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.

*The faculty realizes that some committee decisions may involve personal or sensitive
information, such as tenure decisions, and thus are exceptions to this expectation for a public
response and disclosure.

PASSED 9/8/10 WITH REVISION - 45-DAY REPORTING PERIOD FROM THE
ADMINISTRATION (INSTEAD OF 30 DAYS)

**REVISED TO 45 DAY REPORTING PERIOD