
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: Academic Affairs

MAPP 02.05.01

AREA: Academic Governance & Administration

Shared Governance

I. POLICY

- A. Shared Governance at Lamar University ensures that faculty and staff at all levels participate in the discussions and deliberations that guide strategic decision-making at the University. Shared governance promotes collaboration and transparency of communication across the institution through governing bodies that represent the University’s constituents and their interests.
- B. Empowering the campus community, shared governance assures that a collective wisdom informs the University’s actions and provide a strong foundation for the success of the institution. While shared governance does not mean that all decisions are made by consensus or that all ideas will be implemented, shared governance does promote opportunities for all faculty and staff members to have their voices heard and contribute to the University.

II. PURPOSE

- A. This policy establishes Lamar University’s support for the tradition of shared governance within American higher education. This policy describes Lamar University’s governance structure, which ensures that all voices of the University community are heard, community members’ ideas and recommendations are carefully considered, and decisions are made that benefit the institution as a whole in fulfilling its Mission.

III. SCOPE

- A. This policy reflects the governance structure established for Lamar University in the [Texas Education Code, Chapter 95](#), “Administration of the Texas State University System,” and [Chapter 96](#), “Institutions of the Texas State University System,” and in the [Texas State University System \(TSUS\) Rules and Regulations](#), Chapter I, “The Board of Regents,” Paragraph 1, “Legal History,” and Paragraph 2, “Authority”; Chapter IV, “Presidents of the Components,” Paragraph 1, “Appointment,” and Paragraph 2, “Authority, Duties, and Responsibilities”; Chapter V, “Component Employees,” Paragraph 4, “Faculty,” and Subparagraph 4.10(1), “Faculty Organizations.”
- B. This policy falls under the authority of all applicable federal, state, and TSUS statutes, rules, and regulations, including, but not limited to, the [TSUS Rules and Regulations](#); [Texas Education Code](#), Title 3, Higher Education; and [Texas Administrative Code](#), Title 19, Education.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Lamar University community.** The “Lamar University community” is defined in this policy as currently employed faculty and staff and currently enrolled students of the institution.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION AND BOARD OF REGENTS

- A. Lamar University is a regional state University offering programs of both general and special learning at the undergraduate and graduate levels. It is one of 38 public universities in the State of Texas.
- B. The organization, control, and management of Lamar University are vested by the State of Texas in the Board of Regents, Texas State University System. The nine members of the Board are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Texas Senate. The Office of the Board is in Austin, and Lamar University is one of seven higher education institutions that make up the Texas State University System.

VI. PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

- A. The President of Lamar University is the chief executive officer of the institution and reports directly to the Board of Regents. The President serves at the pleasure of the Board and without fixed term of appointment. The President is directly responsible to the Board for the administration and operation of the University.
- B. The duties and responsibilities of the President are enumerated in Chapter IV of the *TSUS Rules and Regulations*. Subject to the approval of the Board of Regents, the President is responsible for the overall organization and staffing of the University. The President may delegate authority or responsibility as needed and permitted by the *TSUS Rules and Regulations*.

VII. UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF GOVERNANCE

- A. Lamar University is organized into seven (7) Divisions: (1) Academic Affairs, headed by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (“Provost”); (2) Athletics, headed by the Director of Athletics; (3) Enrollment Management and Marketing, headed by the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing; (4) Finance and Operations, headed by the Vice President for Operations and Chief Financial Officer; (5) Information Technology, headed by the Chief Information Officer; (6) Student Affairs, headed by the Vice President for Student Affairs; and (7) University Advancement, headed by the Vice President for University Advancement. These Administrative Officers and the President make up the Lamar University Executive Cabinet. The Executive Cabinet meets weekly and serves in an advisory capacity to the President.
- B. Governance of the University relies heavily on formally organized groups, committees, and councils comprised of faculty, staff, and student members. These organizations meet regularly, and their fundamental purpose is to provide a means of broad-based involvement and participation in University governance and to enhance communication among the groups that make up the University community.

VIII. FACULTY GOVERNANCE

- A. **Faculty Senate.** The Faculty Senate functions as the official coordinating body of faculty views relating to the academic activities of the University and provides policy guidance for the administration on all matters pertaining to the welfare, conduct, and involvement of the faculty and the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum. The roles and responsibilities of the Faculty Senate are established by its Charter. The Faculty Senate determines its own agenda, and recommendations that result from its deliberations are forwarded by the Faculty Senate President to the Lamar University President.
- B. **Council of Instructional Departments (CID).** The CID advises the Lamar University President and Provost on policies and actions aimed at improving academic departmental administration and enhancing communication within the University's organizational structure. The CID reviews and makes recommendations to the President and Provost on academic policies and procedures that impact departmental operations. The roles and responsibilities of the CID are established by its Constitution and By-laws. The committee is composed of current department Chairs, with a committee Chair elected by the CID's members. The committee's charge is determined collaboratively by its members.

IX. STAFF COUNCIL

- A. The Lamar University Staff Council, under the authority of the Lamar University President, exists as a collective voice to foster a positive and collaborative organization of unity by encouraging the exchange of ideas among staff. Staff Council advocates for and represents the interests and concerns of Lamar University staff employees and conveys information and recommendations to the University administration. Staff Council informs staff of any issues and policies affecting them. Staff Council always seeks to promote a positive environment that is dedicated to evaluating, prioritizing, and communicating staff needs.
- B. The roles and responsibilities of Staff Council are established by its Bylaws, which have been reviewed by TSUS Counsel and approved by the Lamar University President.

X. STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

- A. Lamar University recognizes the importance of student involvement in the governance of the University. As such, students hold positions on all appropriate academic, institutional, and campus affairs committees and councils and are provided a system for student self-governance.
- B. The Student Government Association (SGA) is the University's officially recognized student government, which represents student organizations as well as individual students and serves to identify and represent the students' interests by promoting responsible student participation in the overall policy and decision-making processes of the University.
- C. As the official voice through which student opinion and recommendations may be expressed, the SGA's is comprised of representatives and officers elected by the Lamar University student body, which consists of all enrolled students. The SGA derives its authority through its Constitution, which has been reviewed by TSUS Counsel and approved by the Lamar University President.

- D. To ensure that issues raised by the SGA receive appropriate attention and follow-up, Lamar University administration works through the SGA's elected officers and the advisors to keep students informed of key University issues, policies, and plans.

XI. COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

- A. Standing committees and councils exist at the University level, as well as at the Division, College, Department, and Office levels. University committees and councils are established by the Lamar University President with the advice and input of faculty, staff, and students. Committees or councils at the Division, College, Department, and Office levels are typically established by the appropriate Vice President, Dean, Chair, or Director with the advice and input of that unit's faculty, staff, and/or students.
- B. Ad hoc committees or special purpose task forces may be organized to address and develop recommendations concerning particular needs or concerns.
- C. The members and/or officers of committees and councils are elected by their constituents or appointed by the Lamar University President or appropriate Vice President, Dean, Chair, or Director. These committees and councils report either to the President or to a member of the President's Executive Cabinet.
- D. Standing and ad hoc committees and councils are an integral part of the University's representative bodies: the Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and SGA. These committees and councils are prescribed in, or their creation enabled by, the governing documents of these bodies. Recommendations and concerns that affect faculty, staff, and/or students typically originate with the appropriate committee or council in that area (i.e., Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and SGA). However, if a recommendation or concern originates in another area and is relevant to the charge of a particular committee or council, the recommendation or concern will be forwarded to the appropriate committee or council for review and recommended action.

XII. COMMUNICATION AND SHARED GOVERNANCE

- A. Lamar University supports the ongoing and transparent communication required for shared governance. This communication takes place throughout the academic year and through multiple channels, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1. The Lamar University President, the Provost, and other members of the President's Executive Cabinet meet regularly with formally organized groups, committees, and councils involved in University governance. In addition, the Lamar University President and/or Provost may call a General Meeting of all faculty and/or staff. These meetings provide a forum for open discussion, questions, and recommendations on any subject related to the University. Minutes are kept of official meetings.
 - 2. The Lamar University President and Provost distribute important University information via email or other official channels to Associate and Assistant Provosts, Deans, and Directors, who then share this information with faculty and staff in their units. This information can then be

discussed more broadly in General Meetings with faculty and staff and, as appropriate, with students or in meetings with formally organized groups, committees, and councils.

XIII. COMMITMENT TO SHARED GOVERNANCE

- A. Lamar University is committed to fostering a shared governance structure in which collaboration and transparency of communication are valued and the ideas and recommendations of the University community are heard and respected. Lamar University is also committed to improving shared governance across the institution.
- B. Members of the Lamar University community who have questions or concerns about shared governance should bring these issues to the attention of their respective representative bodies (i.e., Faculty Senate, CID, Staff Council, SGA) or to their Dean, Director, or Chair. Questions and concerns about shared governance may be addressed by these representative bodies, and, as appropriate, findings and recommendations brought to the Lamar University President and/or the President’s Executive Cabinet. Shared governance issues discussed with Deans, Directors, and Chairs may be resolved at that level or, at the discretion of the Dean, Director, or Chair, referred to a higher level of administrative authority at the University.

XIV. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITY

Review Schedule: Every three years on or before the date the policy was last revised and/or approved.

Responsible Party: Academic Policy Advisory Council

XV. APPROVAL

Dr. Brett Welch	05/05/2025
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs	Date

Dr. Jaime Taylor	05/06/2025
Lamar University President	Date

POLICY LOG

Version	Date	Description of Changes
1	01/29/2025	Policy draft completed.
	02/06/2025 - 03/24/2025	Reviews by constituency groups completed.
	03/24/25 - 04/24/25	Review by campus community completed.
	05/06/2025	Policy approved by President.
	04/17/2026	Section VIII.A – delete “elected” from “elected Faculty Senate” to reflect Texas Education Code § 51.3523, which mandates that Faculty Senates consist of both appointed and elected members.