

Constitution of the Faculty Advisory Council of Texas A&M University-Corpus
Christi Adopted by TAMU-CC Faculty Senate
12 April 1991-amended 29 September 2023-
amended August 2025 to comply with SB 37

A university's foundation is its faculty. Therein lie the knowledge, the commitment to learning, and the source of constructive progress upon which universities rest. The interests of students, scholarship, and society are best served when the faculty brings its special talents to bear through cooperative participation in the governance of the University.

On this premise, this constitution for the Faculty Advisory Council for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, a part of the Texas A&M University System, is established. Its purpose, within this constitutional framework, is to foster a community of mutual respect and cooperation within the University; to facilitate effective faculty participation in academic governance; to broaden communication in matters of concern to the University; and to engage the faculty's skills in the guidance of the University's programs.

PART I. FUNCTIONS

The Faculty Advisory Council as an advising and recommending body shall report to the President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi or the President's designee. No Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi officer or body shall exercise control over the Advisory Council's recommendations. Upon adoption of this constitution, the Faculty Advisory Council it creates becomes the faculty's only representative body for University-wide participation in the governance of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

A. Policy

The establishment of new policies, changes in existing policies, and the interpretation of existing policies dealing with the following matters must be reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Council. The Faculty Advisory Council will submit its recommendation to the President in making final decisions. The Faculty Advisory Council may initiate recommendations in any of the following areas:

1. Educational policy and planning of academic programs, curriculum, and instruction.
2. Academic standards, including policies on admissions, awarding of grades, retention of students, and graduation requirements.
3. University scholarships, honors, awards, and other forms of student distinction.
4. Faculty policies and their implementation, including but not limited to appointments, reappointments, academic freedom, evaluation, promotion, tenure, faculty workloads, and faculty development.

5. Faculty compensation policies and their implementation, including but not limited to salaries, fringe benefits, and the awarding of merit increases.
6. The role of research and policies for allocating undesignated research funds in the University.
7. Academic support services, including but not limited to the Library, computing, teaching and research equipment and facilities.
8. The appointment and evaluation of academic administrators.
9. The establishment, reorganization, downgrading, and/or discontinuation of organizational units and areas of instruction and research.
10. The review of administrative decisions concerning any of the above matters.

B. Advisory

The Faculty Advisory Council may give advice on the following:

1. The academic calendar.
2. Planning and operation of physical facilities.
3. Establishment of budgeting priorities.
4. Appointment and evaluation of non-academic administrators.
5. Student affairs.
6. Athletic programs as they affect academic programs and Student performance.
7. Other matters pertaining to the general welfare of the University.

C. Forum

The Faculty Advisory Council shall be a forum for discussion and debate of any issue vital to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. It will invite faculty opinions, discuss relevant issues with appropriate persons, and transmit information and recommendations to the President.

D. Reporting

1. The Faculty Advisory Council shall publish the minutes of its meetings and shall present a report annually to the faculty.

2. The Speaker will report recommendations to the President and will report subsequent actions to the Faculty Advisory Council.

PART II. ORGANIZATION OF THE FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

A. Structure

1. Electoral units shall be the academic colleges, the Library of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and any other faculty not affiliated with an academic college.
2. The Faculty Advisory Council shall be composed of four Representatives from each college or school not under an academic college, two Representatives from the Library and any other faculty not affiliated with an academic college or school. If there are separate units within a college or school, it is up to a college or school to allocate Representatives' positions to represent each unit. One member of each electoral unit will be appointed by the University President.
3. Elected members of the Faculty Advisory Council shall serve no longer than two years consecutively. The Faculty Advisory Council shall establish rules for the election of Representatives and resolve all disputes.
4. Elections will be conducted within electoral units and by secret ballot. Vacant elected seats will be filled by special election.

B. Membership

1. Individuals eligible to vote in elections for the Faculty Advisory Council shall be full-time employees of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi who are tenured or on a tenure track, or non-tenure track faculty as defined in University Procedure 12.07.99.C0.01, or Professional Librarians. No person shall be eligible to vote in more than one electoral unit. In the case of questioned status under this provision or the following provision II. B. 2, the decision of the Faculty Advisory Council shall be final.
2. Individuals eligible for election to the Faculty Advisory Council shall be faculty employed full-time by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi who are tenured or on a tenure track, non-tenure track faculty as defined in University Procedure 12.07.99.C0.01, or Professional Librarians. Individuals eligible for election to the Faculty Advisory Council must have less than a fifty-percent administrative appointment.
3. The Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs or their designated assistant, a designated representative from Staff Council and Information Technology, the Ombuds, and the Academic and Administrative Compliance Manager shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Faculty Advisory Council.
4. The Faculty Advisory Council, by a two-thirds vote, may petition an electoral unit to hold an election to remove and replace an elected Representative who is unduly absent.
5. The University President can remove representatives. The Provost can recommend representatives for removal.

6. Representatives elected each Spring Semester shall take their seats by the end of the semester.

C. Officers and Committees

1. Officers

- a. The Speaker of the Faculty Advisory Council, the Deputy Speaker and the Secretary/Treasurer shall be appointed annually by the University President. The Speaker shall serve as the presiding officer and as the Chair of the Executive Committee.
- b. The speaker shall exercise other powers delegated by the Faculty Advisory Council.
- c. Other officers and committees may be established by the Faculty Advisory Council to carry out its functions.

2. Committees

- a. An Executive Committee shall have no less than five members with at least one member from each of the electoral units. The committee shall include the elected officers and a representative of each standing committee, usually the committee chair. The Executive Committee shall exercise only those responsibilities delegated by the Faculty Advisory Council.
3. Other committees, both standing and ad hoc, may be established by the Faculty Advisory Council to carry out its functions.
4. The duties of standing committees shall be described in the Faculty Advisory Council bylaws.
5. The Faculty Advisory Council will receive reports at least annually from all University-wide committees on matters relating to the functions of the Faculty Advisory Council.

D. Operation

1. A majority of the membership of the Faculty Advisory Council shall constitute a quorum.
2. The Faculty Advisory Council shall establish its bylaws and rules of procedure and will control its own agenda and set its own time and place for meetings.

Faculty Advisory Council meeting agendas shall be posted seven days prior to a meeting being held. Faculty Advisory Council meetings where quorum is met shall broadcast audio and video on the internet.

PART III. AMENDMENTS

A. Initiation

Amendments to this constitution shall be initiated by:

1. Written petition presented to the Faculty Advisory Council signed by twenty percent (20 %) of the faculty, or

2. A two-thirds vote of the membership of the Faculty Advisory Council, following a written presentation and discussion of the proposed amendment in a previous regularly scheduled meeting, or
3. Changes to state law concerning faculty Faculty Advisory Councils.

B. Ratification

After a proposed constitutional amendment is initiated, the Speaker of the Faculty Advisory Council shall publish notification of the proposed amendment. Two weeks after public notification the Faculty Advisory Council shall hold an open meeting to discuss the proposed amendment. Within one month after the open meeting the faculty shall vote for or against ratification. Ratification shall require approval of two-thirds of the faculty voting on the proposed amendment.

Changes required by state law shall go into effect as required to comply with the law.

PART IV. ADOPTION AND INITIATION

The University Ad Hoc Study Committee on Academic Governance appointed by the President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in June, 1989, shall oversee the ratification of this constitution and the initial election of members of the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. The Committee shall decide all questions of the validity of the ratification and the initial election of Representatives.

A. Ratification

The Constitution of the Faculty Advisory Council of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi shall become effective after:

1. A majority of the faculty voting approve ratification,
2. Ratification by the President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi,
3. Ratification by the Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, and
4. Ratification by the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System.

Revision history:

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