

FAQ: SB37 implementation – Faculty Senate/Council

1) How is the Faculty Council (FC) different from the previous Faculty Senate (FS)?

It is more streamlined so that members of the FC can focus their advice and input on the most important matters that face the faculty and the university. The Faculty Senate has 157 while the FC will have up to 60 members. The FS has 7 standing committees plus the Executive Committee (EC) while the FC is proposed to have 3 standing committees plus an EC.

Faculty Senate (157 members)

- Faculty Affairs Committee
- Faculty Governance Committee
- Budget and Facilities
- Community and Government Relations
- Undergraduate Committee
- Graduate and Professional Studies Committee
- Research and Scholarship Committee
- Executive Committee

Faculty Council (up to 60 members, incl up to 43 elected and 17 appointed)

- Faculty Affairs Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Research and Scholarship Committee
- Executive Committee

2) How are the members of the FC selected?

Seventeen (17) will be appointed and up to 43 will be elected. With respect to appointed FC members, all of the deans will be asked for 2 nominations per college along with a justification and recommendations for their nominees to be appointed to leadership roles. Interested faculty should contact their deans about being nominated and/or to become candidates for election. Additionally, the Farfel winners in the past 3 years will be added to the nominee pool. Other recommendations may come from the Provost's Office. The President/Chancellor will make appointments to FC membership and to leadership roles. Elections for the first Faculty Council will initiate shortly after the BOR approves a new policy that relates to SB37 implementation. It is anticipated that elections will precede appointments by the President/Chancellor.

3) How are the leaders of the FC selected?

See 2 above.

4) How will representation of depts and colleges be determined?

The representation will be at the level of colleges. Each college will have a minimum of 2 members, with the remaining being approximately proportional to the total number or range of T/TT+PE-NTT faculty in each of the colleges relative to the total for the entire university.

5) How will representation of T/TT and NTT faculty be determined?

We will try to achieve approximate representation of T/TT to be at least 70%.

6) What will happen to the senate committee structure? How are those members selected? How will those committees function in comparison to their existing structure within the faculty senate?

See 2 above. In the first year of the FC, members of each of the standing committees will be selected from among all appointed+elected FC members by an ad hoc committee comprised of the appointed leaders of the FC supplemented by the representatives of the Provost and DOR. In subsequent years, the elections and appointments will occur in the Spring semesters. Thereafter, members will be assigned to committees by the officers of the FC plus chairs of the committees in consultation with the Provost and DOR delegates. The representatives of the Provost and DOR will be ex officio on the respective committees and are likely to be aware of the fit of members within each committee. Each elected and appointed member will be asked for a ranked list of their committee preferences which will be used during the committee assignment process.

7) It seems that SB37 and the framework for the proposed UH faculty advisory council severely curtails the ability of the faculty to provide independent advice on university matters to central administration. Is this perception true?

We do not believe that there is curtailment. In fact, in the FS, the same Provost and DOR representatives/delegates are already on the respective committees. Furthermore, the EC is comprised of only FC members.

- 8) Who decides the agenda of the FC – faculty members on the council or administration?

We anticipate that the Presiding Officer of the FC will set the agenda in consultation with the Provost or designee.

- 9) Are the FC Bylaws set in stone? What about the bylaws/policies and procedures for the standing committees?

The FC Bylaws are a starting point and it is anticipated that they will adapt based on experiences in the first term of the FC. Further, one of the tasks for each of the standing committees of the FC will be to update or create committee bylaws and/or policies and procedures. These are also expected to evolve.