

Resolution Authorizing the Continuation and Ratification of the Faculty Council:

Whereas during the 89th Texas Legislative Session in 2025, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 37, which was subsequently signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott on June 20, 2025.

Whereas Senate Bill 37 relates to the governance of public institutions of higher education, including review of curriculum and certain degree and certificate programs, a faculty council, training for members of the governing board, and the establishment, powers, and duties of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman.

Whereas Senate Bill 37, in Section 51.3522 of the Texas Education Code, authorizes the governing board of an institution of higher education to establish a faculty council and sets forth the policy by which the governing board shall select its members.

Whereas the Board of Trustees of Laredo College adopts the following policies in accordance with Section 51.3522, of the Texas Education Code:

1. The faculty council must adequately represent each academic division of the institution, and
 - a. Require the members to be faculty members;
 - b. Limit the number of members to no more than 60, with at least two representatives from each academic division, including:
 - i. One member from each division appointed by the chief executive officer of the college; and
 - ii. The remaining members elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective division.
2. The faculty council is advisory only and may not be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter.
3. The faculty council shall represent the entire faculty of Laredo College and advise the administration regarding matters related to the general welfare of the institution.
4. The faculty council may not issue any statement or publish a report using the institution's official seal, trademark, or resources funded by the institution on any matter not directly related to the faculty council's duties to advise the institution's administration.

5. Service on the faculty council is an additional duty of the faculty member's employment. Members of the faculty council are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their role as members of the faculty council unless the expense is on behalf of and approved by the institution of higher education.
6. A member of the faculty council appointed by the chief executive officer of the college in accordance with Section (1)(b)(i) 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. A member of the faculty council elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective division 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.
7. A faculty member serving on the faculty council may be immediately removed from the council for failing to conduct the member's responsibilities within the council's parameters, failing to attend council meetings, or engaging in other similar misconduct. A member of the faculty council may be removed on the recommendation of the institution's provost (or equivalent of the institution's chief academic officer) and approval by the chief executive officer of the institution.
8. The chief executive officer of Laredo College shall appoint a faculty council president, vice president, and secretary from the members of the faculty council.
9. The presiding officer of the faculty council shall preside over meetings of the faculty council and represent the council in official communications with the institution's administration.
10. The faculty council shall conduct meetings at which a quorum is present in a manner that is open to the public and in accordance with procedures prescribed by the chief executive officer of the college.
11. The faculty council shall broadcast over the Internet live video and audio, as applicable, of each open meeting of the faculty council if more than 50 percent of the members of the council are in attendance.
12. The faculty council shall adopt rules for establishing a quorum.
13. The following shall be made available to the public on the Laredo College Internet website not later than the seventh day before a meeting of the faculty council:
 - a. 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
 - b. Any curriculum proposals reviewed by the council that will be discussed or voted on at the meeting.

14. The names of the members in attendance must be recorded at a meeting in which the faculty council conducts business.
15. These policies may not be construed to limit a faculty member of Laredo College from exercising the faculty member's right to freedom of association protected by the United States Constitution or the Texas Constitution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Laredo College officially ratifies the continuation of the Laredo College faculty council, adopts the policies governing the faculty council, and finds that the faculty council meets the policies adopted by the Board and the requirements of Section 51.3522, of the Texas Education Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be included in the permanent minutes of this Board.

ADOPTED THIS 20th day of August, 2025, by the Board of Trustees of Laredo College.

Esteban Rangel, President
Board of Trustees

Jackie Leven Ramos, Secretary
Board of Trustees