The University Faculty Committee, in addition to performing such other functions as may be prescribed by the Senate, shall act as an executive committee for the Senate and the University Faculty...and inform and consult the Senate on a regular and frequent basis. It reports to the Faculty Senate.

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE FACULTY SENATE

April 12, 2000, Records, pp. 8934-8942S
May 10, 2000, Records, pp. 8950-8953S, Appendix C

Professor Charles Walcott, Neurobiology and Behavior, presented a resolution from the University Faculty Committee at the April 2000 meeting regarding the process by which decisions of the central administration on academic matters will be handled. In addition, three amendments to the resolution had also been received.

Associate Professor Alan McAdams, JGSM, spoke to his amendment. Following discussion, it was defeated 19-47-2.

Professor Mary Beth Norton, Mary Donlon Alger Professor of American History, withdrew her amendment.

Professor Peter Stein, Physics, then introduced his amendment that qualifies the words “academic matters”. The amendment passed unanimously.

On a vote on the main motion, as amended, it carried 64-4-3.

WHEREAS, deliberation on academic issues constitutes the core of a university faculty’s function, and

WHEREAS, following a pattern set with the reorganizations of the Division of Biological Sciences and the Department of Computer Science, the Cornell administration once again ignored the very clear wishes of the faculty* for consultation on an academic matter by moving ahead with the creation of eCornell as a for-profit enterprise for distance learning, without permitting time for due deliberation by the faculty through their governance structure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate instructs the Dean of the Faculty and the University Faculty Committee (UFC) to draft a written
agreement between the Faculty Senate and the President, covering the process by which decisions of the central administration on academic matters that concern more than one college or on other matters that the Senate has addressed or that the UFC wishes to bring to the Senate will be handled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate instructs the UFC to present the agreement at the May 10, 2000 meeting for formal Senate ratification.

*65 to 1 vote by the Faculty Senate on March 8, 2000 stating “that the Faculty Senate expects to participate with the Administration and Trustees in the development of principles and plans for distance learning including any potential establishment of a for-profit corporation. Such plans, once formulated, should be presented to the Faculty Senate for faculty review.”

At the May 2000 meeting, Associate Professor Risa Lieberwitz, ILR, on behalf of the University Faculty Committee, presented a resolution with regard to the principles of the agreement reached with the Administration. The UFC was instructed at the April meeting to develop and present an agreement at this meeting.

Professor Lieberwitz pointed out the particularly important points achieved in the agreement.

Following discussion, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

WHEREAS, the University Faculty Committee (UFC) was instructed in the Resolution of Academic Decision-Making Processes (passed by the Senate on April 12, 2000) to develop and present an agreement at the meeting of the Faculty Senate held on May 10, 2000, and

WHEREAS, the President, Provost-designate and the UFC met to develop such an agreement, and have agreed upon a set of principles for future cooperation and consultation,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate ratifies the document titled “Principles of Cooperation and Consultation between the President and Faculty Senate”, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate instructs the Dean of the Faculty and the UFC to meet with the President and Provost at the end of the 2000-2001 academic year to review the effectiveness of these principles and to consider any needed modifications. Any modifications of these principles will be submitted to the Faculty Senate for ratification.
At the September 1996 meeting, Dean Stein introduced a motion on behalf of the University Faculty Committee in order to regularize the way motions are brought to the floor of the Faculty Senate. The intent of the motion is that people should have the opportunity to know what they are voting on before they come to a meeting.

Professor Leonard Lion, Civil and Environmental Engineering, moved to amend the motion to add “or any 25 University Faculty members” in paragraph one. The motion was adopted with the amendment:

WHEREAS, the procedures of the Senate should facilitate consultation between members of the Senate and those whom they represent, and

WHEREAS, reflective consideration of issues by all members is a cornerstone of sound decision making, and

WHEREAS, motions should demonstrate a minimum level of support before being placed on the Senate agenda,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Senate meetings be governed by the following rules of procedures for the 1996-97 academic year:

1. For a motion to be placed on the agenda of a Senate meeting, it must be endorsed by either a Faculty Committee, the UFC (on its own initiative or in response to a request by a Senate member), any six members of the Senate (six because it corresponds to a majority of the UFC) or any twenty-five University Faculty members. Motions will be distributed to the Senate membership by the UFC at least a week in advance of the meeting. The short “New Business” period at the end of the scheduled meeting would continue, but would be limited to remarks. Motions would not be in order.

2. Members are strongly encouraged to send all proposed amendments to such motions to the UFC, who will distribute them to all members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Non-substantive (i.e., stylistic, grammatical, or clarifying) amendments may be freely introduced at a meeting without prior circulation. The Speaker will rule substantive amendments out of order, but the Speaker’s ruling can be reversed by majority vote of the body. Members may also move to postpone action to the next meeting if they believe a new approach deserves full consideration.
3. Distribution of motions and amendments will be by e-mail. Any member may elect to receive the material by campus mail. Copies of all motions and amendments will be available at the meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UFC evaluate these procedures during the summer of 1997, and bring a recommendation to the Senate in September 1997.

In September 1997, Dean Stein introduced a resolution from the University Faculty Committee (UFC). Following discussion and amendment, the resolution was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate, in September 1996, adopted rules of procedure to facilitate consultation between members of the Senate and those whom they represent, and

WHEREAS, the UFC was charged with evaluating those procedures in the summer of 1997 and the UFC has completed its task,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the UFC recommends that the Senate amend the procedures as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Senate meetings be governed by the following rules of procedure.

1. For a motion to be placed on the agenda of a Senate meeting, it must be endorsed by either a Faculty Committee, the UFC (on its own initiative or in response to a request by a Senate member), any four members of the Senate or any twenty-five University Faculty members. Motions will be distributed to the Senate membership by the UFC at least a week in advance of the meeting.

2. Members are strongly encouraged to send all proposed amendments to such motions to the UFC, who will distribute them to all members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Non-substantive (i.e., stylistic, grammatical, or clarifying) amendments may be freely introduced at a meeting without prior circulation. The Speaker will rule substantive amendments out of order, but the speaker’s ruling can be reversed by majority vote of the body. Members may also move to postpone action to the next meeting if they believe a new approach deserves full consideration.

3. Distribution of motions and amendments will be by e-mail. Any member may elect to receive the material by campus mail. Copies of all motions and amendments will be available at the meeting.
4. The order of business of every meeting will include a brief “General Good and Welfare” section, where remarks (but not motions) on any subject of interest to the faculty will be in order. Faculty members must inform the Speaker of their intention to address the Senate prior to the start of the meeting. In the absence of prospective speakers, the Speaker will re-allocate the reserved time to other agenda items.