Dean Cooke announced, at the February 2000 meeting, the expansion of the University Faculty webpage to include a vehicle for the identification, exploration, and considered analysis of university-wide issues by the faculty. Don Schwartz, Professor Emeritus of Communication, chairs a committee to recommend and monitor procedures for operation of the Online Forum.

In February 2001, Professor Steven Shiffrin, Law, and member of the Interim Committee, moved the resolution which would formalize what essentially has been going on so far; namely, an online forum for issues of interest to the faculty.

The resolution passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, it would be desirable to establish a vehicle for the identification, exploration, and considered analysis of university-wide issues by the faculty, with appropriate input from other members of the Cornell community, and

WHEREAS, such a vehicle would serve to broaden the range of information and ideas brought to bear on faculty and administrative decisions, facilitate the linkage between Faculty Senators and their departmental colleagues, and strengthen the sense of community among Cornell faculty, and

WHEREAS, the University Faculty website can be accessed freely by all members of the Cornell Community,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate shall formalize an online forum, the Faculty Online Forum, accessible through the University Faculty website;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate shall establish an Advisory Board to the aforementioned Forum that will recommend and monitor procedures, identify topics, and resolve disputes involving postings. The goals of the Advisory Board shall be to stimulate debate on issues before the Faculty Senate or University administration and to assure open expression of ideas, while encouraging a commitment to fact and collegiality; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Office of the Dean of Faculty be assigned the responsibility to keep, maintain, and regularly update the Faculty Online Forum.