

B.2.2 Policy Faculty Senate Establishment and Governance

Responsible Department: Office of the Chancellor

Board Adoption: 8-12-25

Last Board Action: 8-12-25

I. Purpose

This policy establishes the structure, responsibilities, and limitations of the Faculty Senate in accordance with Texas Senate Bill 37 (89R) (“SB37”), Section 2.02, codified as Texas Education Code § 51.3522. It outlines the processes for representation, appointment, meeting transparency, and advisory functions within the Alamo Colleges District. All other references to faculty senates and councils are immediately superseded by this policy.

II. Structure of Faculty Senate

The Board of Trustees establishes a Faculty Senate to serve as the single formal advisory body to the Chancellor and institutional leadership for the Alamo Colleges District and its five colleges. Each college within the District shall be represented on the Faculty Senate to the exclusion of college-only faculty senates or councils, which are now forbidden by law.

III. Membership and Representation

1. This policy creates a single advisory District Faculty Senate consistent with the requirements of Texas Education Code § 51.35.22.
2. Each of the five colleges shall be represented by the following equal membership:
 - One (1) member appointed by the Chancellor after conferring with the college president; and
 - Members elected by the full-time faculty of each college in an equal number per college of between four (4) and six (6), as designated by the Chancellor.
3. Appointed and elected members must be full-time faculty in good standing. In this policy, full-time faculty means full-time, regular-status faculty.
4. Elections will be conducted per college. Eligible voters are full-time faculty, each of whom may participate in nomination as the Chancellor will prescribe by Procedure. Nominees must be full-time faculty. Votes will be tallied by college, and the eligible nominees who receive the most votes will be ranked in descending order and the highest so ranked corresponding to the number of elected members designated by the Chancellor will be the elected members.
5. Service on the Faculty Senate is an additional duty of a faculty member’s employment. Service must not interfere with the faculty member’s primary teaching and service responsibilities, and it is not eligible for additional compensation, including release time, from any source, but reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the District may be reimbursed with prior District approval.

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IV. Advisory Role and Restrictions

1. The Faculty Senate serves exclusively as an advisory body and represents the collective faculty across all colleges within the District. It may not be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter.
2. It may not issue statements or publish reports using the institution's official seal, trademarks, or institution-funded resources unless directly related to its advisory duties.

V. Officers and Leadership

1. The Chancellor shall appoint the following officers of the Faculty Senate from among its membership: The presiding officer appointed shall preside over the meetings of the Faculty Senate and represent the Senate in official communication with the Alamo Colleges District Administration.
 - o Presiding Officer
 - o Associate Presiding Officer
 - o Secretary
2. These officers will serve one-year terms and may be reappointed at the Chancellor's discretion.
3. A member may be immediately removed on recommendation of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Success and approval by the Chancellor for failure to perform within senate parameters, repeated unexcused absences from meetings or other similar misconduct.

VI. Terms and Appointments

1. Chancellor appointees may serve up to six (6) consecutive one-year terms and are not eligible for reappointment until two years after the end of their last term.
2. Elected members shall serve two-year terms, staggered so that approximately half are elected each year.
3. Elected members may be re-elected only after a two-year break following the conclusion of their previous term.

VII. Meetings and Transparency

1. The Faculty Senate serves in an advisory capacity, and its meetings shall be open to the public.
2. The Chancellor may prescribe procedures for the meetings.
3. Meetings must be streamed.
4. The Senate shall define its own quorum requirement for discussion, but no vote is valid at a meeting at which no more than 50% of members are present.
5. Meeting notices and agendas with sufficient details to indicate the items that are to be discussed or that will be subject to a vote must be posted on the college's website no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting.

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6. The names of members in attendance must be recorded at any meeting in which the Faculty Senate conducts business related to a vote of no confidence concerning an institutional or system administrator.

VIII. Shared Governance Framework

1. The institution shall operate under a shared governance model as defined in SB37, codified as Texas Education Code §51.3523
2. Final authority and institutional responsibility shall reside with the Board of Trustees.