

AGENDA ITEM 9.F.

RE: Approve a Timeline for the Creation of a Faculty Council Pursuant to Texas Senate Bill 37, Including Dates to Adopt a Board Policy that Incorporates Requirements of Senate Bill 37, Appoint Members, and Establish an Effective Date

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the Laredo College Board of Trustees approve a timeline for the creation of a Faculty Council as required by Texas Senate Bill 37.

BACKGROUND: Texas Senate Bill 37, signed into law in June 2025 and effective September 1, 2025, requires public higher education institutions to abolish existing faculty senates and establish new advisory faculty councils that conform to specific legislative mandates. To meet statutory deadlines and ensure a smooth transition, an implementation timeline must be established and approved by the Board. The timeline will serve as a framework for phasing out the existing Faculty Senate, developing a compliant board policy, and appointing and convening the new Faculty Council before the SB 37 effective date. The timeline will include:

September 2025

- **September 1:**
 - BOT formally abolishes the noncompliant Faculty Senate/Council.
- **Week 1-2:**
 - BOT adopts and publishes the new policy governing membership selection and representation per SB 37 (Sec. 51.3522).
 - President/CEO announces the process, timeline, and eligibility criteria to all faculty.
 - Administration forms a working group to draft or finalize bylaws and operating procedures.

Mid-Late September 2025

- **Week 3-4:**
 - Faculty in each division are notified of open nominations for elected seats.
 - President/CEO selects one appointee for each division (to be announced after elections).
 - Bylaws and procedures drafted for BOT review.

October 2025

- **October 1-10:**
 - Nomination window for faculty-elected seats closes.
- **October 11-20:**
 - Faculty elections are held in each division for elected seats.
- **October 21-31:**
 - Election results certified; President/CEO finalizes appointments and publicly announces full roster of new Senate/Council members.

November 2025

- **Week 1:**

- President/CEO appoints presiding officer, associate presiding officer, and secretary from among the newly constituted members.
- **Week 2:**
 - BOT reviews and approves Senate/Council bylaws and operating procedures.
- **Week 3–4:**
 - Senate/Council receives orientation/training on new responsibilities, open meetings requirements, and technology for live streaming.

December 2025

- **Early December:**
 - Any remaining compliance documentation finalized.
 - BOT receives report confirming completion of all required steps.

By January 1, 2026

- **Deadline:**
 - Faculty Senate/Council is officially seated and fully operational.
 - BOT certifies compliance and submits required certification/reporting to THECB and any required state entities.

Summary Table

Milestone/Action	Timeline
Abolish the noncompliant senate/council	Sept 1, 2025
Adopt new policy	After September 1, 2025
Announce process and start nominations	Early/Mid September
Hold faculty elections	October 2025
Appoint officers, finalize membership	Late October/November
Approve bylaws, training/orientation	November 2025
BOT receives report confirming completion	December 2025
Certify/report compliance (BOT/THECB)	By January 1, 2026

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS: None.

CONTACT PERSONS:

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President
 Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs
 Dr. Heriberto Hernandez, Associate Provost
 Dr. Horacio Salinas, Dean of Workforce Education