

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 a 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 will be advisory to campus administration and will channel recommendations to the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, who is the Council's advisor and liaison to other executive officers.

Article II. Statement of Purpose

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to fostering a sense of community 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 will 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 will be nominated to serve on University committees by the President of Staff Council and confirmed by the members of Staff Council,
4. Be a forum for discussion of issues 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 Section III, including the implementation of new policies, procedures and programs and a review 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 on the TAMU-CC campus, 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 TAMU-CC prior to the commencement of their elected term of office begins on the Council.
2. Terms: Council representatives will be elected to two-year terms defined by fiscal year: September 1 to August 31. 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 Section IV.
3. Council make-up: Council membership will be as outlined in Article IV, Section 4 of the Bylaws.
4. Membership category descriptions (Occupational Categories) shall be as defined in Article IV, Section 6 of the Bylaws.

Article IV. Officers

Officers of the Council will consist of a: President, the Immediate Past President (Ex Officio), President-Elect and Vice President (one position), the Treasurer, the Parliamentarian, the Secretary and the Historian. All officers, except the Immediate Past President who has already completed two consecutive terms, will retain full voting privileges.

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

Article V. Human Resource Representative

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

Article VI. Executive Board

The Executive Board will 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, and 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 will be Standing Committees of the Council as outlined and defined in the Article VII of the Bylaws.

The Chair(s) of each committee will be appointed by the President of the Council subject to approval by the Council. Committee Chairs must be elected Council members. All council

members will 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 will be responsible for the preparation and presentation of committee reports to the Council.

Article VIII. Meetings

Council members will 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-third (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 the 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 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 will then be initially accepted on approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Council and will then be presented to the Staff Council Advisor who will seek ratification by the President of the University.
5. Amendment approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Council and the President of the University shall be submitted to a campus-wide membership referendum conducted by the appropriate Council committee.
6. Passage of amendments and revisions on a campus-wide referendum of the Membership shall require a majority of the votes cast.
7. A campus-wide referendum of the Membership for the purpose of amending or revising the Constitution will be limited to one (1) per academic year.

Article X. Nondiscrimination Statement

The Council, in all its activities, is committed to providing a climate that is conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual. The Council subscribes to the concept of equal opportunity and affirmative action, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disabilities, national origin, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

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