MOTION TO REQUEST FORMAL RESPONSE TO FACULTY STANDING COMMITTEE 
RECOMMENDATIONS

CALS Faculty Senate

WHEREAS all of Cornell University is undergoing a profound reimagining process 
which requires the full informed commitment of all the University community, and

WHEREAS the Organizational Stewardship Task Force report emphasizes the 
importance of shared governance and collaborative decision making with a 
commitment to open communication and transparency, and

RECOGNIZING that the feedback loop from faculty to the several levels of 
administration remain unclear to the extent that there is no evident mandate for 
an administration response to faculty standing committee resolutions and 
recommendations nor is there a readily accessible source for follow-up 
information on recommendations made and actions taken or not, and further

RECOGNIZING that final decision making authority at Cornell University resides 
with the Board of Trustees, the President, the Provost and the deans and their 
designees as delineated in the University charter and other applicable 
documents, and moreover

RECOGNIZING that standing faculty committees’ decisions and recommendations are 
to be interpreted as recommendations to University or college level 
administrators as indicated by the nature of the recommendation, then let it be

RESOLVED that when a representative 
faculty committee (such as the Faculty Senate of the University or a College) 
makes a recommendation they will identify the recipient who is expected to 
respond (such as the official who constituted a committee). The recipient 
individual or his/her designee should send a formal response within 30 days 
indicating whether the recommendation was accepted or rejected in whole or in 
part, with a justification for the decision reached. The recommendations, 
responses and explanations should be posted within 30 days to a newly-created 
web page accessible by the university community to contain all committee 
recommendations submitted, together with the decisions made and justifications for those 
decisions.

Sponsors: Harry Lawless Elizabeth Earle Tim Mount Robert Masson Greg Poe