

**CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL FACULTY
OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE**

Article I. THE GENERAL FACULTY

The General Faculty, subject to the laws of the State of Texas and the

Section 6. The latest edition of _____ shall govern the conduct of General Faculty meetings. However, failure to follow such procedure shall not be grounds for contesting any decision made at such meetings unless the breach of procedure was challenged at the time of occurrence.

Section 7. Voting in any General Faculty meeting shall be by show of hands or, if called for by a faculty member and favorably voted by the members present, a roll-call vote or secret written ballot.

Section 8. The President of the University, or a representative of the Office of the President, shall be requested to report to the General Faculty regarding his or her implementation of Faculty Senate recommendations.

Article II. THE FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

The Faculty Senate shall serve as an advisory body to the President of the University in matters concerning the University. The Faculty Senate is the faculty's elected representative body for university-wide participation in the governance of Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Under most circumstances, the President of the University should concur with the Faculty Senate's advice and recommendations on matters where the faculty has primary responsibility, subject to the laws of the State of Texas and the general policies of the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System.

Membership

Section 1. (a) The Faculty Senate will be constituted in the following manner. Each Department/Academic Unit will be represented by a minimum of one Senator. The number of Senators per Department/Academic Unit will be apportioned by the number of General Faculty in the Department/Academic Unit divided by the total number of General Faculty times the number of Departments/Academic Units rounded to the nearest whole number. Senators-at-

(d) If an Ex-

- (f) In the event of a tie, the Secretary will seek to mediate an outcomes with the candidates in question. If no clear winner can be determined, a special run-off election will be held to determine the winner.
- (g) The Election Committee shall record votes. The tally of votes for each candidate shall be forwarded to the Faculty Senate office and remain on file. The voting record shall become the basis for eligibility to fill Senate vacancies.

Section 4. (a) Apportionment of Senators shall occur on an annual basis in early November using the Provost's report on the number of faculty.

(b) Election of Department/Unit Senators shall take place during early February.

(c) Elections of Senators-at-large shall take place during early March.

(d) Terms of out-going Senators shall expire at the conclusion of Old Business at the regular April meeting. Newly elected Senators shall take office at the initiation of New Business at this meeting.

Section 5. A vacancy among Senators shall be filled by special election in the affected College or Department/Unit. Senators filling unexpired terms shall serve only the balance of the unexpired term.

Section 6. (a) The Senators of the Faculty Senate shall serve for two years.

(b) The terms of Senators shall be staggered.

(c) No Senator shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.

(d) No Senator may serve more than four years of any six-year period.

Section 7. Officers of the Faculty Senate shall be:

1. President,

2. President-Elect (who will serve as the following year's President),

3. Secretary (who will serve as Secretary to the General Faculty), and

4. Parliamentarian.

(a) All officers of the Faculty Senate shall be elected by the Faculty Senate by secret ballot from among its members.

(b) Upon the Senate President's assuming office, the Senate seat the President held shall be declared vacant and shall be filled for the duration of the President's term by the procedures set forth in Article II, Section 5. The President shall be ineligible for re-election to the Senate until a year after leaving office as President. The President shall be ineligible to serve two consecutive terms as President.

(c) The Senate President shall be granted 25 percent reassignment time per semester. In addition, the Senate President may choose to assign a weight of zero percent to both Categories II (Research and Scholarly Activity) and III (Professional Growth and Activities) for the Annual Evaluation of Faculty for those evaluation years that overlap the year of service as President of the Faculty Senate.

Section 8. (a) The Faculty Senate shall hold a regular meeting each month of the academic year. The General Faculty shall be notified of the date, hour, place of meeting, and agenda, including full text of resolutions, at least one calendar week in advance of each monthly meeting.

(b) Special meetings of the Faculty Senate may be called by the President of the University, by decision of the Faculty Senate at a previous meeting, by the President of the Faculty Senate, or by petition signed by five members of the Faculty Senate and presented to the President of the Faculty Senate. The General Faculty shall be notified of special meetings at least one week prior to such meetings.

(c) The rules contained in the latest edition of _____ shall govern the Faculty Senate in all cases to which they are consistent with By-laws and any special rules of order the Faculty Senate may adopt.

(d) An interpretation of the Constitution and its By-laws by a simple majority of Senators, present and voting, supersedes an interpretation by the Senate President and the Parliamentarian.

Section 9. A quorum shall consist of 3/5 of Senators, rounding fractions to the nearest whole number.

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review any actions of these administrative units which affect the University as a whole and to make recommendations concerning them to the President of the University.

Article III. THE FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEES

The Faculty Senate shall have the authority to create Standing and Special Committees. All Committee reports to be considered by the Faculty Senate shall be distributed to Faculty Senate members no later than one calendar week prior to the Faculty Senate meeting at which the report is to be considered by the Faculty Senate.

Section 1. (a) The Faculty Senate shall have an Executive Committee.

(b) The Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall consist of the Senate President, President-Elect, Parliamentarian, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, and five additional Senators, one from each of the following Colleges: Agriculture and Human Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, and Engineering.

(c) At its first meeting in April, the new Faculty Senate shall elect, by secret ballot, the President-Elect, Parliamentarian, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, and the five additional Senators.

(d) A quorum call shall occur before the election of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall:

(a) act for the Faculty Senate during the summer months when the Faculty Senate does not normally convene,

(b) notify all Senators at least one week in advance of Executive Committee meetings to allow them to attend if they so desire,

(c) make the agenda for Faculty Senate meetings, and

(d) report actions to the Faculty Senate at its next regular meeting.

Section 3. (a) The Faculty Senate shall elect a Committee on Committees.

(b) The Committee on Committees shall:

(1) consist of a minimum of seven members with representation from each undergraduate College, and the Library,

(2) appoint members to all standing Senate Committees (see list of Faculty Senate standing committees on Faculty Senate website),

(3) issue the notices of appointment that shall include definitions of the duties and authority of the respective committees, and

(4) to ensure that any annual and/or special reports from such committees are submitted to the Faculty Senate.

Section 4. (a) The Faculty Senate shall elect an Election Committee.

(b) The Election Committee shall consist of five Senators elected by secret ballot. No more than one Senator shall be from any one Department/Academic Unit.

(c) The Election Committee shall:

(1) establish a timetable and guidelines for Senate elections,

(2) conduct the appointment of Senators,

(3) keep lists of faculty eligible to be Senators and eligible to vote as General Faculty, and

(4) ensure that the ballots are prepared in advance of the elections.

(5) ensure validity of election: The Faculty Senate Election Committee is responsible for ensuring that all elections are fair and valid. Concerns about the validity of a Senate election should be directed to the Faculty Senate Election Committee. When the validity of a department or Library election is challenged, the Faculty Senate Election Committee shall decide whether the election results should stand or be invalidated.

Section 5. (a) The Faculty Senate shall elect a Resolutions and By-laws Committee.

(b) The Resolutions and By-laws Committee shall consist of six Senators elected by secret ballot. No more than one Senator shall be from any one College or the Library.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Resolutions and By-laws Committee to ensure that resolutions, position papers, amendments, and similar proposals to the Faculty Senate, which seek to establish policy or action, are made appropriate to and ready for consideration by the Senate. The Committee shall not process proposals submitted from the floor of the Senate as new business.

(d) Given the large number of General Faculty who are absent in the summer, no amendment or petition for an amendment to this Constitution or the By-laws can be considered between the regular April meeting of the Faculty Senate and the regular September m