
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: Academic Affairs

MAPP 02.05.08

AREA: Academic Governance and Administration

Faculty Senate

I. POLICY

- A. Lamar University's Faculty Senate shall function as the official coordinating body of faculty views relating to the academic activities of this institution and shall provide policy guidance for the administration on matters pertaining to academics and the welfare, conduct, and engagement of faculty.

II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- A. This policy establishes procedures for creating and changing the Lamar University Faculty Senate consistent with State of Texas law and the Texas State University System (TSUS) Rules and Regulations, including but not limited to the Texas Education Code § 51.3522 and related provisions of Senate Bill 37 (2025) as well as the TSUS Rules and Regulations, Chapter V, Subparagraph 4.10. In cases of conflict, State law and the TSUS Rules and Regulations supersede Lamar University policy.

III. ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF THE FACULTY SENATE

- A. **Exclusive power to establish the Faculty Senate.** Only the TSUS Board of Regents may establish the Faculty Senate at Lamar University, consistent with this policy, the TSUS Rules and Regulations, and applicable State law.
- B. **Advisory role.** The Faculty Senate represents the entire faculty of Lamar University and shall advise Lamar University and, where applicable, the TSUS Administration regarding matters related to the general welfare of the University. The Faculty Senate is an advisory body only and may not be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter.
- C. **Committees.** The Faculty Senate may establish standing or ad hoc committees to advise the Lamar University administration on particular matters relating to the general welfare of the University. Such committees shall be comprised of sitting faculty senators and are established subject to the authority of the Faculty Senate President. Such committees are advisory only, and no proposal or recommendation by a committee is binding on the administration.
- D. **Rules.** The Faculty Senate shall adopt rules for establishing a quorum. The Faculty Senate may adopt other procedural rules, consistent with this policy, the TSUS Rules and Regulations, and

State law, to govern the conduct of its meetings and other authorized activities of the Faculty Senate.

- E. **Limitations.** The Faculty Senate is prohibited from issuing statements or publishing reports that use the official seals or trademarks of Lamar University or the TSUS, or from using University- or System-funded resources, on any matter not directly related to its advisory responsibilities to the administration.
- F. **Shared governance.** The Faculty Senate operates within the framework of shared governance, as defined in State law. Shared governance structures may not be used to obstruct, delay, or undermine necessary institutional reforms or serve as a mechanism for advancing ideological or political agendas.
- G. **Exclusions.** Under State law, the provisions of Chapter 2110 of the Texas Government Code regarding State agency advisory committees do not apply to the Faculty Senate established by the TSUS Board of Regents.
- H. **Freedom of Association.** Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit a faculty member from exercising his/her right to freedom of association protected by the United States Constitution or the Texas Constitution.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR CREATING AND CHANGING THE FACULTY SENATE

A. Membership.

- 1. **Eligibility.** Full-time, benefits-eligible members of the Lamar University faculty are eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate, subject to the conditions in the Faculty Senate's Charter and Bylaws.
- 2. **Service.** Service on the Faculty Senate is an additional duty of the faculty member's employment. Members of the Faculty Senate are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their role as senators unless the expense is on behalf of and approved by the University.
- 3. **Selection of Members.**
 - a. The Faculty Senate will consist of not more than 60 members.
 - b. Each academic college shall be represented by a minimum of two (2) members.
 - i. The President shall appoint one (1) member from each academic college.
 - ii. The remaining members from each college shall be elected by a vote of that college. These senators shall be elected at-large by a college's faculty, with representation allocated according to the number of full-time faculty members in that college (excluding department chairs).

- c. The Lamar University library shall have one (1) appointed and one (1) elected Faculty Senate member.
 - d. Appointed members.
 - i. A faculty senator appointed by the President may serve up to six (6) one-year consecutive terms and then may only be reappointed after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term.
 - e. Elected members.
 - i. Faculty senators elected for an academic college or the library shall be chosen by a vote of the faculty in that college or the library, with elections conducted according to the Faculty Senate's Charter and Bylaws.
 - ii. A member elected by a vote of the faculty serves a two-year term and may only be reelected after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term.
 - iii. Staggered Terms. Terms for elected members shall be staggered such that approximately half of the elected members from each college are elected each year.
4. Removal or Resignation of Members.
- a. A member may be immediately removed from the Faculty Senate for:
 - i. failing to conduct the member's responsibilities within the Senate's parameters;
 - ii. failing to attend Senate meetings; or
 - iii. engaging in other similar misconduct.
 - b. A member may be removed on recommendation of the Provost and approval by the President.
 - c. In the event a member appointed by the President is removed or resigns, the President shall appoint a new member from that member's college or the library.
 - d. In the event an elected member is removed or resigns, an academic college or the library may choose to have a special election to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the member's original term.
- B. Officers.**
1. The Lamar University President shall appoint the Faculty Senate President, Vice President, and Secretary from the members of the Faculty Senate. The Lamar University President may solicit recommendations from the Faculty Senate for appointments.
 2. The Faculty Senate President shall preside over meetings of the Faculty Senate and represent the Faculty Senate in official communications with Lamar University and TSUS administration.
- C. Meetings.**
1. Open meetings. The Faculty Senate shall conduct meetings at which a quorum is present in a location and manner that is open to the public and in accordance with this policy.

2. Meeting notice and agenda. The Faculty Senate must post on the Lamar University website, at a URL designated by the University, not later than the seventh day before a Faculty Senate meeting:
 - a. the date, time, location, and link to the live URL video feed of the meeting;
 - b. an agenda for the meeting with sufficient detail to indicate the items that are to be discussed or that will be subject to a vote; and
 - c. any curriculum proposals reviewed by the Faculty Senate that will be discussed or voted on at the meeting.
3. Live broadcast. The Faculty Senate shall broadcast over the Internet, at a URL designated by the University, live video and audio of each Faculty Senate meeting if more than fifty percent of the members are in attendance.
4. Meeting archives. The Faculty Senate shall maintain an archive of its meeting agendas, recorded video, and minutes at a URL designated by the University and in accordance with the University's record retention policy.
5. Attendance recorded. The names of the members in attendance must be recorded at a meeting in which the Faculty Senate conducts business related to:
 - a. a vote of no confidence regarding a Lamar University or TSUS administrator; or
 - b. policies related to curriculum and academic standards.

V. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITY

Review Schedule: Every three years on or before the date the policy was last revised and/or approved, or more frequently if State law changes

Responsible Party: Academic Policy Advisory Council (APAC)

VI. APPROVAL

Dr. Brett Welch
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Approved: 04/30/2026

Dr. Jaime R. Taylor
Lamar University President
Approved: 04/30/2026

POLICY LOG

Version 1

09/29/2025

Policy draft completed.

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Policy approved by Lamar University President.