



CONSTITUTION of the FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Approved: October 10, 2010

Approved: April 16, 2012 (removed voting rights of adjunct faculty in general referenda)

Approved: May 4, 2018 (clarified eligibility for Senate service; removed president-elect from VP)

Approved: October 20, 2025 (comply with state law and A&M System regulations)

Approved: March 30, 2026 (allow chairs to vote in general faculty referenda)

PREAMBLE

In accordance with System Policy 12.04 to serve “in an advisory capacity to the president” the Faculty Advisory Council hereby establishes this Constitution of the Faculty Advisory Council of Texas A&M University-Central Texas.

Essential to the character and mission of a university is recognition of the faculty’s responsibility to develop, sustain, and enhance the intellectual quality and reputation of the institution and to maintain its academic integrity. Because the interests of students, scholarship, and society are best served when the faculty brings its special talents to bear through cooperative participation in institutional governance, the Faculty Advisory Council hereby establishes this Constitution of the Faculty Advisory Council of Texas A&M University-Central Texas to:

- 1) Foster a community of mutual respect and cooperation within Texas A&M University-Central Texas (“University” hereafter),
- 2) Facilitate effective faculty participation in academic governance,
- 3) Broaden communication in matters of concern to the University, and
- 4) Engage the faculty's skills in the guidance of the University's academic programs.

To ensure effective faculty involvement in university governance, the *Constitution of the Faculty Advisory Council* of Texas A&M University-Central Texas recognizes the Faculty Advisory Council as the representative body of the faculty.

1.0 MISSION OF THE FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Faculty Advisory Council exists to serve as a general advocate for faculty interests and rights across the University and wider community. Specifically, it represents the voice and will of the faculty in providing advice and recommendations to the President of the University. In turn, the President of the University charges the faculty, and by extension, the Faculty Advisory Council, with safeguarding and promoting the content, quality, and effectiveness of the University’s curriculum and academic programs.

2.0 DEFINITION, MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY, AND VOTING

2.1 Definition. For purposes of this *Constitution* as spelled out in Section 1.0, the faculty of Texas A&M University-Central Texas shall include all employees of the University holding the ranks of full professor, associate professor, assistant professor, and instructor, whether tenure track or academic professional track, as well as full-time professional librarians, resident artists, clinical faculty, and part-time/adjunct faculty.

2.2 Membership Eligibility.

2.2.1 Adjunct Faculty. Adjunct faculty are permitted to serve on the Faculty Advisory Council.

2.2.2 Administrators. Administrators who retain faculty appointments but who have supervisory authority over other faculty members are not permitted to serve on the Faculty Advisory Council. Administrators who retain faculty appointments but who do not oversee other faculty members are permitted to serve on the Faculty Advisory Council.

2.3 Voting. Administrators who retain a faculty appointment and who supervise other faculty members are excluded from voting on general faculty referenda initiated by the Faculty Advisory Council. Department chairs may vote on general faculty referenda. Adjunct faculty members are excluded from voting on general faculty referenda initiated by the Faculty Advisory Council.

3.0 THE FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

3.1 Purpose. The Faculty Advisory Council (hereinafter referred to as the Advisory Council) acts as an advisory body to the President of the University, expressing the voice and will of the faculty as defined in Section 2.1 above. The Advisory Council is the representative assembly of the faculty and is subject to its review. The Faculty Advisory Council is advisory only and may not be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter. The Faculty Advisory Council shall represent the entire faculty of the institution of higher education and advise the institution administration and any system administration regarding matters related to the general welfare of the institution.

3.2 Membership. The Advisory Council membership includes one faculty member from each college appointed by the University President or Chief Executive Officer with the remaining members elected from and by the faculty in each college with equal representation from the three colleges: Arts and Sciences, Education and Human Development, and Business Administration. In addition, one elected representative from the University Library and one elected adjunct faculty representative will be included on the Advisory Council. The number of members shall not exceed 20 total, and membership will include at least two representatives from each college. For the purpose of representation on the Advisory Council, and as defined in the *Bylaws*, all of those with faculty status will be designated as members of one of these groups.

3.3 Relationship to the Faculty. The Advisory Council provides a forum for free discussion, decision-making, and independent statements of faculty concerns and judgment. It is also the vehicle through which the faculty discharges its role in shared governance. Whenever the Advisory Council is acting within its province as designated within this *Constitution*, its actions shall be effective without further approval by the faculty.

3.4 Consideration of Issues. Faculty may bring issues to the Advisory Council through their representatives or by a petition signed by ten (10) members of the faculty. Advisory Council may not issue any statement or publish a report 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.

3.5 Procedures. Procedural decisions, guidelines and clarifying statements necessary for the Advisory Council's internal organization and operation shall be described in the *Bylaws*.

4.0 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

4.1 Officers. The University President shall appoint a Presiding Officer, Associate Presiding Officer, and Secretary from the members of the Advisory Council as stipulated in the *Bylaws*.

In addition, Advisory Council members will elect the Treasurer, and the Parliamentarian. The duties and responsibilities of the officers are prescribed in the *Bylaws*.

4.1.1 Role of the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer shall preside over meetings of the Advisory Council and represent the Advisory Council in official communications with the institution administration and any system administration. In addition, the Presiding Officer of the Advisory Council shall represent the faculty as a whole.

4.2 Executive Committee.

4.2.1 Membership. The Executive Committee is made up of the officers of the Advisory Council.

4.2.2 Role. The Executive Committee organizes and coordinates the committee structure of the Advisory Council and manages the Advisory Council's affairs between Advisory Council meetings. Additional duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be as described in the *Bylaws*.

4.2.3 Role of the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer of the Advisory Council shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee.

5.0 FUNCTIONS OF THE FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council shall:

5.1 Act as a forum for faculty deliberation and consent in areas where faculty exercise primary responsibility, including but not limited to undergraduate and graduate curriculum, program design, academic and research policy, and areas related to faculty rights and responsibilities.

5.2 Formulate proposals and resolutions consistent with its purpose and functions as described in section 5.1 of this *Constitution*.

5.3 Establish appropriate standing committees and ad hoc committees as necessary to perform its functions as described in the *Bylaws*;

5.4 Advise the President of the University;

- 5.5 Promote communication between faculty, administration, staff, and students of the University.
- 5.6 Conduct invited or courtesy reviews of new or existing policies, procedures, and rules initiated elsewhere and having direct or indirect impact on faculty.
- 5.7 Represent faculty interests across the University and the Texas A&M System.

6.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

6.1 Amendments to the Constitution.

Any change in the *Constitution* shall be referred to as an “Amendment to the Constitution” and may be initiated in the following ways:

- (1) By an action of the Advisory Council, approved by an affirmative majority vote of the elected members at a regular or special meeting of the Advisory Council where a quorum is present, or
- (2) By a petition to the Presiding Officer of the Advisory Council signed by twenty-five (25) members of the faculty. This petition shall state the proposed amendment.

After an amendment has been initiated, the Presiding Officer of the Advisory Council shall place the proposed amendment on the agenda at a regular Faculty Advisory Council meeting.

Copies of the proposed amendment shall be distributed to the Faculty Advisory Council and faculty at least two weeks in advance of the meeting at which it is to be discussed; this meeting shall be held within four weeks of the initial receipt of the proposed amendment.

A favorable vote by at least two-thirds of the faculty members voting shall be required to approve the amendment, provided that at least fifty percent (50%) of the faculty are voting. If less than 50% of the faculty cast a vote, the amendment fails. Voting shall be by secret mail or digital ballot and supervised by the Nominations and Elections Committee of the Advisory Council as described in the *Bylaws*. Election results will be certified and announced within four weeks after the meeting at which the amendment was discussed. At least two weeks must be allowed between the issuance of ballots and the deadline for their return.