradigm and move rapidly toward carbon neutrality in both a physical and financial framework for the future."

Cornell Degree: BS CALS 1973, Wildlife Management and Ecology;
Dean's List 1972

Please describe the reasons why you hope to serve on the board, the strengths you would bring to the position and the ways in which you are uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell's success.

The primary reason I seek to serve stems from the board's decision in 2015 to reject a well-reasoned resolution (UA 6) put forward by all five of Cornell's shared governance groups representing students, faculty, and staff. It passed by an unprecedented 4:1 margin and requested the board to instruct their investment officers to gradually divest from investments in companies holding large fossil fuel reserves. This would align investment policy with Cornell's stated goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2035 via its Climate Action Plan (CAP). My hope is that if successful, my election will be viewed as an endorsement of this resolution by alumni, which should encourage the trustees to provide more financial support for the implementation of CAP, even if a temporary diminution of the endowment results. My unique strength lies within my life experience and political skills. I employ common sense and collaboration to get things done.

Cornell will welcome the university's 14th president, Martha E. Pollack, as trustee elections are underway. What do you believe are the three most important issues the president will face during her first year? How can you assist her in addressing Cornell's distinctive challenges as well as broad issues in higher education that impact Cornell?

- 1) How does one manage the moving parts of an organization that is upstate, downstate, and around state through Cooperative Extension? Add in the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business consolidation, research facilities, and providing a quality undergraduate experience. My head starts to spin!*
- 2) Student financial aid, tolerance, and diversity are vital issues. I have concerns regarding the Trump administration's attitude toward science, education, and foreign students. Vigilance is imperative to protect, support, and advise students in these uncertain times.*
- 3) Addressing climate change is essential. Sustainability programs, retrofitting infrastructure, and adjusting curricula will help the Cornell community gain skills, knowledge, and appreciation for how we wring carbon from our lives. Support from trustees is needed to keep us moving toward the carbon neutrality goals adopted in 2014.*

My utility will be around the third issue, though I have an interest in financial aid and Cooperative Extension.

In 2017 Cornell will dedicate its new Tech campus on Roosevelt Island. Together with the Ithaca campus and Weill Cornell Medicine, the three campuses will comprise "One Cornell." In your view how does the concept advance our university's future? What challenges do you foresee?

The concept of "One Cornell" is useful as a tool for mentally integrating three very different parts of the university system. It encourages us to think of Cornell as a collaborative state of mind where we share common goals of research, education, sustainability, and social responsibility. The extreme urban environs of New York City clearly have appeal for some, and the physical proximity to the financial sector offers benefits to the Tech campus. Weill Cornell Medicine provides valuable service to Manhattan residents and great research and training opportunities. These urban settings are in stark contrast to the semi-rural environs of the original hilltop campus in Ithaca where the founders correctly envisioned that Cornell would grow and prosper. The challenge is, can we really all have that Cornell "state of mind" under such diverse conditions? Like all relationships, we must work at it!

Professional Experience:

- Apiculturist, 1974–2014; semi-retired since 2014
- Interim Apiary Technician, Cornell Dyce Laboratory of Apiculture 1991
- "In-kind" assistance, apicultural research projects, Dyce Lab
- Technical Advisor, Hives Save Lives 2002–2004
- Volunteer Consultant, ACDI/VOCA: four missions to Bolivia and Uganda advising local farmers on colony management, processing and marketing of honeybee products
- Multiple positions in state and national trade associations 1986–2008

Alumni Service:

- Selection Committee Member, Dyce Professor of Apiculture, 1989

Community/Public Service:

- Finger Lakes Land Trust Conservation Easement Steward 1998–present
- Sierra Club Water quality monitoring 2012–present

Student involvements/activities:

Boxing Champion, 1971

Additional Information:

My wife and I are working towards carbon neutrality in our personal lives. We're not quite there yet, but our household runs on renewable energy (wind and solar), we drive an electric car, and we grow most of our own vegetables. In my spare time, I enjoy writing poetry and woodworking.