



2.01.02

FACULTY SENATE

I. AUTHORITY

This policy is adopted by the El Paso Community College District (EPCC) Board of Trustees pursuant to recent amendments in the Texas Education Code to reflect compliance with the requirements of **Senate Bill 37, 88th Leg., R.S.**, including statutory sections governing the establishment and function of faculty councils or senates. **Tex. Educ. Code §§ 51.3522, 51.3523, 51.3541, 51.913, 51.9431**. This policy shall be construed and applied in a manner consistent with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and Institutional requirements applicable to EPCC Faculty.

II. PURPOSE

This policy governs creation, membership selection, and operational standards of El Paso County Community College District’s (EPCC’s) Faculty Senate. It further supersedes and replaces any conflicting policies or procedures recognizing the creation and authority of the existing Faculty Senate, which is hereby abolished and replaced effective September 1, 2025.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **“Institution”** means El Paso County Community College District, a public institution of higher education in Texas as defined in **Tex. Educ. Code § 61.003(8)**.
- B. **“Governing Board”** means the El Paso Community College District Board of Trustees as defined in BA(Local) and recognized as a Governing Board as defined in **Tex. Educ. Code § 61.003(9)**.
- C. **“Faculty Senate”** means a representative Faculty organization established by the Governing Board in accordance with **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522**.
- D. **“Shared Governance”** refers to a structured decision-making process in which the governing board of the institution 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 may not be construed to diminish the authority of the governing board to make final decisions in the best interest of the institution, students, and taxpayers. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3523(b)**.
- E. **“Faculty”** means an employee of El Paso County Community College District who is classified, either full-time or part-time, as an Instructor, Counselor, and Librarian as defined in **DDA-3(Local) (Employee Categories and Statuses)**.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF FACULTY SENATE

- A. Pursuant to its statutory authority, the Institution’s Governing Board establishes a Faculty Senate to advise the institution administration and any system administration regarding matters related to the general welfare of the Institution in accordance with **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522**.
- B. Nothing in this Policy may be construed to limit a faculty member of the Institution from exercising the faculty member’s right to freedom of association protected by the United States Constitution or the Texas Constitution. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(o)**.

V. DUTIES OF THE EPCC’S FACULTY SENATE

- A. The Faculty Senate shall represent the entire faculty of the Institution and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Institution’s administration on matters related to the general welfare of the Institution. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(c)**.

- B. The Faculty Senate shall adopt rules for establishing a quorum. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(l).**
- C. The Faculty Senate shall conduct meetings at which a quorum is present in a manner that is open to the public and in accordance with procedures established by the President of the Institution. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(j).**
- D. No later than the seventh (7th) day before a meeting of the Faculty Senate the following shall be made available on the Institution’s Internet website in accordance with **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(m)(1)-(2).**
 - 1. 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
 - 2. Any curriculum proposals reviewed by the Faculty Senate that will be discussed or voted on at the Faculty Senate meeting.
- E. The Faculty Senate shall broadcast over the Internet live video and audio of each open meeting of the Faculty Senate if more than 50 percent of the members of the Faculty Senate are in attendance. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(k).**
- F. The names of the members in attendance must be recorded at a meeting of the Faculty Senate in which it conducts business related to the following in accordance with **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(n)(1)-(2).**
 - 1. A vote of no confidence regarding an Institution administrator; or
 - 2. Policies related to curriculum and academic standards.

VI. LIMITATIONS OF THE FACULTY SENATE

- A. The Faculty Senate serves in an **advisory capacity only and may not be delegated final decision-making authority** on any matter. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(c).**
- B. The Faculty Senate may provide recommendations on academic matters, but the input is only advisory in nature and the Governing Board and Institution’s leadership retain clear and ultimate decision-making authority. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(m)(1)-(2).**
- C. The Faculty Senate may **not issue any statement or publish a report using the Institution’s official seal, trademark, or resources funded by the institution on any matters not directly related the Faculty Senate’s duties to advise the Institution administration.** **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(c).**
- D. Service on the Faculty Senate is considered an **additional employment duty**, with no entitlement to extra pay or reimbursement of expenses for this role unless on behalf of and approved by the Institution. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(c).**
- E. The Faculty Senate is not subject to the requirements of an advisory committee under Chapter 2110 of the Texas Government Code. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(i).**
- F. The Faculty Senate may not act in a way that obstructs, delays, or undermines necessary institutional reforms or serve as a mechanism for advancing ideological or political agendas. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3523(c).**

VII. FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

- A. Except as otherwise provided by the Governing Board, the Faculty Senate shall not exceed more than 60 members and be composed of at least two (2) representatives from each college or school or administrative division of the Institution to include Instructional and Non-Instructional Faculty, and Credit and Continuing Education Faculty. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(b)(3).**
 - 1. At least one member of Faculty Senate shall be **appointed by the Institution’s President.** **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(b)(3)(A).**
 - 2. All remaining members shall be **elected by peers** from their respective college, school or administrative division of the Institution. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(b)(3)(B).**

- B. All members of the Faculty Senate **shall be employed as Faculty. If an employee is no longer classified as Faculty, they are no longer eligible to serve as a member of the Faculty Senate and replaced as needed to ensure adequate representation of each college or school or administrative division of the Institution. Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(b)(1) and (b)(2).**

VIII. FACULTY SENATE LEADERSHIP

- A. The President of the Institution shall appoint from among the Faculty Senate's membership the following four (4) Officer Positions on the Faculty Senate. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(g).**
1. A Presiding Officer;
 2. An Associate Presiding Officer;
 3. A Secretary of the Faculty Senate; and
 4. An Adjunct Representative
- B. The Officers appointed by the President of the Institution shall remain in office until the sooner of the following: (i) acceptance of their voluntary resignation; (ii) their ineligibility to serve on the Faculty Senate; or (iii) the appointment of a successor by the President of the Institution.

IX. FACULTY SENATE LEADERSHIP DUTIES

- A. The Officers are specifically responsible for ensuring compliance with this Policy by all members of the Faculty Senate and promptly escalating any compliance concerns through appropriate administrative channels to the administrative leadership of the Institution.
- B. The Presiding Officer shall: **(i) chair all meetings**, and **(ii) serve as Faculty liaison** to Institution. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(h).**
- C. In the absence of the Presiding Officer, the **Associate Presiding Officer shall assume the duties of Presiding Officer.**
- D. The **Secretary shall: (i) keep accurate and complete minutes of all meetings; (ii) maintain all official records and documents; (iii) provide timely public notice of meetings and distribute agendas; (iv) certify actions of the Senate when required; (v) ensure proper archival and accessibility of governance materials and meetings; and (vi) perform other related duties as may be assigned by the Presiding Officer.**
- E. The Adjunct Representative shall, in collaboration with the other Officers, serve as an advocate for adjunct faculty members at the Institution and perform other duties as may be assigned by the Presiding Officer.

X. TERM LIMITS FOR FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS

A. TERM LIMITS FOR APPOINTED FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS

1. Members of the Faculty Senate appointed by the President of the Institution may serve **up to a maximum of six (6) consecutive one-year terms. Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(e).**
2. Members of the Faculty Senate appointed by the President may only be reappointed after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(e).**

B. TERM LIMITS FOR ELECTED FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS

1. Members of the Faculty Senate elected to their office serve two-year terms, except as may be necessary to stagger terms in a manner that allows approximately one-half of the elected members to be elected each year. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(e).**
2. Elected members of the Faculty Senate may only be reelected after the second anniversary of the last day of the member's most recent term. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(e).**

XI. REMOVAL OF FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS

- A.** Faculty Senate members may voluntarily resign their position by submitting a written resignation, which shall be effective upon acceptance by the Presiding Officer or the President of the Institution.
- B.** Faculty Senate members who no longer meet the eligibility requirements or term limits shall be deemed to have been removed from office effective on the date of their voluntary resignation or ineligibility.
- C.** Faculty Senate members also may be **removed** on recommendation of the Institution's Vice President or Provost upon approval by the Institution's President. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(f)**.
- D.** The following are all grounds for immediate removal of a Faculty Senate member. **Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3522(f)**.
 - 1.** Failure to attend Faculty Senate meetings in accordance with the attendance requirements as may be lawfully established by the Faculty Senate or Governing Board;
 - 2.** Failure to conduct their responsibilities within the parameters established by this policy or as lawfully established by the Institution, Governing Board, Faculty Senate or other such misconduct.

Adopted: August 6, 2025

Amended:

Year of last Review: 2025

Designated Contact: Vice President of Instruction and Workforce Education