

# CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY SENATE OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## **Article I. NAME**

The name of the organization shall be the Faculty Senate of Texas Tech University.

## **Article II. ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. The Faculty Senate shall be composed of senators representing the voting faculty of Texas Tech University. The voting faculty shall consist of all persons under full-time contract who have completed a residence of one year at this University and who are (1) tenured, (2) on tenure track, or (3) have a continuing appointment.

Section 2. The President of the University shall appoint one senator from each college or school.

Section 3. The voting faculty of each college and school, and the librarians and archivists of the University Libraries, shall elect the remaining senators, with senators apportioned to colleges or schools based upon their proportionate number of faculty. Each college or school must have at least one elected senator.

Section 4. Except as otherwise provided by the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate shall be limited to no more than 60 members. The size of the membership of the Senate shall ensure adequate representation of each college or school based on the proportionate number of faculty in each college or school.

Section 5. The President of the University shall appoint a President, Vice President, and Secretary from the membership to serve for a term of one year.

## **Article III. NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS**

Section 1. Each Spring, the voting faculty members shall nominate and elect members to the Faculty Senate to take office on the following September 1, to serve until August 31 two years hence. The Faculty Senate shall conduct the election through an appropriate committee.

Section 2. Prior to each regular election, the Faculty Senate shall re-determine its composition so that the election will, to the extent possible, bring the composition of the Faculty Senate into conformity with Article II, Section 3. A previously elected senator shall not, however, be removed from office before the expiration of his or her term because of a declining constituency, provided the Faculty Senate remains compliant with the size restrictions under Section 4, above.

Section 3. Nominations for representatives from each college and school, and the University Libraries, shall be requested from voting faculty members. Voting faculty may nominate senators representing their respective college or school.

Section 4. Members of the Faculty Senate shall be elected from among the candidates identified in the nominating process. Voting faculty shall vote for senators from their respective college or school. Tie

votes shall be resolved by a special election. If a senatorial vacancy occurs, the Faculty Senate shall conduct a special election to fill the vacancy from the appropriate constituency. The specially elected senator shall complete the unexpired term of the senator originally elected.

Section 5. Qualification for election to the Faculty Senate shall be membership in the voting faculty, except that administrators serving one-half time or more in administrative positions shall not be eligible. Department chairpersons, school directors, and area coordinators may be elected to the Faculty Senate if they are otherwise qualified.

Section 6. The term of office for each elected member of the Faculty Senate (subject to Article VII hereof) shall be two years. A member may not be re-elected without a two-year interim.

Section 7. The term of office for each appointed member of the Faculty Senate (subject to Article VII hereof) may be for up to six consecutive one-year terms. The President of the University is advised to maintain appointments for two consecutive one-year terms to keep terms of service effectively equal for appointed and elected members. A member may not be re-appointed within a two-year interim.

Section 8. To the extent possible, one-half of the senators from each constituency will be elected and appointed each year.

#### **Article IV. JURISDICTION**

Section 1. The Faculty Senate shall act on behalf of the faculty and shall serve as an advisory body to the President of the University regarding the general welfare of the University as it pertains to academic, research, curricular, and scholarship matters ("General Welfare").

Section 2. Any member of the University community may bring a matter regarding the General Welfare of the University to the attention of the Senate.

Section 3. The Senate may make recommendations to the President of the University concerning the General Welfare of the University, particularly those of special interest to the faculty including but not limited to issues regarding the academic functions of the University and academic freedom.

Section 4. Should the President of the University choose not to follow a recommendation of the Faculty Senate, the President of the University may, in his or her discretion, inform the Senate in writing of the reasons therefore and, upon request of the Senate, the President of the University may meet with the Senate for discussion of the matter.

Section 5. The Faculty Senate shall not be used to obstruct, delay, or undermine necessary institutional reforms or serve as a mechanism for advancing political or economic purposes.

#### **Article V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 1. The Faculty Senate shall establish its own rules of procedure and bylaws, including its quorum requirements.

Section 2. The Faculty Senate shall meet at least monthly during the regular academic year, as provided by the bylaws. All meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be open to the public unless otherwise required by law.

Section 3. The Faculty Senate may establish such Senate committees as it deems appropriate. The members and temporary chairperson of the Senate committees shall be named by the Faculty Senate and, at their first meeting of each year, the members of each committee shall select their own chairperson and such other officers as may be appropriate for the effective functioning of the committee.

Section 4. The President of the University has the authority to establish and define composition of ad hoc or standing committees or councils of Texas Tech University and may determine if members are to be elected or appointed. Texas Tech University faculty members appointed to these ad hoc or standing committees or councils may, at the discretion of the President of the University, be selected from a list of recommended nominees for each committee or council provided by the Faculty Senate, in which case the President of the University shall specify the number of nominations for recommendations to be supplied by the Faculty Senate for each such committee or council position. The position of chairperson of the Athletic Council of the University shall not be open to nominations by the Faculty Senate.

Section 5. The Faculty Senate shall regularly report its activities to the faculty of the University by posting the minutes of each meeting on its website.

Section 6. The Faculty Senate shall call a meeting of the voting faculty when requested to do so by the President of the University, when petitioned by any fifty members of the voting faculty, or when it deems such a meeting necessary. The President of the Faculty Senate shall serve as Presiding Officer at a meeting of the voting faculty. In the absence of the President of the Faculty Senate, the Vice President or the Secretary shall preside, in that order. No decision, recommendation, or advice shall come from the voting faculty except when one of the above is presiding. To the extent such meeting involves business requiring a vote related to a vote of no confidence regarding a University administrator or policies related to curriculum and academic standards, the names of the Faculty Senate members in attendance must be recorded.

## **Article VI. AMENDMENT PROCEDURE**

Section 1. An amendment to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate may be proposed by a petition to the President of the Faculty Senate signed by at least fifty members of the voting faculty, by a two-thirds vote of the senators then present and voting, or by the President of the University.

Section 2. The President of the Faculty Senate shall make all effort for a proposed amendment to this Constitution to be distributed to the voting faculty at least four weeks prior to its consideration at a called meeting of the voting faculty. This requirement may be waived by the Faculty Senate President, who will also explain to the Senate the reason/s for doing so. No action on amendments to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate may be taken unless at least one-fifth of the voting faculty is present. Passage of any such amendment shall be by a two-thirds vote of the voting faculty then present and voting. Upon passage, an amendment shall become effective by action of the President of the University.

**Article VII. SEVERABILITY**

This Constitution is subject to and governed by Texas Tech University System Regulation 07.20, incorporated herein by reference. To the extent any terms of these Bylaws conflict with state law or Texas Tech University System Regulation 07.20, such terms shall be considered null and void.

**Article VIII. ADOPTION AND RATIFICATION**

The Constitution of the Faculty Senate shall become effective when adopted by a majority of the voting faculty (as defined by Article II, Section 1) then present and voting and after ratification by the President of the University.

Adopted August 28, 2025