Constitution of the Staff Council of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Preamble
A guiding principle of sound governance among people of reason and goodwill is mutual regard for one another. Such regard is manifested in the sharing of information and advice among representatives of the entire campus community on all matters of mutual concern. In this spirit the Staff Council, through its elected representatives, shall advise, consult with and make recommendations to the executive officers of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Article I. Name and Authority
The name of this organization shall be the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Staff Council, hereafter referred to in this document as the Council. The Council shall function in accordance with this Constitution as approved by the President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The Council is empowered to organize itself and establish its own bylaws, except as restricted by this Constitution.

The Council shall be advisory to University administration and shall channel recommendations to the University President or their appointed liaison, hereafter referred to as the Staff Council Advisor.

Article II. Statement of Purpose
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to fostering a community of mutual respect and cooperation among its faculty, staff, and students. With this commitment in mind, the Council is hereby established to allow for representation and participation of all regular, benefits-eligible employees not represented by Faculty Senate or serving on President’s Cabinet, hereafter called the Membership. The Council shall fulfill the following purposes:

1. Serve as a voice for the collective body it represents on matters that affect the welfare of the University and/or the Membership,
2. Foster and enhance communication between the Membership it represents and others in the campus community,
3. Serve as a resource through which representatives from the Membership shall be nominated to serve on University committees and confirmed by the members of Staff Council,
4. Be a forum for discussion of issues and/or concerns involving University rules and procedures,
5. Serve as an advisory body to the University administration in matters relating to those represented by the Council, as defined in Article III, including the implementation of new policies, procedures, programs, and reviews of existing policies,
6. Promote recognition of membership contributions to the mission of the University as well as excellence in service,
7. Actively participate in developing and promoting processes and activities that maximize positive progress, and
8. Serve as a developmental tool, building loyalty and commitment through
orientation of new employees, creating motivational projects to instill a sense of community in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi community and team-building with others in the University.

**Article III. Council Members**

The Council is hereby established to allow for representation and participation of all regular, benefits-eligible employees not represented by Faculty Senate or serving on President’s Cabinet, hereafter called the Membership.

1. Council Eligibility: To be eligible to serve on the Council, prospective representatives must have completed one year of regular, benefits-eligible employment at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi prior to the commencement of their elected term of office.

2. Terms: Council representatives shall be elected to two-year terms as defined in Bylaws. Council representatives can serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms. Following a year off the Council, a former council member is again eligible to serve on the Council. For officer terms, please see Article IV.

3. Council make-up: Council membership shall be as outlined in Bylaws.

4. Membership category descriptions (Occupational Categories) shall be as defined in the Bylaws.

**Article IV. Officers**

Officer elections, service terms, and filling of vacancies shall be conducted in accordance with procedures specified in the Bylaws.

**Article V. Human Resource Representative**

A designated representative of the Department of Human Resources shall serve as a resource to the Council. The Human Resource representative shall attend regular meetings of the Council and Executive Board meetings as deemed necessary by the Council/Executive Board. The Human Resources representative shall serve in an ex-officio role on the Council.

**Article VI. Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall consist of Council Officers and the Chairs of each of the Standing Committees. The Executive Board is responsible for setting meeting agendas, with input from the Council representatives and the Membership, making decisions on behalf of the Council between general Council meetings and reporting such actions to the Council at the next scheduled meeting. The Immediate Past President does not have voting privileges on the Executive Board.

**Article VII. Committees**

There shall be Standing Committees of the Council as outlined and defined in the Bylaws.

The Chair(s) of each committee shall be appointed by the President of the Council subject to approval by the Council. Committee Chairs must be elected Council members. All council members shall serve on a minimum of one (1) committee. Council committee membership is not restricted to Council members. Committee members can be recruited from the Membership at large. Council Committee Chairs shall be responsible for the
preparation and presentation of committee reports to the Council.

**Article VIII. Meetings**

Council members shall meet once each month on a schedule determined by the Council. All regularly scheduled Council meetings are open to all regular, benefits-eligible staff. A special meeting may be called with 48-hour notice by the Executive Board or by petition of one-third (1/3) of the Council. A regularly scheduled meeting may be canceled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council.

**Article IX. Amendments, Review, and Revision**

All changes to the Council Constitution shall be passed and approved in accordance with provisions stated in this section.

1. Amendments of this constitution may be proposed by: (a) the Council by its own initiative upon a majority vote of the Council, (b) petition of twenty-five (25) members of the Membership to the Council subject to a favorable majority vote of the Council.

2. Proposed amendments and revisions must be presented in writing to the Council Secretary for distribution to the Council at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

3. The Council shall not vote on the proposed amendments or revisions until at least two weeks after the meeting at which the amendments or revisions are submitted.

4. Amendments shall then be initially accepted on approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Council and shall then be presented to the Staff Council Advisor who shall seek ratification by the President of the University.

5. Amending or revising the Constitution shall be limited to once an academic year.

**Article X. Nondiscrimination Statement**

The Council is committed to providing equal opportunity without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, age, genetic information, veteran status, or disability. This commitment extends beyond nondiscrimination and simply achieving numerical diversity to that of inclusive excellence in the intellectual and social life of our campus. This vow to prepare students for responsible participation in a diverse global community, through excellence and engagement, is the hallmark of a great university. Therefore, every Islander is responsible and accountable for providing a work and academic environment where everyone feels included and is treated with dignity and respect.

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