

## **AGENDA ITEM 9.A.**

**RE:** Approve Modification to Laredo College Board Policy BGC(LOCAL) – ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION: COUNCILS AND FACULTY SENATES and Adopt Amended Resolution Authorizing the Continuation and Ratification of the Faculty Council

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** The staff recommends that the Laredo College Board of Trustees approve modifications to LC Board Policy BGC (LOCAL) and amend the resolution authorizing the continuation and ratification of the faculty council. These actions are to comply with provisions stipulated in Texas Senate Bill (SB) 37. In June 2025, Texas enacted SB 37, effective September 1, 2025.

**BACKGROUND:** In June 2025, the State of Texas enacted Senate Bill 37 (SB 37), effective September 1, 2025, amending provisions of the Texas Education Code § 51.3522. This legislation mandates new requirements for faculty participation in institutional governance through formal advisory bodies, including Faculty Senates and Councils. Specifically, SB 37 outlines conditions under which governing boards may establish and maintain faculty advisory bodies, emphasizing transparency, defined advisory roles, and compliance with open meeting laws.

In accordance with this new legislation, Laredo College staff conducted a comprehensive review of current policies and procedures related to the Faculty Council. As a result of this review, it was determined that updates to Board Policy BGC(LOCAL) – Board Duties and Responsibilities on Faculty Council are necessary to ensure alignment with SB 37 requirements, including: Formalizing the advisory nature of the Faculty Council; Defining structure, selection processes, and representation; Ensuring compliance with transparency provisions, such as public notice, live-streaming, and recordkeeping; and, Clarifying the role of the Board of Trustees in authorizing the establishment or continuation of such advisory bodies.

Additionally, the existing Board resolution authorizing the continuation and ratification of the Faculty Council requires amendment to reflect these statutory updates and ensure full compliance with SB 37.

The proposed policy modifications and resolution amendment (see attachments on policy modifications and amended resolution) affirm the Board's commitment to shared governance, legal compliance, and meaningful faculty engagement in academic and institutional matters.

**BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**CONTACT PERSONS:**

Dr. Minita Ramirez, President

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/ Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Heriberto Hernandez, Associate Provost