

Resolution Authorizing the Establishment and Ratification of the Lee College Faculty Assembly:

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 or senate, 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 assembly and sets forth the policy by which the assembly's members shall be selected;

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

1. The faculty assembly must adequately represent all teaching and non-teaching full-time and part-time faculty, and
 - a. Require the members to be full-time faculty members;
 - b. Limit the number of members to no more than 60, including:
 - i. Five members appointed by the president of the college: one member who primarily teaches academic (transfer) courses on the main campus; one member who primarily teaches technical (not-for-transfer) courses on the main campus; one librarian, one counselor, and one member who teaches primarily in the Prison Education Program; and
 - ii. The remaining members elected by a vote of the full-time faculty.
2. The faculty assembly is advisory only and may not be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter.
3. The faculty assembly shall represent the entire faculty of Lee College and advise the administration regarding matters related to the general welfare of the institution.
4. The faculty assembly 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 assembly's duties to advise the institution's administration.
5. Service on the faculty assembly is an additional duty of the faculty member's employment. Members of the faculty assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of

expenses for their role as members of the faculty assembly unless the expense is on behalf of and approved by the institution of higher education.

6. A member of the faculty assembly 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 assembly elected by a vote of the faculty 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 assembly may be immediately removed from the assembly for failing to conduct the member's responsibilities within the assembly's parameters, failing to attend assembly meetings, or engaging in other similar misconduct. A member of the faculty assembly 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 Lee College shall appoint a faculty assembly president, vice president, and secretary from the members of the faculty assembly.
9. The presiding officer of the faculty assembly shall preside over meetings of the faculty assembly and represent the assembly in official communications with the institution's administration.
10. The faculty assembly 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 assembly shall broadcast over the Internet live video and audio, as applicable, of each open meeting of the faculty assembly if more than 50 percent of the members of the assembly are in attendance.
12. The faculty assembly shall adopt rules for establishing a quorum.
13. The following shall be made available to the public on the Lee College Internet website not later than the seventh day before a meeting of the faculty assembly:
 - 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 assembly 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 assembly conducts business related to:

- a. A vote of no confidence regarding an institution administrator; or
- b. Policies related to curriculum and academic standards.

15. These policies may not be construed to limit a faculty member of Lee 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 Regents of Lee College officially ratifies the establishment of the Lee College faculty assembly, adopts the policies governing the faculty assembly, and finds that the faculty assembly 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 ____ day of _____, 2025, by the Board of Regents of Lee College.

Gilbert Santana, Chair
Board of Regents

Mark Himsel, Secretary
Board of Regents