

# **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 voting faculty of each college and school, and the librarians and archivists of the University Library and the Southwest Collection excluding the Graduate School, shall elect one senator for each twenty voting faculty members or fraction thereof but not fewer than two senators. The voting faculty of the University shall elect nine additional senators at-large.

Section 3. The Faculty Senate shall elect a President, Vice President, and Secretary from its membership to serve for a term of one year.

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

Section 1. Each Spring the voting faculty members shall nominate and elect members to the Faculty Senate to take office on the first day following the end of the Spring term during which the election is held. 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 2. A previously elected senator shall not, however, be removed from office before the expiration of his or her term because of a declining constituency.

Section 3. Nominations for representatives from each college and school and the University Library and Southwest Collection, as well as at-large senators shall be requested from voting faculty members. Voting faculty may nominate senators representing their respective unit and all voting faculty may nominate at-large senators. If a person is nominated for more than one senatorial position, he or she shall indicate the position for which he or she will appear as a candidate. The

two- person receiving the highest number of nominations for each senatorial position shall be designated as the candidates to stand for election to the Faculty Senate.

Section 4. Members of the Faculty Senate shall be elected from among the candidates determined in the nominating process. Voting faculty shall vote for senators from their respective unit and all voting faculty shall vote for at-large senators. 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 position shall not be eligible. Department chairpersons may be elected to the Faculty Senate if they are otherwise qualified.

Section 6. The term of office for each member of the Faculty Senate (subject to Article VII hereof) shall be three years. A member may not be re-elected without a one-year interim unless he or she was elected by special election to fill an unexpired term of one year or less.

Section 7. To the extent possible, one-third of the senators from each constituency will be elected 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 and may consider all matters of university concern.

Section 2. Any member of the University community may bring a matter of university concern to the attention of the Senate.

Section 3. The Senate may make recommendations to the President of the University concerning the academic functions of the University, academic freedom and other matters pertaining to the welfare of the University, particularly those of special interest to the faculty.

Section 4. Should the President of the University choose not to follow a recommendation of the Faculty Senate, the President shall inform the Senate in

writing of the reasons therefore and, upon request of the Senate, the President shall meet with the Senate for discussion of the matter.

## 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 meetings unless otherwise required by law or unless, when allowed by law, the Senate shall by two thirds vote declare that a meeting shall be conducted in a closed session.

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 may establish and define composition of ad hoc or standing committees or councils of Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University School of Medicine, and the Museum of Texas Tech University, or joint committees or councils of the above, and may determine if members are to be elected or appointed. Texas Tech University faculty members appointed to these standing (but not ad hoc) committees or councils shall be selected from a list of nominees for each committee or council provided by the Faculty Senate. The President of the University may specify the number of nominations 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 nomination by the Faculty Senate.

Section 5. The Faculty Senate shall regularly report its activities to the faculty of the University and distribute the minutes of each meeting.

Section 6. The Faculty Senate shall call a meeting of the voting faculty when requested to do so by the President of the University, or 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, 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.

#### 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. A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be distributed to the voting faculty at least four weeks prior to its consideration at a called meeting of the voting faculty. 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 after ratification by the President of the University and approval by the Board of Regents.

#### Article VII. **INITIAL COMPOSITION**

The initial composition of the Faculty Senate shall consist of the elected members of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Council. At its first meeting the new Faculty Senate shall arrange for the special election of additional members to bring the membership into conformity, to the extent possible, with its constitutional size and composition. At its next meeting, the Faculty Senate shall determine terms of the additional members by lot in accordance with Article III, Section 7.

#### Article VIII. **ADOPTION AND RATIFICATION**

The Constitution of the Faculty Senate shall become effective when adopted by a majority of the membership of the Faculty Council then present and voting at a called meeting of the Faculty Council and adopted by mail vote of eligible voting faculty, and after ratification by the President of the University and approval by the Board of Regents. Upon the Constitution's becoming effective, the Faculty Senate and its Constitution shall substitute nunc pro tunc for the Faculty Council and its Charter.

11/1/77

As amended 4/18/79-Chairperson for the Athletic Council not be open to nomination by the Faculty Senate.

Updated 8/19/95 (after librarians and archivists were given academic status and membership on the Faculty Senate)

Updated and adopted May 13, 2021 (faculty with continuing appointment given membership on the Faculty Senate)