



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Compliance with Texas Senate Bill 37

Faculty Governance Restructuring: Transition from the Faculty Senate to the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC)



SB 37 Effective Date: September 1, 2025



Based on the 89th Texas Legislature

This briefing outlines the legislative requirement, the steps Texas Southern University has taken to come into compliance, and the structure of the body now carrying faculty advisory governance forward.

Action Steps Taken Under SB 37 Requirements

The Faculty Senate is no longer an active governance body at Texas Southern University, in accordance with state law.



Legal Basis

- Governing boards hold sole authority to establish, restructure, or dissolve faculty senates.
- Faculty governance bodies are defined strictly as advisory, with no final authority over curriculum, hiring, or policy.
- Officers of any retained body must be appointed by institutional leadership rather than elected.
- Law took effect statewide on September 1, 2025.



Deactivated the Faculty Senate

Texas Southern University formally ended the Faculty Senate's active governance role, consistent with SB 37's requirements.

- ✓ The Faculty Senate Office & Meeting Space has been vacated.
- ✓ The Faculty Senate Email and Phone Number has been deactivated.
- ✓ A letter from the Office of the Provost was issued to all faculty notifying all faculty of the change which went into effect on September 1, 2025.



Establishment of a Faculty Advisory Council (FAC)

- ✓ The governing board may establish a new body to carry forward faculty input within the Senate Bill 37 advisory-only framework.
- ✓ Following Board of Regent's "adoption of policy governing the election of the members", this body will be established by September 10, 2026.



Built Cross-School Representation

- ✓ Membership will be structured to ensure every school and college has a voice on the Council.
- ✓ One tenured faculty member representative shall "be elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective college or school".
- ✓ One tenured faculty representative from each college/school will be appointed by the President.

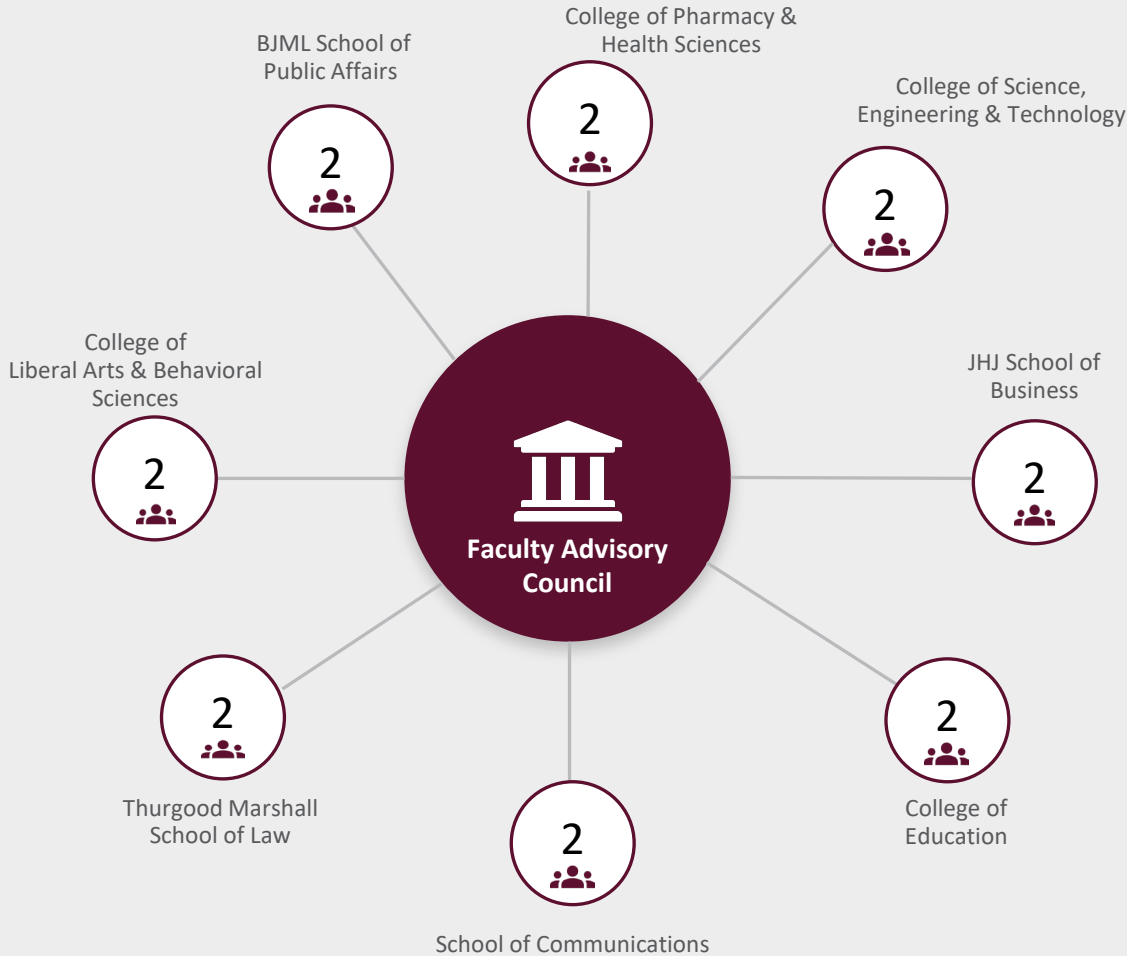


Aligned Leadership Selection with the Statute

- ✓ The Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) shall be selected from the membership by the President of Texas Southern University, J.W. Crawford III, "with the advice and consent of the governing board".

The Faculty Advisory Council

Cross-school/college representation, with leadership appointed by the President



Leadership Selected by the President

Per SB 37, the President appoints the Council's presiding officers.



Presiding Officer: Council Chair (1)

Presides over Council meetings and represents faculty input to the President.



Associate Presiding Officer: Council Vice Chair (1)

Supports the Chair and assumes duties in the Chair's absence.



Secretary (1)

Maintains official records, minutes, and Council communications.

The Faculty Advisory Council Peer Institution Comparison

University of Houston – Central	PVAMU (Faculty Advisory Council)	Texas A&M (Faculty Advisory)	Sam Houston State (Faculty Senate)
58 members (including officers) • 41 elected • 17 appointed 1-2 year terms	37 members (including officers) • 28 elected • 9 appointed 1-2 year terms	60 members (including officers) • 43 elected • 17 appointed • 1-2 year terms (½ of elected seats are 1-year, ½ are 2-year) • Cannot serve consecutive terms	29 Members (including officers) • 17 elected • 12 appointed • Terms range from 6-18 months • Presidential appointments are noted as renewable
Four committees • Curriculum • Executive • Faculty Affairs • Research & Scholarship	Minutes reference committee assignments, no committee information found.	No committee information posted	Four standing committees • Academic Affairs • University Affairs • Faculty Affairs • Committee on Committees and Surveys

The Faculty Advisory Council [Pros & Cons]

Pros of Establishing a Faculty Advisory Council	Cons of Establishing a Faculty Advisory Council)
✔ conveys BOR values faculty presence, contributions, and voice ✔ provides formal space for faculty voice (such as Staff Council) ✔ allows BOR to hear directly from faculty body ✔ current law provides structure on composition and advisory capacity	✗ Slows institutional decision-making by adding another layer of review and consultation for academic and administrative matters. ✗ Can become unrepresentative or ineffective if membership does not reflect the broader faculty or if recommendations carry little practical influence.