University Faculty Committee Resolution
on the Distance Learning Report Dated July 11, 2000

WHEREAS, the July 11, 2000 "Preliminary Report on Non-Degree Programs" (hereinafter referred to as the report) from the Provost's Advisory Committee on Distance Learning (hereinafter referred to as the DL committee), and the Administration's response to that report have been shared with the Faculty Senate members and posted on the Senate's web site, and

WHEREAS, the report contains several positive recommendations that have been agreed to by the Administration, especially

1) The restriction of DL entity's initial activity to non-degree programs,

2) The maintenance of faculty oversight on the content of DL programs,

3) The clarification of the DL entity's right of first refusal,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees on June 20, 2000 made the "...decision that the initial funding (capital) for e-Cornell would come from the University's unrestricted endowment,"

WHEREAS, the UFC wishes to expedite the actions of the DL committee in accord with the resolution passed by the Senate on May 10, 2000,

WHEREAS, the DL Committee has not taken a position on the for-profit/not-for-profit status of the proposed DL entity, and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate has previously expressed concerns about the prospect of this being a for-profit entity,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University Faculty Committee endorses the report of the DL committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, however, that the UFC will bring before the Faculty Senate at its September 13 meeting one or more resolutions concerning the following topics:

1) In reinforcement of recommendation 5 in the DL committee's report, the Senate will be offered a resolution that urges the Administration to make the 'Overarching Agreement' between Cornell and the DL entity a public document.

2) The Senate should be informed of any future change of status of the DL entity in a timely manner and with adequate time for Senate response. Such changes of status would include but not be limited to: the opening of the entity to investment by individuals or corporations, the offering of public stock in the entity, or the expansion of the entity's programs beyond the non-degree domain.

3) The Senate will be offered a resolution that instructs the Dean of the Faculty to work with the appropriate university officers to incorporate the provisions of items 1) and 2) above into a formal university policy or policies.
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

1) The Faculty Senate be given the opportunity to deliberate further at its September meeting on the issue of whether the DL entity should be for-profit or not-for-profit.

2) The UFC invite the Administration to provide at the September Faculty Senate meeting a detailed justification of their position on this matter.

Adopted by UFC on August 10, 2000

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Footnote: The UFC Sub-committee on For Profit/Not-For-Profit Status of the Proposed Distance Learning Entity prepared a background report (dated 8/7/00) to facilitate discussion of this issue. Their report has been received, i.e., not adopted, by the UFC.