

DRAFT Faculty Council Bylaws (Jul25)

ONE — An eligible faculty member is a full-time, tenured, tenure-track, or promotion-eligible non-tenure track faculty member at the University of Houston. Faculty members who have appointments as assistant, associate, or vice deans, and higher are ineligible to be appointed or elected to the Faculty Council.

TWO — Duties of officers shall be as follows:

Duties of the Presiding Officer:

- Preside over all meetings of the Faculty Council.
- Be a non-voting ex officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees of the Faculty Council.
- Call special meetings when appropriate.
- Transmit to the appropriate administrative authorities of the University of Houston the recommendations and resolutions affirmed by the Faculty Council.
- Advise the President/Chancellor and the Provost of the University of Houston on matters of general interest to the faculty.
- Transmit from the President/Chancellor and Provost information on matters of general interest to the faculty.
- Be a voting ex officio member of the University Coordinating Commission.
- Be the representative of the faculty on the University President's Cabinet.
- Report on faculty interests to the University of Houston System Board of Regents at regular Board meetings.

Duties of the Associate Presiding Officer:

- Preside over all meetings of the Faculty Council in the absence of the Presiding Officer.
- Be a non-voting ex officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees of the Faculty Council in the absence of the Presiding Officer.
- Further assist the Presiding Officer as the Presiding Officer may deem advisable.
- Coordinate with the Secretary in relation to the communications of the Faculty Council.
- Be a voting ex officio member of the University Coordinating Commission in the absence of the Presiding Officer.

Duties of the Secretary:

- In consultation with the Presiding Officer and Associate Presiding Officer, be responsible for all forms of communication emanating from the Faculty Council.
- Keep a complete set of minutes for each meeting and prepare summary minutes of each regular or special meeting.

- Act as treasurer when necessary

THREE — The Faculty Affairs Committee shall be comprised of designated members of the Faculty Council and the Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs, who will be a non-voting ex officio member. The Faculty Affairs Committee shall review and advise on policies concerning the conditions of faculty employment and workload. The Faculty Affairs Committee will be advisory to the Provost and the Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs. The chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee or designee shall be a member of the UH Faculty Advisory Committee on Human Resources-Fringe Benefits Committee.

FOUR — The Curriculum Committee advises on undergraduate and graduate curriculum matters. The Committee shall be comprised of designated members of the Faculty Council. The Curriculum Committee will be advisory to the Provost and delegates regarding curriculum and academic standards. The Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Student Success, and the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School serve on this committee in non-voting ex officio capacities. Specifically, the committee will consider proposals related to academic programs, courses, and policies.

The committee should have at least one member representing each college that delivers undergraduate and/or graduate programs.

FIVE — The Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) shall be comprised of designated members of the Faculty Council and the Vice President for Research, who will be a non-voting ex officio member. The Research and Scholarship Committee shall focus on matters related to the research and scholarship of the university and will be advisory to the Vice President for Research and the Provost or designee.

In order to be eligible for nomination for election to the Research and Scholarship Committee, the faculty member must satisfy the following criteria:

- A. The faculty member must have an ongoing, focused research agenda as evidenced by refereed scholarly articles, grant writing, research presentations, or other scholarly research output deemed in their discipline as appropriate to a faculty member actively engaged in the research endeavor of a nationally recognized research university. Such scholarly output must satisfy the expectations of the individual college from which the faculty member is nominated.
- B. The faculty member must be actively involved in either graduate or undergraduate research programs administered within their own academic unit.

The RSC will advise on matters related to research, scholarship, and creative activity across disciplines and recommend policies to strengthen the University's research ecosystem, including research infrastructure and intellectual property. The committee will also administer the Assistant Professor Excellence (ApeX) speaker series.

SIX — The Executive Committee (EC) shall evaluate the eligibility and qualifications of all nominees for election to the Faculty Council. The EC shall be made up of the Presiding Officer, Associate Presiding Officer, Secretary, and the chairs of the standing committees of the Faculty Council. Appointed and elected members of the Faculty Council will be asked for their ranked preferences for committee membership. In the first year of the Faculty Council, elected and appointed members will be assigned to committees by an ad hoc committee containing the Presiding Officer, Associate Presiding Officer, Secretary, the Provost, and DOR delegates. Chairs of the standing committees of the Faculty Council will be elected from among the membership of each committee at its first meeting and will subsequently become members of the EC. In subsequent years, the elections and appointments will occur in the Spring semesters with sufficient time for committee chairs to be appointed and for members to be assigned to committees by the officers of the FC in consultation with the Provost and DOR delegates. The Provost and DOR delegates are typically the Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs, the Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Student Success, the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, and the Vice President for Research.

SEVEN — An agenda for each meeting of the Faculty Council must be posted on its website seven (7) or more days before the meeting that contains sufficient detail to indicate the items to be discussed or that will be subject to a vote and any curriculum proposals that will be reviewed or on which a vote will occur. Agenda for Faculty Council meetings will be developed by the Presiding Officer in consultation with the Provost or designee. Minutes for regular Faculty Council meetings will be made publicly available on its website seven (7) or more days before the next regular meeting.

EIGHT — The Executive Committee of the Faculty Council will nominate faculty members, from among the entire UH faculty, to serve on university committees as required/requested.

NINE — The Presiding Officer of the Faculty Council, and the chairs of the Curriculum Committee, Research and Scholarship Committee, and the Faculty Affairs Committee are members of the University Coordinating Commission (UCC) which shall operate to coordinate and expedite communication among faculty, staff, students, and the review of updated policies and procedures.

TEN — The Presiding Officer and Associate Presiding Officer or their representatives shall serve as Faculty Council representatives to the University Faculties Executive Council [UFEC]. Each representative shall serve until the end of the calendar year, or until replaced. A Faculty Council representative may continue to serve until the end of the calendar year even if the Senator's term of office has expired.

ELEVEN — The Faculty Council is a member of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCoFS), a state-wide organization composed of state colleges and universities. The two representatives to TCoFS shall be the Presiding Officer and Associate Presiding Officer of the Faculty Council.

TWELVE — The Faculty Council is a member of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. The delegate to, and an alternate for, the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (CoIA) will be elected by the UH Faculty Council for two-year terms. The elections will be held as necessary at the same meeting as the other officers each year. The delegate and alternate must be members of the Faculty Council at the time of their election. In the event that neither can attend a meeting of CoIA, the Faculty Council Executive Committee may appoint another Faculty Council member as the UH representative for that meeting

In the event the delegate resigns, the alternate will become the delegate and the Executive Committee shall appoint another alternate. In the event the alternate resigns, the Executive Committee shall appoint another alternate. Appointees must be members of the Faculty Council at the time of appointment.

The elected CoIA delegate or alternate shall be a voting ex officio member of the University of Houston Athletic Advisory Committee.

THIRTEEN —the Presiding Officer of the Faculty Council may be asked to establish ad hoc committees to represent the academic interests of the campus.

FOURTEEN — Where needed and for short periods of time, additional faculty input and expertise will be drawn from department chairs, program directors, and assistant/associate/vice deans who are otherwise ineligible to be appointed or elected members of the Faculty Council.

FIFTEEN — The quorum for meetings of the Faculty Council shall consist of forty percent of the eligible voting faculty members. The quorum for meetings of standing and ad hoc committees of the Faculty Council will be fifty percent.

Below are Notes and Elements for a Constitution, Bylaws, or maybe a process document or within a cmte's process:

Preamble

Principles of Shared Governance and the Faculty Role in Shared Governance (Copied from draft BOR policy – needs adapting)

All institutions in the UH System will be governed by a principle of shared governance, which is a structured decision-making process in which the Board of Regents exercises ultimate authority and responsibility for institutional oversight, financial stewardship, and policy implementation, while allowing for appropriate consultation with faculty, administrators, and other stakeholders on matters related to academic policy and institutional operations. The principle of shared governance is not to be construed to diminish the authority of the Board to make final decisions in the best interest of the institution, students, and taxpayers.

The University of Houston Faculty Council affirms its commitment to meaningful faculty participation in shared governance. While recognizing the advisory nature of its role,

the Council seeks to ensure that faculty perspectives are actively solicited, thoughtfully considered, and transparently integrated into institutional decision-making processes.

All administrators at institutions of the UH System must make decisions in a manner that promotes efficiency, accountability, and responsiveness to state priorities, workforce needs, and the institution's mission. Faculty and staff may provide recommendations on academic matters, but that input is only advisory in nature, ensuring that the Board of Regents and institutional leadership retain clear and ultimate decision-making authority. Shared governance structures are not to be used to obstruct, delay, or undermine necessary institutional reforms or serve as a mechanism for advancing ideological or political agendas.

Article One – Membership

Faculty Council (FC) Membership

- Models of overall membership
 - Up to 60 total members (currently 157 members; 92 T/TT and 65 NTT; as of Jun 2025)
 - Approximate college apportionment of FC members approximately by T/TT+PE-NTT Faculty population, with each college having a minimum of 2 (Effective 9/1/2025) for a 60 member FC.
 - Business Administration 3
 - College of Medicine 2
 - College of Nursing 2
 - College of the Arts 3
 - Education 3
 - Engineering 8
 - Gerald D Hines Arch & Design 2
 - Grad College of Social Work 2
 - Hobby 2
 - Honors College 2
 - Hotel & Restaurant Management 2
 - Law 2
 - Liberal Arts & Social Sciences 11
 - Library 2
 - Natural Sciences & Mathematics 8
 - Optometry 3
 - Pharmacy 3
 - Representation of T/TT will be approximately proportional to their population among T/TT+PE-NTT faculty. As of AY26, this is about 70%.
- Elected members
 - Elected from among college faculty (up to 60 - #colleges = up to 43 elected)

- Elections precede Presidential appointment of 1 per college (17 colleges as of Jun 25)
- Presidential appointees
 - 1 member from each college (17 appointed) after completion of the elections.
 - Faculty Council leaders selected from among the 60 FC members
 - Presiding Officer
 - Associate Presiding Officer
 - Secretary
 - Recommendations requested from each of the Deans (2 T/TT; also ask for recommendations for Presiding, Associate Presiding, and Secretary)
 - Nominations subject to review by the Office of the Provost who will reserve the right to request additional nominations from deans and/or to offer additional recommendations.
 - The Esther Farfel winners from the most recent 3 years will be added to the slate of potential Presidential appointees to the FC and will be considered for appointment to leadership roles.
 - Faculty with an administrative appointment (e.g., Assistant/Associate/Vice Dean, or higher and equivalent) are not eligible for membership in the Faculty Council.
- Expectations for FC members
 - Attend FC meetings in person.
 - Share expertise and opinions as they are valued and the FC is a primary way to receive them in a timely and efficient manner.
 - Contribute to development and input on policies affecting faculty.

Operation of the FC

- FC meetings are led by the Presiding Officer and include update reports from the Chancellor, Provost, VP F&A, VPR, FC Presiding Officer, and from committees, as needed.
- FC meetings will be bimonthly (Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May) with a potential summer meeting. Additional meetings of the FC may be scheduled to address sufficiently urgent matters, as needed.
- FC meetings will occur in-person and will be publicly live-streamed.
- FC committees advise respective AVP or VP who also serve on the respective committees in an *ex officio* capacity.

FC and committees charge

- FC members are expected to report back to their colleges and departments on all FC matters and to bring back to the FC discussions and recommendations from their colleges/depts.
- FC members are expected to rapidly and efficiently accomplish the advisory business of the FAC.