

Faculty Advisory Council Bylaws

Article I. Purpose

The faculty advisory council serves as the representative advisory body for faculty, structured according to Texas Senate Bill 37 (SB 37). It supports the administration in advancing academic quality and institutional welfare by offering faculty perspectives on key matters, including curriculum development, tenure and promotion, and institutional policy.

Article II. Authority and Role

1. The faculty advisory council is advisory only, without final decision-making authority on any matter, as required by SB 37 § 51.3522(c).
2. It shall represent the entire faculty of the institution and advise the institution administration and any system administration regarding matters to the general welfare of the institution.
3. It may not issue statements or publish any reports using the institution's official seal, trademark, or resources funded by the institution on any matter not directly related to the advisory council's duties to advise the institution administration.
4. Service on the faculty advisory council is an additional duty of the faculty member's employment. Members are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their role as members of the faculty advisory council unless the expense is on behalf of and approved by the institution of higher education.

Article III. Membership

1. The governing board establishes the faculty advisory council and sets the member-selection policy.
2. Membership:
 - Adequate representation of each college and school of the institution must be ensured
 - Requires members to be faculty members
 - With at least two representatives from each college or school including:
 1. At least one member appointed by the president of the institution; and
 2. The remaining members elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective college or school.
3. Terms:

- Appointed members may serve up to six consecutive one-year terms, with a two-year hiatus required before reappointment.
 - Elected members serve two-year staggered terms to allow approximately one-half of the elected members to be elected each year, with re-election only after a two-year break.
4. Faculty may be immediately removed on recommendation of the institution's provost and approval by the institution's president for:
- Failing to conduct the member's responsibilities within the advisory council's parameters,
 - Failing to attend advisory council meetings, or
 - Engaging in other similar or misconduct.

Article IV. Officers

1. The president of the institution shall appoint presiding officer, associate presiding officer, and secretary from the members of the faculty advisory council.
2. The Presiding Officer:
 - Presides over meetings of the faculty advisory council.
 - Represents the advisory council in official communication with the institution administration or any system administration.

Article V. Meetings and Transparency

1. Faculty advisory council shall:
 - Conduct meetings at which quorum is present in a manner that is open to the public and in accordance with procedures prescribed by the institution's president,
 - Broadcast over the internet live video and audio, as applicable, of each open meeting of the advisory council if more than 50% of the faculty advisory council members are in attendance,
 - Adopt rules for establishing a quorum
 - The following shall be made available to the public on the institution's internet website not later than the seventh day before a meeting of the faculty advisory council:
 1. Meeting agenda with sufficient detail to indicate the items that are to be discussed or that will be subject to a vote; and

2. Any curriculum proposals reviewed by the advisory council that will be discussed or voted on during the meeting.
- The names of the members in attendance must be recorded at a meeting in which the faculty advisory council conducts business related to:
 1. A vote of no confidence regarding an institution or system administrator;
or
 2. Policies related to curriculum and academic standards.

Article VI. Advisory council Powers and Faculty Input

1. The Advisory council:
 - Evaluates and provides recommendations on matters such as curriculum, tenure and promotion policies, faculty development, and institutional welfare.
 - May initiate consultations with standing faculty committees to enhance representation.
2. While the Advisory council is advisory, it can:
 - Communicate concerns to administration.
 - Offer collective faculty perspectives on governance, in line with SB 37's shared-governance model.

Article VII. Amendments

1. Amendments may be proposed by:
 - A two-thirds vote of the faculty advisory council, or
 - Petitions from faculty in at least half of the colleges/schools.
2. Revised bylaws must be submitted to the institution president or governing board for approval before adoption.

Article VIII. Effective Date

These bylaws take effect upon approval by the institution's governing board and shall be in force as of September 1, 2025, consistent with SB 37 implementation deadlines.