

Blinn College Faculty Senate Constitution

Approved by Faculty Senate 8/25/09

PREAMBLE

In order to provide a forum through which the teaching faculty of Blinn College may engage in the constructive exchange of ideas regarding academic policies and other matters of professional concern, we the members of the Blinn College faculty adopt this constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The organization described herein shall be called the Faculty Senate of Blinn College and shall be referred to as the Senate in the remainder of this document.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Senate shall be to provide a forum for discussion of academic policies; to formulate recommendations relative to academic policies and, at the appropriate time, to communicate such recommendations to the Administrative Council; to consider non-academic policies and other matters that are important to the success of Blinn College; to provide a channel of reciprocal communication between the Senate members and the policy-making bodies of Blinn College.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Senate shall consist of full-time faculty, adjunct faculty, part-time faculty and librarians. Members of the Council of Division Chairs are not eligible for membership.

Division Senators

To insure equal representation, there shall be one Senator from each division per campus. The Senator will be chosen each spring semester by a vote of the Senate members of that division. The current Division Senator shall organize the election and report the result to the Senate President. In the event that the current Division Senator fails to perform these duties, a committee of at least two faculty members from that division may form an election committee, with the approval of the Senate President, to select a representative. The new Division Senator shall assume the position on the first day of June.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 01: The officers shall consist of a President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. On odd-numbered years the President-Elect shall be nominated from the Brazos County campus membership. On even-numbered years the President-Elect shall come from the Brenham, Sealy or Schulenburg campus membership. The Secretary and Parliamentarian shall be elected at large.

Section 02: A slate of officers shall be presented by a Nominating Committee at the regular January meeting of the Senate.

Section 03: In addition to nominations submitted by the Nominating Committee, nominations may be made from the floor.

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Section 04: Election of officers for the following year shall be conducted during the regular January meeting; election shall require a simple majority vote by the members present.

Section 05: All officers shall serve for a term of one year, said term to commence on the first day of June after the January election.

Section 06: In the event of the death or resignation of an officer, the Division Senators shall replace the officer by majority vote. The new officer shall be from the same campus as the officer being replaced.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 01: It shall be the duty of the President:

1. To preside at all meetings of the Senate.
2. To appoint standing committees as designated in this constitution.
3. To appoint ad hoc committees to deal with matters of academic policy and any other special committees as directed composed of representation from each campus.
4. To approve all official communications sent out in the name of the Senate.
5. To attend meetings of the Administrative Council of Blinn College as a voting member of said body.
6. To present recommendations to the Administrative Council on behalf of the Faculty Senate, to communicate actions of the Administrative Council to members of the Faculty Senate and vice versa.
7. To represent the Senate at meetings of the College's Board of Trustees.

Section 02: It shall be the duty of the President-Elect, in absence of the President:

1. To conduct all meetings of the Senate and to assume all other duties and functions of the President.
2. To attend meetings of the Administration Council of Blinn College as a voting member of said body.
3. To assume the office of President the following year.

Section 03: It shall be the duty of the Secretary:

1. To record the minutes of proceedings of all meetings of the Senate.
2. To conduct all correspondence of the Senate as directed by the Senate President.
3. To attend meetings of the Administrative Council of the College as a voting member of said body in the event that the President or President-Elect of the Senate is unable to attend such meetings.

Section 04: It shall be the duty of the Parliamentarian:

1. To ensure that a copy of the currently adopted rules of order are available to all newly elected officers.
2. To ensure that a copy of the currently adopted rules of order are available at each meeting of the Senate.

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3. To advise the President and members on all questions of parliamentary procedure which arise during meetings.
4. To assist the President in maintaining order during meetings.
5. To attend meetings of the Administrative Council of Blinn College as a voting member, in the event that one of the two Faculty Senate positions would be vacant due to the absence of the President, President-Elect, and/or the Secretary.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 01: Regular meetings of the Senate shall be held in August and January.

Section 02: Additional meetings necessary to conduct the prescribed business of the Senate shall be called at the discretion of the President or in response to a petition signed by more than twenty percent of the current list of membership of the Senate.

Section 03: Members present at each meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 01: The Senate shall have four standing committees.

Section 02: The Nominating Committee, consisting of three members, shall present a slate of officers at the regular January meeting of the Senate.

Section 03: The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary and Parliamentarian of the Senate.

Section 04: Members of the Advisory Committee, which consists of the four officers of the Senate, a member of each of the divisions of the College not represented by the officers, and the immediate Past-President, shall serve as divisional representatives and shall assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling the purposes of the Senate.

Section 05: The Faculty Appeals Committee shall be full-time faculty members [as defined in policy DMAB (LOCAL)] who have completed seven or more years of teaching experience with the College District. Ten such members shall be elected or appointed by the Senate to a panel from which three shall be selected on a rotating basis to hear any appeal. Further details about the appeals process can be found in the Board Policy Manual, Section DMAA (LOCAL).

ARTICLE VIII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and any special rules of order the Senate may adopt will apply.

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ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

A proposed amendment to this document must be submitted to the members of the Senate in writing no later than two weeks prior to a regular meeting of the Senate, such publicity being the responsibility of the officers of the Senate. The ratification of a proposed amendment requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members present at the meeting. [Any and all amendments to this constitution are subject to the approval of the College President.]

ARTICLE X: ADOPTION

This constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present at the meeting.