

# THE TEXAS A&M FACULTY SENATE AND FUTURE FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
Faculty Senate

Established  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1983

# PHILOSOPHY UNDERPINNING THE FACULTY SENATE

**“A university's foundation is its faculty. Therein lies the knowledge, the commitment to learning, and the source of constructive progress upon which universities rest. The interests of students, scholarship, and society are best served when the faculty brings its special talents to bear through cooperative participation in the governance of the university.”**

# MISSION OF THE FACULTY SENATE

- to foster a community of mutual respect and cooperation within the university;
- to facilitate effective faculty participation in academic governance;
- to broaden communication in matters of concern to the university; and
- to engage the faculty's skills in the guidance of the university's programs

Source: Texas A&M Faculty Senate Constitution

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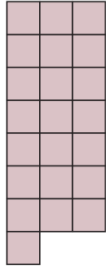
# MISSION OF THE FACULTY SENATE

In practice this means the Senate plays

1. A formal advisory role in the University curricular approval process
2. An advisory role garnering faculty opinions and transmitting them through appropriate formal or informal communication channels, and
3. A rhetorical role in which it serves as a forum for public discussion of any issue vital to Texas A&M University through its live-streamed monthly meetings



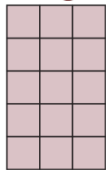
### Academic Affairs



Has the responsibility to study academic policies relating to curriculum and instruction, academic standards, admissions, graduation, retention, honors and other academic matters.

**(21 hours/year\*)**

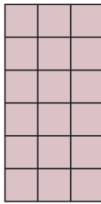
### Budget



Has the responsibility to obtain and study the University budget and become thoroughly aware of its structure provisions and development and advise and recommend action to the Senate on budgetary matters.

**(13 hours/year\*)**

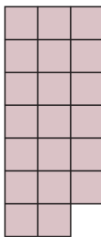
### Bylaws



Shall formulate and present changes in the Bylaws to the Senate.

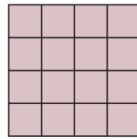
**(16 hours/year\*)**

### Caucuses



Shall organize and run the caucuses of the individual units, including organizing meetings and serving as the primary contact of the caucus to the unit's administrative leadership. Shall recommend candidates for the election committee and other committees as requested.

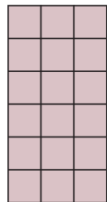
### Core Curriculum Council



Shall establish requirements for and recommend to the Senate courses to be included in the university's Core Curriculum and CD/ICD courses.

**(40 hours/year\*)**

### Elections

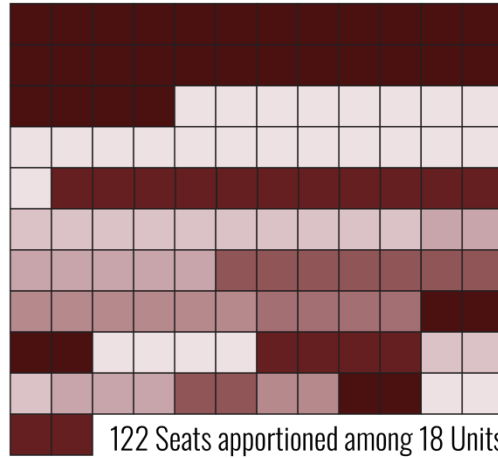


Shall conduct elections of the Senate consistent with its Constitution and Bylaws

**(4 hours/year\*)**

\*Estimated hours per year a Senator spends working on this committee

# Faculty Senate



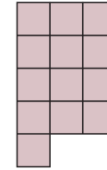
122 Seats apportioned among 18 Units

The Faculty Senate shall report directly to the President. It shall review all policies and regulations dealing with curricula and instruction, academic standards including admissions, graduation and retention, scholarships, honors and other forms of student distinction, and policies and procedures dealing with the hiring, retention, tenure promotion and evaluation of academic personnel before they are submitted to the President. It shall also provided advice to the President on other matters relating to educational policy and planning, development and utilization of resources, appointment of administrators, facilities affecting educational objectives, the University's research enterprise, the academic calendar and other matters pertaining to the University's general welfare. It shall be a forum for discussion and debate of any issue vital to Texas A&M University. It will garner faculty opinions and transmit those opinions to the appropriate person.

**(30 hours/year\*)**

**Collectively, in 2024-2025 Senators devoted approximately 174 weeks of their time in service to the Senate**

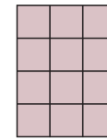
### Executive



Shall advise the Speaker of the Senate, assist in the administration of the Senate and implement its decisions and programs.

**(47 hours/year\*)**

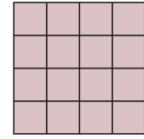
### Legislative Affairs



Shall annually review and report to the Senate proposed legislation that may impact the educational process or employee benefits and working conditions. The committee may meet with local legislators to promote or discuss potential legislation.

**(22 hours/year\*)**

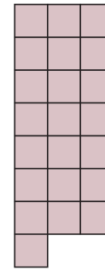
### Planning



Shall study and recommend actions on policies relating to the development and use of resources, changes to organizational units related to instruction research or administration, libraries, computing and other academic support organizations as well as facilities affecting the academic environment.

**(11 hours/year\*)**

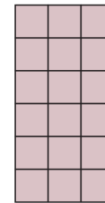
### Personnel & Welfare



Shall study and recommend actions on policies relating to faculty hiring, evaluation, tenure and promotion, benefits, faculty development as well as on any other matters pertaining to the faculty.

**(12 hours/year\*)**

### Research



Shall study and recommend actions on policies relating to external research funding, travel, libraries, computing and other support entities, publication and copyright and other matters involving conducting and disseminating research.

**(19 hours/year\*)**

# The Texas A&M Faculty Senate and its Standing Committees

# FACULTY SENATE IN UNIVERSITY SAPS

The Faculty Senate advises the President through the following University Standard Administrative Procedures (SAPS).

| Name                                                                                                                 | Number         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Development and Approval of Texas A&M University Rules and SAPs                                                      | 01.01.01.M0.01 |
| Changes in Academic Administrative Structure                                                                         | 03.02.99.M0.02 |
| Awarding Honorary Doctorate Degrees                                                                                  | 11.07.99.M1    |
| Award of Posthumous Degrees                                                                                          | 11.08.99.M1    |
| Curricular Processes                                                                                                 | 11.99.99.M0.01 |
| Grievance and Appeal Process for Faculty Members                                                                     | 12.99.99.M0.01 |
| Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Deans                                           | 12.99.99.M0.02 |
| Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Department Heads                                | 12.99.99.M0.03 |
| Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs | 12.99.99.M0.05 |
| Scholarships and Awards Program Coordination                                                                         | 13.03.99.M0.04 |
| University Data Governance and Management                                                                            | 29.01.01.M0.01 |
| Faculty Emeritus Status                                                                                              | 31.08.01.M2    |

# CURRICULAR REVIEW

Thoughtful evaluation of items for curricular review requires considerable effort.

During its last session (2024-2025) the Faculty Senate considered **1,572 individual curricular items** for final approval by the President.

The Senate also recommended 20,688 students be awarded their Texas A&M Degree.

| Type of Agenda Item                                    | Number |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Graduate Courses Changes                               | 508    |
| Graduate Program Changes                               | 87     |
| Miscellaneous Graduate Changes                         | 8      |
| Undergraduate Course Changes                           | 589    |
| Undergraduate Program Changes                          | 207    |
| Writing and Communication Courses Approvals            | 83     |
| Core Curriculum and General Education Course Approvals | 79     |
| Student Rule Changes                                   | 6      |
| Changes to Colleges                                    | 2      |
| Other Items                                            | 3      |



# MEMBERSHIP ON NON-SENATE COMMITTEES

In 2024-2025, Faculty Senators served on over **60** non-Senate Committees, including

- Academic Freedom Council
- AI Steering Committee
- Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Board
- Common Exam Guidelines Committee
- Core Facility Definition Working Research Group
- Research Compliance Committee
- System Employee Benefits Advisory Committee (SEBAC)
- TAMU 2040
- Texas A&M Research Compliance Committee
- Transportation Service Advisory Committee (TSAC)
- Undergraduate Admissions and Engagement Advisory Committee (UAEAC)

# SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF A FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Senators must be faculty members; and
- except as otherwise provided by the governing board, limits the number of Members to not more than **60** with at least two representatives from each college or school, including:
  - one Member appointed by the president or chief executive officer of the institution; and
  - the remaining Members elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective college or school.
- Note - the TAMUS rule indexes the sizes of Advisory Councils to the number of Full-Time Equivalent Faculty

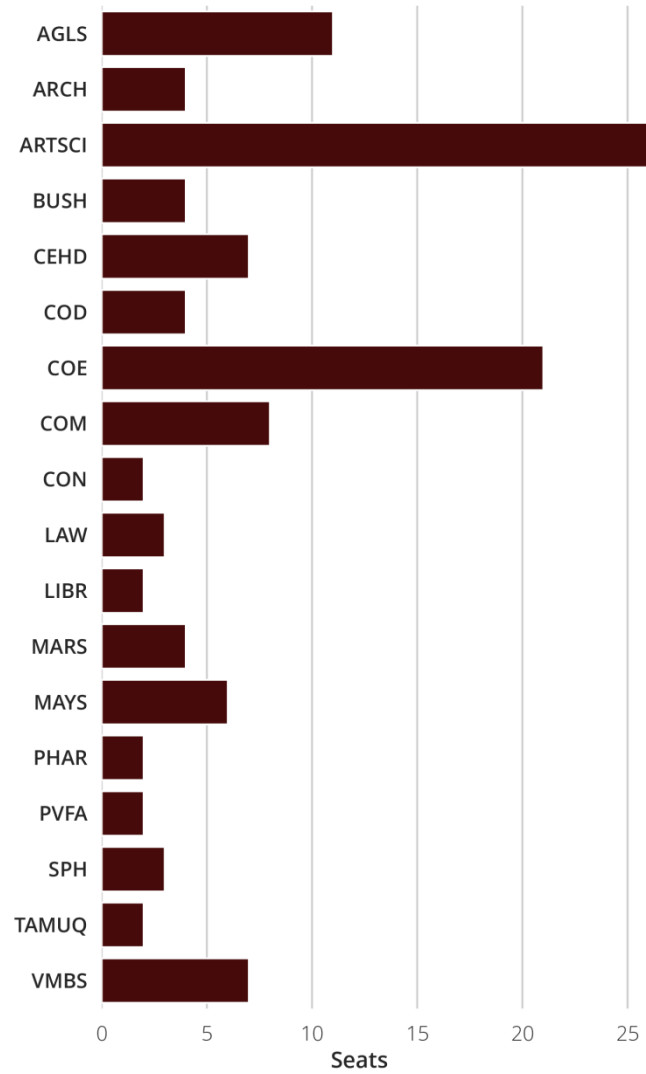
# LENGTH OF TERMS

- A Member **elected** by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective college or school serves a two-year term, staggered in a manner that allows approximately one-half of the elected members to be elected each year, and may only be reelected after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term
- A Member **appointed** by the president or chief executive officer of the institution of higher may serve up to six consecutive one-year terms and then may only be reappointed after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term.

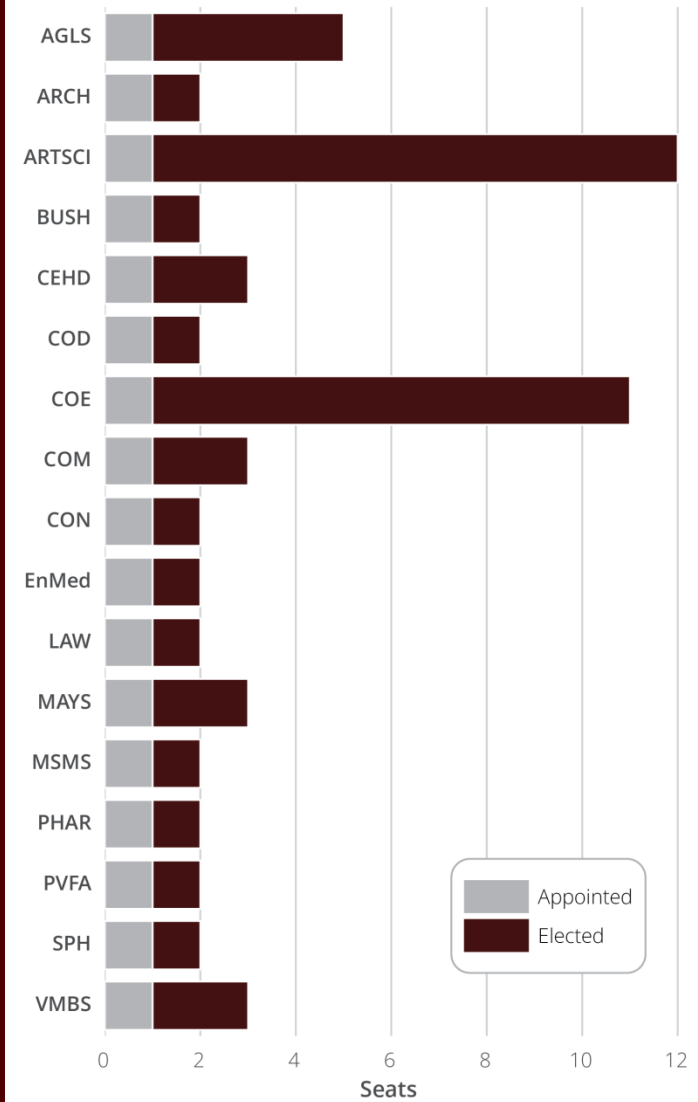
# OFFICERS

The president shall appoint a presiding officer, associate presiding officer, and secretary from the members of the Faculty Advisory Committee.

## Current Senate



## 60 Seat Faculty Advisory Council\*



\*Model only includes Full Time FTEs