

ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES

The University of Texas System Employee Advisory Council

Adopted March 25, 2004

Article I: Identification

Section A: Name and Nature.

The name of this organization is The University of Texas System Employee Advisory Council (hereinafter "EAC"). It is created pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System (hereinafter "U. T. System"). It is advisory in nature and intended to be representative of staff of the component institutions of U. T. System and System Administration.

Section B: Purpose and Function.

Members of the staff of U. T. System make a vital contribution toward the fulfillment of the mission of U. T. System. The U. T. System Board of Regents established the EAC in August 2000 to provide a vehicle for communication and to facilitate the flow of ideas and information between staff, the Board of Regents, the component institutions and Executive Officers of U. T. System Administration. The EAC functions to define, analyze, and make recommendations on employee issues to the appropriate body.

Section C: Definition of Staff.

For the purposes of these Organizational Guidelines (hereinafter "guidelines") "staff" shall be defined as all full-time, part-time, non-faculty, benefits eligible employees who are in good standing and have been employed with U. T. System for at least one full year.

Article II: Membership

Section A: Eligibility.

All U. T. System staff, as defined in Article I, Section C, shall be eligible for election or appointment to the EAC.

Section B: Election/Appointment.

Each U. T. System component institution and System Administration (hereinafter "institutions") will select two representatives and one alternate to the EAC. The means for selecting the representatives and alternate will be established by each institution. Selection of new representatives shall be completed no later than July 31 of each fiscal year. The names of the representatives must be certified by the respective institution's president and forwarded to the Chancellor. In selecting the representatives, the institutions shall strive to maintain continuity of membership and to assure broad staff input.

Section C: Terms of Office.

The institution representatives and alternates serve as members of the EAC for three-year terms. The alternate may attend meetings in the event that one of the representatives is unable to do so. Representatives and alternates are permitted to serve their full terms on the EAC so long as they remain employees of their respective institutions. The term of membership coincides with U. T. System fiscal year - September 1 to August 31. New representatives and alternates will begin service with the first meeting of the academic year.

Section D: Vacancies.

If a representative resigns during the term of membership, the alternate becomes the voting member of the EAC and a new alternate must be selected. If an alternate resigns, a new alternate must be selected. Any new alternate must be selected within 30 days of the resignation creating the vacancy. The President of the institution will notify the Chancellor of the changes.

Section E: Failure to Attend Meetings.

Any member who misses two consecutive regularly scheduled council meetings will be contacted by the EAC Executive Committee to discuss the member's willingness to continue to serve on the council. Additional absences will be reported to the individual at the institution responsible for appointing EAC representatives.

Section F: Duties.

The duties of a representative are:

1. To attend all meetings.
2. If unable to attend, a representative must provide an alternate with adequate notice to enable the alternate to attend in the representative's place.
3. To solicit and communicate to staff concerns at the representative's respective institution.
4. To vote on motions made in EAC meetings.
5. To promptly communicate the issues discussed and actions taken at every EAC meeting to all staff at the representative's institution component representative's. This information must be conveyed through appropriate means such as meetings, newspapers, or newsletters.
6. To keep the institution's alternate informed of EAC actions and issues.
7. To serve on a committee, but may not serve on more than one committee at a time.

Section G: Members.

For purposes of these guidelines, "members" shall mean all representatives who are attending a meeting of the EAC or a committee and all alternates attending a meeting in place of a representative.

Article III: Organization

Section A: Mode of Operation

1. The EAC will conduct its business through committees, in which issues shall be deliberated and recommendations developed. Committees include the Executive Committee and appointed Ad hoc committees.
2. Each committee will adopt rules of proceeding providing for the manner of calling committee meetings, quorum requirements and the methods of conducting meetings as well as other procedures as required. Each committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings and shall report to the Executive Committee and the EAC when required.
3. Roberts' Rules of Order shall serve as the standard of conduct of EAC meetings on matters not covered by the EAC Organizational Guidelines.

Section B: U. T. System Liaison

1. The Vice Chancellor for Administration or his or her designee shall serve as the U. T. System Liaison to the EAC.
2. Once a designee has been appointed, that individual shall remain the U. T. System Liaison to the EAC until the designation is rescinded by the Vice Chancellor for Administration or another individual is designated as the U. T. System Liaison by the Vice Chancellor for Administration.
3. In addition to any other duty imposed elsewhere by these guidelines, the U. T. System Liaison shall be responsible for presenting the recommendations and requests of the EAC to the appropriate body or individual for a response in accordance with these guidelines and for all responses and requests back to the EAC. The U. T. System Liaison may also advise the EAC on System policies and issues that may have an impact on an issue under consideration by the EAC. The U. T. System Liaison has oversight over the EAC budget.

Section C: Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee is composed of the EAC Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Historian (collectively referred to as "officers"), as well as the chairs of each of the committees.
2. The Executive Committee sets the agenda for EAC meetings, recommends changes in the EAC Organizational Guidelines or procedures, as needed, and provides overall and general guidance and direction for the EAC.
3. The Executive Committee serves as an informational resource and sounding board for the Chancellor on issues of importance to U. T. System employees.
4. The Chair or Executive Committee may meet with the Chancellor to discuss issues of importance or concern.

Section D: Ad Hoc Committees.

Ad hoc committees may be appointed to assist the EAC with its work. Ad hoc committees may include institution officers or employees who are not EAC representatives. Ad hoc committee organization and constituency should be determined by the nature of the task. The following guidelines should be observed:

1. The EAC Chair makes appointments of ad hoc committee chairs. The chair of the ad hoc committee shall be a current EAC representative.

2. The ad hoc chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee and with input from the EAC, may select the membership of their respective ad hoc committee.
3. The EAC members will ratify the creation and membership of all ad hoc committees.
4. Ad hoc committees must submit written reports to the EAC at least annually for the duration of their existence
5. The Executive Committee should no less than annually review the operation and effectiveness of the EAC's ad hoc committees and consider alternatives for drawing on outside expertise.
6. The ad hoc committee shall conduct fact-finding, background exploration, analysis, and deliberation on issues and develop recommendations and/or action plans for review by the EAC.

Section E: Meetings.

1. The EAC meets in regular session three times each year on two consecutive weekdays. The exact times and location are to be determined jointly by the EAC Chair with approval of the Executive Committee and the U. T. System Liaison.
2. Special meetings of the EAC may be called at any time, with the prior approval of the U. T. System Liaison, by the Chair or by the Executive Committee pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee. Any such call must specify the matter(s) to be acted on at the special meeting and only such matter(s) may be acted on at the special meeting.
3. Notice of EAC meetings shall be sent to the membership by mail or email to each representative at least 30 days before each meeting. The notice shall state the time, place and location of and the agenda for the meeting. A quorum must be present for a meeting of the EAC to convene and conduct business.
4. EAC meetings are open to visitors unless a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the representatives or their alternates present vote to close the meeting or a portion of the meeting.

Section F: Quorum.

For purposes of these guidelines, a quorum exists if the number of members present exceeds one half of the total number of representatives eligible to serve on the EAC.

Section G: Voting.

1. Each EAC representative or alternate attending for an absent representative, is permitted to cast one vote on each motion, amendment, ballot, or other question raised for consideration. Members may vote via other means (e.g. telephone or internet) if deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.
2. Officers may vote, except that the Chair may vote at an EAC meeting only in case of a tie vote on a motion, amendment or ballot.
3. Unless otherwise specified in these guidelines, a simple majority of the votes cast shall carry a vote.

Section H: Organizational Guideline Amendments

1. Proposed amendments to the guidelines should be provided to the membership in writing, which includes email, at least thirty (30) days before the EAC meeting at which the vote on the amendments are to be taken. In cases where at least thirty (30) days advance written

notice is given, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present is required for passage of the amendment(s).

2. Proposed amendments to the guidelines also may be adopted, with less than thirty (30) days advance written notice the membership, by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the members present.
3. Amendments are effective upon the date of adoption by the EAC.

Section I: EAC Recommendations.

Recommendations to U. T. System Administration and to the Board of Regents must include the following:

1. A clear definition of the issue that is the subject of the recommendation.
2. Proposed actions for the resolution of the issue. The tone and substance of the recommendations should be in keeping with the purpose of the council as defined in Article I, Section B of these Guidelines.
3. All recommendations must be submitted in writing and have majority approval of the EAC.

Section J: Records.

All EAC historical records will be maintained on the U. T. System document repository.

Article IV: Officers

Section A: Titles.

Officers of the EAC include the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Historian.

Section B: Nominations

1. The Executive Committee serves as a Nominations Committee to develop a slate of candidates for the position of Chair.
2. Only representatives to the EAC may run for the position of Chair of the EAC.
3. Eligible representatives who wish to seek the office of Chair, or who wish to nominate another representative for Chair, should so notify the Nominations Committee at least thirty days before the EAC meeting in which the election is to be held.
4. The Nominating Committee should notify the membership of the candidates for the position of the EAC Chair and provide their biographical information, interests, and qualifications before the EAC meeting in which the election is to be held.
5. Nominations for Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Historian are made from the floor.

Section C: Elections

1. Officers are to be elected for one-year terms at elections held at the last regular meeting of the academic year. Each officer shall serve until his or her successor is elected. Officers are permitted to serve their full terms of office on the condition that they remain active employees of their respective institutions.
2. At any EAC meeting at which an election for the position of Chair is held, each announced candidate for the position of Chair shall have the opportunity to address the membership in open meeting to present his or her qualifications for the position.

3. Nominations for the position of Chair may also be made from the floor by any member of the EAC, and each nominee candidate so nominated shall have the opportunity to address the membership in open meeting to present his or her qualifications for the position.
4. Once the Chair has declared the nominations closed, the election for Chair is conducted by secret ballot. The Nominations Committee members and the U. T. System Administrative Liaison tally the ballots, and the Chair announces the results. A simple majority of the votes of the members present and voting is required to elect the Chair.
5. If no candidate receives a simple majority of votes in the first round of balloting, a run-off election shall be held among the smallest number of candidates who cumulatively received a simple majority of the total votes. Balloting will continue in this manner until one candidate receives a simple majority of the total votes cast.
6. Procedures for balloting for the election of Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Historian are the same as those for balloting for the election of Chair.
7. The incoming Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Historian assume their offices at the conclusion of the meeting at which they are elected.

Section D: Duties of Officers

1. The duties of the Chair include convening and conducting EAC meetings and meetings of the EAC Executive Committee; enforcing the EAC Organizational Guidelines and established operational procedures; communicating with the Chancellor, Board of Regents, and the U. T. System Administrative Liaison; annually appearing before the Board of Regents to report on the activities of the EAC; and, receiving and communicating to the EAC membership nominations for the office.
2. The Vice-Chair serves in the absence of the Chair and replaces the Chair in the case of the Chair's resignation. The Vice-Chair serves as parliamentarian for EAC meetings and monitors the EAC budget.
3. The Secretary gives notice of all EAC and Executive Committee meetings and takes, prepares, and distributes minutes of the EAC meetings and Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary collects, receives, and maintains at a central location, minutes of EAC meetings, minutes of committee meetings, and annual reports; serves as Secretary for the Executive Committee; and keeps minutes of the Executive Committee's meetings.
4. The Historian keeps accurate records of the history of the EAC by: a) cataloging all issues, past and present, that come before the EAC as a whole, or in committee, and b) being available to brief committees on issues that have come before the EAC in the past.

Section E: Removal of Officers.

An officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the EAC in a regular or special meeting. An officer who is removed will be permitted to continue as an EAC member for the remainder of his or her term.

Section F: Vacancies.

Should the Chair resign or become unable to serve due to termination of employment, removal, death or other cause, the Vice Chair assumes the responsibilities and title of Chair for the remainder of the unexpired term. Should the Vice-Chair, the Secretary, or the Historian resign or become unable to serve due to termination of employment, removal, death, or other cause, a special election will be held at the next EAC meeting to fill the vacancy, with nominations being accepted from the floor. Elections shall proceed as set forth above in Section C of this Article. No officer may be elected to serve more than two consecutive one-year terms.

Revisions

Guideline revisions were proposed, voted and approved by the required 3/4 majority vote of the Employee Advisory Council on March 25, 2004. Additional guideline revisions were proposed, voted and approved by the required 3/4 majority vote of the Employee Advisory Council on July 28, 2005. Subsequent revisions to these guidelines were approved at the July 28, 2006 meeting.