**SRSU Faculty Assembly Constitution**

**Updated for SB 37 Compliance – Effective September 1, 2025**

**ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE**

**NAME.** This organization shall be known as the Faculty Assembly of Sul Ross State University.

**PURPOSE.** The purpose of the Faculty Assembly shall be to enhance communication within the University community, strengthen the faculty's commitment to the academic mission of the University, provide a forum for the discussion of university policy, and to promote academic freedom and the faculty's role in shared governance of the University.

**The Faculty Assembly shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not have final decision-making authority on any matter (Sec. 51.3522(c)).**

**This Faculty Assembly is established under and ratified by the governing board of Sul Ross State University in accordance with SB 37.**

**ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS**

**MEMBERSHIP.** **All members must be faculty members (full time and part time). No non-faculty or administrator (deans and above) may serve as a voting member (Sec. 51.3522(b)(2)).**

**The Faculty Assembly shall consist of no more than 60 voting members. Each college or school of the institution shall have at least two full-time faculty representatives: one appointed by the university president and one elected by faculty from that respective college or school. The assembly will also include two at large part-time faculty representatives, one elected and one appointed by the president. (Sec. 51.3522(b)(3)).** At the end of the spring semester each year, all faculty will be polled for interest in serving as representatives. The Faculty Assembly EC will then generate a list of voting members for remaining spots on the assembly.

**Faculty Membership List.** The Secretary of the Faculty Assembly shall maintain the official Faculty Membership List. This list shall be submitted to the Faculty Assembly for approval at the first Faculty Assembly meeting of each semester.

**Terms.**

**Elected members shall serve staggered two-year terms and may not be re-elected until two years after their last term ends. Appointed members shall serve one-year terms and may serve up to six consecutive terms, with a two-year break before reappointment (Sec. 51.3522(e)).**

**Removal.**

**Members may be removed for failing to perform duties, failing to attend meetings, or other misconduct. Removals require recommendation from the Provost and approval by the President (Sec. 51.3522(f)).** Prior to removal, the member in question must be provided with a reason for removal, as well as an opportunity to present his/her case for maintaining membership to the members of the Faculty Assembly EC. The Faculty Assembly EC will provide their recommendation to the Provost.

**MEETINGS.** The Faculty Assembly shall meet monthly during the fall and spring terms. The Executive Council of the Faculty Assembly may cancel a monthly meeting if there is insufficient business.

**Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called by the President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Faculty Assembly Executive Council, or by petition signed by twenty percent (20%) of the Faculty Assembly and presented to the Secretary of the Faculty Assembly.

**Quorum.**

**The Faculty Assembly shall define and adopt its own quorum rules (Sec. 51.3522(l)). Once quorum is established for a meeting, it shall be assumed to remain unless challenged.**

SRSU Faculty Assembly. Thirty percent 67%) of the membership shall constitute a quorum at all Faculty Assembly meetings.

**Transparency and Access.**

**All Faculty Assembly meetings must be open to the public and conducted in accordance with procedures prescribed by the President. If more than 50% of members are present, meetings must be broadcast with live video and audio over the internet (Sec. 51.3522(k)).**

**A record of the names of members in attendance shall be kept for any votes related to curriculum, academic standards, or votes of no confidence (Sec. 51.3522(n)).**

**Agenda.** The Faculty Assembly Executive Council shall set the agenda for all Faculty Assembly meetings. Faculty members may place business on the agenda by contacting any member of the Faculty Assembly Executive Council. **The agenda and any curriculum proposals must be posted publicly on the university’s website at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting (Sec. 51.3522(m)).**

**Voting.** Votes may be taken by ballot, voice, show of hands, or electronic vote. Absentee votes may be filed with the Secretary before the meeting. All ballots must be saved until after the next regular meeting.

**Resolutions.** Resolutions or declarations of faculty assembly based on less than a majority of the organization’s eligible membership shall not be considered by the Component or System. (TSUS Rules and Regulations Chapter II Section 1.3)

**Parliamentary Procedure.** All meetings of this organization shall follow parliamentary procedure in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless specified otherwise in this Constitution and Bylaws.

**ARTICLE III: OFFICERS**

**OFFICERS.**

**In accordance with SB 37, the President of the University shall appoint a Presiding Officer, Associate Presiding Officer, and Secretary from the existing Faculty Assembly membership (Sec. 51.3522(g)).**

**Duties.**

- **Presiding Officer (President):** Shall preside over meetings and serve as the official representative in communications with administration (Sec. 51.3522(h)).

- **Associate Presiding Officer (Vice President) and Secretary:** Shall assist in organizing meetings, maintaining records, and ensuring public transparency and compliance with SB 37.

- **At-large Faculty Representatives:** Represent each college

**ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS**

**Permanent Councils.** The Faculty Assembly shall establish and maintain any permanent councils necessary to advise the University administration on matters relating to the academic mission of the University.

**Special Committees.** The Presiding Officer may appoint special committees to carry out specified tasks when necessary.

**University Committees.** Faculty members shall serve on selected University Committees. Names will be forwarded to the President or appropriate committee representative. Faculty representatives shall report to the Faculty Assembly at regular meetings.

**Council Membership and Election Procedures.** The Faculty Assembly shall determine and elect the faculty members to each Council unless otherwise prescribed. Council terms are for three years and staggered. Elections shall occur at the first Faculty Assembly meeting of the fall semester, with slates proposed by the Executive Council based on faculty preferences.

**Council Officers.** Each Council shall elect a Chairperson and Secretary. Officers serve one-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

**Student Representation.** The Faculty Assembly may request student representation on certain councils and notify the Student Senate to appoint those representatives.

**Council Procedures.** Councils meet as needed. A majority constitutes a quorum. Councils may adopt rules consistent with university policy.

**Reports.** Each Council and faculty representative on University Committees shall report to the Faculty Assembly at regular meetings. Written reports must be submitted to the Secretary. The Faculty Assembly may approve, amend, reject, or refer recommendations.

**ARTICLE V: POWERS, LIMITS, AND AMENDMENTS**

**Role and Powers.**

**The Faculty Assembly functions as an advisory body only. It may advise administration and system leaders on academic and institutional matters but may not exercise decision-making authority (Sec. 51.3522(c)).**

**Use of Resources.**

**The Faculty Assembly may not use the university seal, trademarks, or official resources to issue public reports on non-advisory matters (Sec. 51.3522(c)).**

**Shared Governance.**

**Shared governance shall involve structured consultation between faculty, administrators, and the governing board, but shall not override institutional or governing board authority (Sec. 51.3523).**

**Service and Compensation.**

**Service on the Faculty Assembly and its councils is an additional duty of the faculty member’s employment. Faculty Assembly members are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses for their role as members of the faculty Assembly unless expenses are incurred on behalf of and approved by the institution (Sec. 51.3522(d)).**

**Amendments.** A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Faculty Assembly is required to approve an amendment to this Constitution. Any change to the Bylaws requires a majority vote of those casting ballots.

**Notwithstanding the foregoing, if changes to this Constitution or Bylaws are required by state law, those specific changes may be approved by the existing Faculty Assembly EC without a vote of the Faculty Assembly, provided that no additional modifications beyond the scope of legal compliance are made.**