

2024-2025 Faculty Senate Plan for Standing Committees

Chris Gabler
Faculty Senate President
Faculty Senate Meeting
10 December 2024

Current FS Standing Committees

1. Council on Academic Freedom and Responsibility
2. Education Policy Committee
3. Faculty Welfare Committee
4. Faculty Rules and Governance Committee
5. Research Policy Committee
6. Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight Committee
7. Ad Hoc Faculty Salaries & Resources Working Group
8. Ad Hoc General Faculty Review Policies Working Group
9. Ad Hoc Harlingen Faculty Survey Working Group
10. Ad Hoc SB 17 Implementation Working Group

Update: Proposed structural changes

1. Council on Academic Freedom and Responsibility
 - Absorb Ad Hoc SB 17 Implementation Working Group
2. Education Policy Committee
3. Faculty Welfare Committee
4. Faculty Rules and Governance Committee
 - Absorb Ad Hoc General Faculty Review Policies Working Group
5. Research Policy Committee – report today
6. Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight Committee
7. ~~Ad Hoc~~ Faculty Salaries & Resources ~~Working Group~~ Committee
8. Ad Hoc Harlingen Faculty Survey Working Group – report next time
9. NEW Faculty grievance support/conflict resolution group

Revised Standing Committee overview

- Senators are expected to serve on one FS Standing Committee
- 73 Senators / 7 committees = ~10 (6-14) members per committee
- Larger committees
 1. Council on Academic Freedom and Responsibility
 2. Faculty Rules and Governance Committee
 3. Research Policy Committee
 4. Faculty grievance support/conflict resolution group
 - Minor time commitment, open to non-Senators
 - Doesn't count as required Standing Committee

Council on Academic Freedom and Responsibility

- SB 18 restricting tenure
- SB 17 outlawing DEI
 - Shared with Education Policy Committee
- Forthcoming legislative changes impacting higher ed
 - Abbott charged TX legislature
- 1st amendment issues and challenges

Education Policy Committee

- Share effort related to SB17, especially with how it impacts available coursework, degree programs, student research and training opportunities, and student success broadly.
- Micro-credentialing
- Liaise with Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight Committee and others related to AI use by students, for teaching, in classrooms, etc.

Faculty Welfare Committee

- Wellness broadly (including burnout)
- New charge and focal area: Family Affairs
- Sarah has shared a survey instrument we can use for general/academic faculty burnout

Faculty Rules and Governance Committee

- Revise constitution, especially related to voting
- Lead/help development of policy priorities
 - Workload
 - Grievance
 - Dept reorganization
 - Financial exigency

Research Policy Committee

- Primary charge: identify barriers to faculty research and strategies to remove or overcome those barriers
- Continue ongoing work from last year

Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight Committee

- Rollout of new online learning platform
- Liaise with Education Policy Committee and others related to AI use by students, for teaching, in classrooms, etc.

Faculty Salaries & Resources Committee

- Access, query CUPA data
- Push for market analysis and adjustment
- Continue work for last year

Faculty Peer Conflict Resolution Group

- Discussed on Senate floor
- Details developed by FSEC
- Presentation at FS Meeting