

College of the Mainland

FACULTY SENATE

BYLAWS

Exhibit to BGC (Regulation) – Administrative Organization: Faculty Senate
Adopted in compliance with Texas Senate Bill 37 (89th Legislature, 2025)
Texas Education Code §§51.3522–51.3523

Adopted by the College President on effective date of

10/12/2026

PREAMBLE

These Bylaws govern the organization and procedures of the Faculty Senate of College of the Mainland (“the College”). They are adopted as an exhibit to BGC (Regulation) – Administrative Organization: Faculty Senate and shall be read together with that regulation. In the event of any conflict between these Bylaws and BGC (Regulation) or other College policy, the regulation and College policy controls. In the event of any conflict with applicable Texas law, state law controls. Any procedure not covered under these bylaws, regulations, or state law, will be controlled by the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order. The Faculty Senate exists to give faculty a meaningful advisory voice in the academic life at College of the Mainland. These Bylaws are written to comply fully with Texas Senate Bill 37 and the Texas Education Code (TEC) while preserving every faculty right and governance protection the law permits. Nothing in these Bylaws is intended to surrender any faculty authority beyond what SB 37 and the TEC explicitly requires.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name

This body shall be known as the College of the Mainland Faculty Senate (“the Senate”).

Section 2. Purpose

The Senate serves as the advisory body of the faculty to the College President on matters related to but not limited to:

- Curriculum development, review, and academic program quality
- Faculty welfare, professional development, and working conditions
- Institutional planning and budgetary priorities as they affect instruction
- Coordinate and prepare revisions of the faculty handbook

Section 3. Advisory Nature

The Senate is advisory only as required by Tex. Educ. Code §51.3522(c). It shall not exercise final decision-making authority on any matter, shall not act on behalf of the institution, shall not approve personnel actions, and shall not conduct investigations. All Senate recommendations are subject to review and final determination by the College President or Designee.

Section 4. Reporting

The Senate shall report to the College President, unless the Board of Trustees directs otherwise.

ARTICLE II: DEFINITIONS

Section 1. Defined Terms

As used in these Bylaws, the following terms have the meanings set forth below. Terms defined in BGC (Regulation) and not defined here shall have the meanings given in that regulation.

Academic Department. One of the instructional departments of College of the Mainland as listed in Article IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws and as defined in BGC (Regulation).

Advisory. Consultative and recommendatory in nature only, with no binding legal effect and no decision-making authority, as required by Tex. Educ. Code §51.3522(c).

Associate Presiding Officer (Senate Vice President). The officer appointed by the College President to serve as second-in-command of the Senate. Presides in the absence of the Presiding Officer. See Article IX, Section 5.

Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees of College of the Mainland, the sole governing board authorized to establish or authorize the Faculty Senate under §51.3522(b).

Business Days. Monday through Friday, excluding official College holidays and days on which the College is closed.

Calendar Days. All days including weekends and holidays.

College. College of the Mainland.

College President. The President of College of the Mainland, or the President's designee where expressly authorized.

Faculty-Elected Senator. A senator elected by the full-time faculty of an academic department under Article VII.

Fall Convocation. The official faculty convocation held at the beginning of the fall semester each academic year. Senate terms begin and end on the first day of Fall Convocation.

Full-Time Faculty. A faculty member holding a full-time instructional appointment at College of the Mainland. References to "faculty" in these Bylaws mean full-time faculty unless otherwise stated.

Presiding Officer (Senate President). The officer appointed by the College President to chair and preside over all Senate meetings. Responsible for conducting meetings in accordance with these Bylaws, facilitating discussion, and serving as primary liaison between the Senate and the College President. Does not vote except to break a tie. See Article IX, Section 4.

Presidential Appointee. A senator appointed by the College President to represent an academic department. See and Article VI.

Quorum. A simple majority (more than half) of current voting senators. See Article X, Section 6.

Recorder (Secretary). The officer appointed by the College President to serve as chief recording officer of the Senate. See Article IX, Section 6.

Senator. A member of the Faculty Senate, whether a Presidential Appointee or a Faculty-Elected Senator.

Working Days. Used interchangeably with Business Days: Monday through Friday, excluding official College holidays.

ARTICLE III: AUTHORIZATION AND GOVERNING LAW

Section 1. Board Authorization

The Faculty Senate is established solely by authority of the Board of Trustees of College of the Mainland. The Senate exists at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees and may be restructured, suspended, or dissolved by Board action.

Section 2. Governing Documents

These Bylaws are governed by and interpreted consistently with:

- Texas Education Code, Chapter 51, §§51.3522–51.3523 (SB 37, 89th Legislature, 2025)
- BGC (Regulation) – Administrative Organization: Faculty Senate
- Policies adopted by the Board of Trustees of College of the Mainland
- Rules and regulations of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Composition

The Faculty Senate shall be composed of two (2) representatives from each academic department: one (1) Presidential Appointee and one (1) Faculty-Elected Senator.

Section 2. Academic Departments

The academic departments for purposes of Senate representation are: Business and Public Service Careers, Fine Arts, Health Professions (including Dental Hygiene, Radiologic Technology, and Surgical Technology), Human Services Careers, Humanities, Industrial Technology, Math & Computer Science, Nursing, Science & Engineering, and Social & Behavioral Science.

Public Service Careers shall be combined with Business for representation purposes until both departments have sufficient faculty to provide two senators serving non-consecutive terms.

Section 3. Eligibility

To be eligible to serve as a senator, a faculty member must:

- Hold a current full-time faculty appointment at the College
- Be in good standing with no active disciplinary proceedings
- Commit to attending all scheduled Senate meetings and fulfilling the responsibilities of the position

Faculty members serving as department chairs are not eligible to serve as senators or officers of the Faculty Senate.

ARTICLE V: FACULTY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Rights of All Full-Time Faculty Members

All full-time faculty members of College of the Mainland shall have the right and responsibility to:

- Participate in the nomination and voting process for the Faculty-Elected Senator from their department.
- Receive the agenda of each Senate meeting at least seven (7) calendar days before the meeting, consistent with Tex. Educ. Code §51.3522(m).
- Access approved minutes of Senate meetings after they are approved and publicly posted.

- Communicate ideas, concerns, and opinions to their department's senators and to Senate officers on issues of concern to the faculty.
- Propose items for the Senate agenda through their department's senator, in accordance with Article X, Section 8.
- Speak at Senate meetings on agenda items when a discussion item is opened, subject to the procedures in Article X, Section 9.
- Serve on standing and ad hoc committees of the Senate as appointed.

Section 2. Responsibilities of Senators

Every senator shall have the right and responsibility to:

- Attend all regular and special meetings.
- Participate in discussion and debate on all matters before the Senate.
- Vote on motions put before the Senate, except as restricted by Article X, Section 11.
- Make informed decisions in light of what is best for the faculty and the College as a whole.
- Report all Senate business to their departmental constituents and serve as liaison between their department and the Senate.
- Serve on Senate committees as assigned by the Senate President.

Section 3. Conflict of Interest

A senator who has a personal or financial interest in a matter before the Senate shall disclose that interest to the Senate President before discussion begins. The Senate President shall determine whether the senator should be recused from discussion and voting on that matter. A senator who is uncertain whether a conflict exists should err on the side of disclosure. A recused senator shall not be counted as part of the quorum for the vote on that matter.

ARTICLE VI: PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

Section 1. Nomination and Appointment

On or before April 1 of each year, the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) office shall notify each department chair if the Presidential Appointee for their department needs to be replaced. The department chair shall provide the VPAA office with a list of at least two (2) willing department faculty members. The VPAA office shall forward the list to the College President, who shall appoint one senator per department. Department chairs of Public Service Careers and Business shall work together to ensure appropriate representation of both departments. If at least two faculty in the department are not willing to submit their names for appointment consideration by the College President, that department will not have an appointed senator to represent them.

Section 2. Terms of Service

Presidential Appointees shall serve one-year (1-year) terms for up to six (6) consecutive years, unless not reappointed by the College President, resignation, or removal for cause. After serving six consecutive years, a member may not be reappointed before the second anniversary of the last day of their most recent appointee term.

Section 3. Eligibility for Election

A former Presidential Appointee is eligible to be elected as a Faculty-Elected Senator. Service as a Presidential Appointee does not count toward or reset the break period applicable to elected service.

Section 4. Mid-Term Vacancy

If a Presidential Appointee seat is vacated mid-term for any reason, including resignation or removal for cause, the Senate President shall notify the VPAA office. The College President shall fill the vacancy by appointment, following the nomination process in Section 1 of this Article. The replacement shall serve the remainder of the original term. Time served completing a predecessor's term does not count toward the six-year consecutive service limit.

ARTICLE VII: FACULTY-ELECTED SENATORS

Section 1. Election Process

On or before April 1 of each year, the VPAA office shall notify each department chair if the Faculty-Elected Senator seat for their department needs to be filled. The department chair shall hold an election and provide the name of the elected senator to the VPAA office. Chairs shall solicit volunteers from their department. If only one faculty member volunteers, that person shall be considered to have run unopposed. If more than one volunteers, the department shall select by majority vote. If no faculty in the department are willing to be elected, that department will not have an elected senator to represent them. Department chairs of Public Service Careers and Business shall work together to ensure appropriate representation of both departments.

Section 2. Terms of Service

Faculty-Elected Senators shall serve two-year (2-year) terms, unless they resign or are removed for cause. After serving one term, a Faculty-Elected Senator may not be re-elected before the second anniversary of the last day of their most recent faculty-elected term.

Section 3. Eligibility for Appointment

A former Faculty-Elected Senator is eligible to be appointed as a Presidential Appointee. Service as a Faculty-Elected Senator does not count toward or reset the break period applicable to appointed service.

Section 4. Mid-Term Vacancy

If a Faculty-Elected Senator seat is vacated mid-term for any reason, including resignation or removal for cause, the Senate President shall notify the VPAA office, which will then notify the relevant department chair. The department shall hold an election to fill the vacancy, following the process in Section 1. The replacement shall serve the remainder of the original term. Time served completing a predecessor's term does not count toward the two-year break requirement.

ARTICLE VIII: REMOVAL OF SENATORS

Section 1. Grounds for Removal

A senator may be removed from the Senate for any of the following reasons, including but not limited to:

- Failing to fulfill the responsibilities of Senate membership;
- Failing to regularly attend Senate meetings;
- Engaging in misconduct or conduct inconsistent with College policies, procedures, or the responsibilities of Senate membership; or
- Other circumstances determined by the College President to warrant removal.

Nothing in this section limits the authority of the College President to remove a senator when the President determines that removal is in the best interest of the College or is otherwise appropriate.

Section 2. Removal Process

- When removal is initiated through the Senate, the following process shall apply:
- A written complaint shall be submitted to the Senate President. Within five (5) business days, the Senate President shall appoint and chair a three-person review committee composed of current Senate members. The committee shall review the grounds for removal and provide a written recommendation to the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) within fifteen (15) business days.
- Upon receipt of the committee's recommendation, the VPAA shall review the matter and may submit a recommendation regarding removal to the College President.
- The College President shall have final authority to determine whether a senator is removed. The President is not bound by the recommendation of the Senate review committee or the VPAA.
- If removal is approved, written notice shall be provided to the senator, the VPAA, and the Senate President, as appropriate and consistent with applicable College policies and confidentiality requirements.
- The Senate review process described above does not restrict, condition, or otherwise limit the College President's authority to remove a senator independently of this process. The College President may initiate or take removal action directly when warranted, including in matters involving confidential personnel issues, violations of College policy, legal or compliance concerns, or other circumstances in which the President determines direct action is appropriate. The VPAA may also refer such matters directly to the College President.
- All removal decisions made by the College President are final.

ARTICLE IX: OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Faculty Senate shall be the Senate President (Presiding Officer), the Senate Vice President (Associate Presiding Officer), and the Secretary (Recorder). All officers shall be appointed by the College President from among the current Senate membership.

Section 2. Eligibility Restriction

Faculty members serving as department chairs or in equivalent administrative roles may not serve as officers of the Faculty Senate.

Section 3. Officer Vacancies and Appointment Process

On or before May 1 of each year, the Senate President shall provide the VPAA office with a list of any officer vacancies and a list of senators willing to fill those vacancies. The College President shall appoint officer(s) from the list provided. If no volunteers are identified, the College President shall appoint from among all current senators. Officers serve at the pleasure of the College President.

Section 4. Duties of the Senate President

- Presides over all Senate meetings
- Coordinate annual officer and senator replacement notifications to VPAA office on or before April 1 of each year
- Prepare and post meeting agendas consistent with the requirements of Article X
- Serve as primary liaison between the Senate and the College President
- Ensure compliance with these Bylaws and applicable law
- Meet with the VPAA regularly during the school year to discuss faculty issues
- Submit a monthly report to the Board of Trustees regarding Senate activities, recommendations, and matters of concern to the faculty
- Serve on councils and committees as assigned by the College President
- Shall recruit faculty for the Standing Rank and Promotion Committee

The Senate President does not vote except to break a tie.

Section 5. Duties of the Senate Vice President

The Senate Vice President shall assist the Senate President, preside in the Senate President's absence, and perform such additional duties as assigned by the Senate President or College President.

- Coordinate the work of Senate committees, both standing and ad hoc which are not covered by other college policies.

The Senate Vice President has the same voting privileges as other senators except when presiding, in which case they vote only to break a tie.

Section 6. Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary shall serve as the recording officer of the Faculty Senate and shall:

- Maintain accurate minutes of all Senate meetings, including date and time, and members present, a summary of discussion on each agenda item, the exact wording of all motions, and a record of votes (number voting for, against, and abstaining, not each Senator's vote).
- Provide the VPAA office with approved minutes to be publicly posted within ten (10) working days of approval, consistent with Tex. Educ. Code §51.3522(m).
- Obtain a complete and current membership roll of the Senate and of all full-time faculty from the VPAA office.
- Document senator attendance and proxy designations at each meeting and record absences in the minutes.
- Coordinate with the VPAA office to retain all Senate records for a minimum of seven (7) years on the College's shared drive and Faculty Senate webpage.

The Recorder has the same voting privileges as other senators.

Section 7. Officer Mid-Term Vacancy

If the Senate President role is vacated mid-year for any reason, including resignation or removal for cause, the Senate Vice President shall assume the duties of Senate President on an interim basis immediately and shall notify the VPAA office. The College President shall appoint a permanent replacement, following Section 3.

If the Senate Vice President or Recorder role is vacated mid-year for any reason, including resignation or removal for cause, the Senate President shall notify the VPAA office, who shall inform the College President. The College President shall appoint a replacement following Section 3. The Senate President may designate an interim Recorder to maintain records until a permanent appointment is made.

ARTICLE X: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The Senate shall meet in regular session at least once per long semester (fall and spring) and may hold additional meetings as determined by the Senate President. A meeting schedule shall be published at the beginning of each academic year.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Senate President, the College President, or upon written petition of a majority of senators, or upon written petition of ten percent (10%) of all full-time faculty. The purpose of a special meeting shall be stated in the notice, and only that stated business shall be conducted. Notice shall be provided at least seven (7) calendar days in advance, in accordance with Section 4.

Section 3. Open Meetings

All meetings of the Senate at which a quorum is present shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance with procedures prescribed by the College President. The Senate

shall not conduct closed or executive sessions except as specifically authorized by the College President and applicable law.

Section 4. Public Notice

Notice of each meeting, including the date, time, place, and subject matter, shall be provided at least seven (7) calendar days before the meeting is convened. Notice shall be:

- Posted on the College's official website
- Published in the student newspaper, if applicable, and an issue is published between posting and the time of the meeting
- Distributed to all full-time faculty by email

Section 5. Broadcasting

When a majority of senators are present, the meeting shall be broadcast live video and audio. Broadcasting will be via the College's website at this link: <https://www.com.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate.html> (COM website → Faculty and Staff → Constituent Groups on Campus: Faculty Senate → Meeting Livestream Access).

Section 6. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a majority (more than half) of the current Senate membership. No business requiring a vote may be conducted without a quorum present.

Section 7. Senate President

The Senate President shall preside over all meetings. In the Senate President's absence, the Senate Vice President shall preside. If neither officer is available, no meeting shall be convened, and no business may be conducted.

Section 8. Agenda

The Senate President shall prepare the agenda for each meeting and post it at least seven (7) calendar days before the meeting. An item may be placed on or added to the agenda as follows:

- Any senator or committee chair may submit an item to the Senate President no later than eight (8) calendar days before the meeting (i.e., at least one day before the agenda must be posted).
- A full-time faculty member who is not a senator may submit an item to any senator, who may then submit it to the Senate President following the process above. All faculty submissions must also reach the Senate President no later than eight (8) calendar days before the meeting.
- The College President's office may submit items to the Senate President at any time before the agenda is publicly posted on the College's website.
- The Senate President shall make, resolutions, or other documents available to all full-time faculty by email in advance of the meeting.

Section 9. Participation and Discussion

Senate meetings are open to all full-time faculty members who wish to attend. Other people may attend by invitation or with the permission of the Senate President.

Participation in discussion is governed as follows:

- Senators may open discussions, participate in debates, and speak on any agenda item.
- Full-time faculty members who are not senators may speak on any agenda item when discussion is opened by the Senate President or a senator.
- Members of the public and other guests may not speak unless specifically invited to do so by the Senate President.

The Senate President shall facilitate discussion to ensure all sides of an issue are heard and shall refrain from advancing a personal point of view during discussion.

Section 10. Motions

Only senators may make or second a motion. Faculty members who are not senators and members of the public may not make or second motions, regardless of whether they are permitted to speak during discussion.

Section 11. Voting

Only senators may vote. The officer presiding over the meeting may not vote while presiding, except to cast a deciding vote in the event of a tie. Faculty members who are not senators, members of the public, and other guests may not vote under any circumstances.

Voting shall be by show of hands, except that any voting senator may call for a closed written ballot as a point of order. Motions carried by a simple majority of senators present and eligible to vote, unless these Bylaws or Robert's Rules of Order require a two-thirds vote. The following require a two-third (2/3) vote:

- Report concerns affecting the faculty to the college administration via the VPAA.
- Recommended amendments to these bylaws
- Any situation where Robert's Rules of Order independently require a two-thirds vote

Section 12. Rules of Order

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meeting procedure not otherwise addressed by these Bylaws, state law, Board policy, or procedures prescribed by the College President. Where these Bylaws specify rules of conduct, including those who may preside, speak, make motions, or vote, these Bylaws shall prevail over Robert's Rules.

Section 13. Minutes and Voting Records

The Recorder shall prepare written minutes of all meetings, including a record of attendance, a summary of discussion on each agenda item, the exact wording of all motions or recommendations, and the voting result of each motion (number voting for, against, and abstaining, not each Senator's vote). Where a closed written ballot is called under Section 11, the Recorder shall record the tally. All votes shall be recorded and made public consistent with Tex. Educ. Code §51.3522(n).

Section 14. Attendance

Senators are expected to attend all regular and special meetings. A senator who cannot attend must notify the Recorder in advance. Failure to attend meetings may result in removal under Article VIII.

Section 15. Matters Under Consideration

Concerns affecting faculty must be distributed to all full-time faculty at least seven (7) calendar days before the Senate votes on those changes. Senators shall consult with their departments before voting on any such changes.

Section 16. Records Retention

All Senate records including agendas, approved minutes, voting records, membership rolls, committee reports, broadcasts, and Annual Reports shall be retained for a minimum of seven (7) years, maintained on the College's shared drive and Faculty Senate webpage. The VPAA office is responsible for ensuring records are accessible.

Section 17. Out-of-Order Motions

The Senate President shall rule out of order any motion or resolution that falls outside the Senate's advisory scope as defined in Article I, Section 2, including but not limited to motions involving partisan political advocacy, divestment, or external political affairs. A senator may appeal against a ruling of the Senate President by immediate motion; such appeal shall be decided by majority vote of senators present, without debate. The Senate President's ruling stands unless overturned by that vote.

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

The Senate shall maintain the following standing committees. The Senate Vice President shall organize the election of committees. Committees shall be comprised of full-time faculty in accordance with the COM policies governing the committees. Non-senator full-time faculty members may serve on committees. Committee membership, vacancies, and chairs shall be determined by Senate motion and vote unless the committee membership is governed by COM policy:

- Development Leave Committee, shall function in accordance with DEC (Regulation) and DEC (LEGAL)
- Rank and Promotion Committee, shall function in accordance with DLC (Local)

Additional standing committees may be recommended to the College President by Senate motion and vote. All committee work is advisory only and subject to the requirements of Article XII.

Section 2. Committee Meetings and Records

A quorum for a standing or ad hoc committee shall be a simple majority of its members. All meetings for standing committees originating from the Senate and not governed by other college policies shall be open to all full-time faculty. Full-time faculty who are not committee members may speak on agenda items when discussion is opened. All committees shall report regularly to the full Senate.

Section 3. Ad Hoc Committees

The Senate President may establish ad hoc committees for specific tasks by Senate motion and vote. Following the vote, the proposed committee shall be submitted to the College President, through the VPAA, for approval before the committee is formally established. Ad hoc

committees shall dissolve upon completion of their charge or at the direction of the Senate President. All ad hoc committee meetings are open to all full-time faculty.

ARTICLE XII: RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Section 1. Scope of Recommendations

Senate recommendations shall be limited to matters within the Senate's advisory scope as an academic body. The Senate shall not adopt resolutions on matters outside the College's academic mission, including but not limited to partisan political advocacy, divestment, or external political affairs.

Section 2. Recommendations

If a recommendation receives a majority vote of senators present at a meeting where a quorum exists, the Secretary shall ensure all full-time faculty receive notice of the proposed recommendation at least seventy-two (72) hours before the voting deadline. The proposed recommendation shall then be submitted to the full-time faculty for a vote for the purpose of determining faculty consensus. Faculty consensus shall be established when at least two-thirds (2/3) of the full-time faculty participating in the vote supports the proposed recommendation. Upon establishment of faculty consensus, the recommendation shall be transmitted by the Senate to the College President, via the VPAA, as a formal Senate recommendation reflecting the consensus of the voting full-time faculty.

All recommendations to the College President shall:

- Be stated in writing
- Identify the issue addressed and the recommendation being made
- Be submitted to the College President within five (5) business days of vote
- Be recorded in the meeting minutes with the vote tally

ARTICLE XIII: INITIAL SENATE IMPLEMENTATION

Section 1. Initial Presidential Appointments

To constitute the initial Faculty Senate, within two (2) weeks of the Effective Date of BGC (Regulation), each department chair shall provide the VPAA office with a list of at least two (2) department faculty willing to serve as a Presidential Appointee. The College President shall appoint one senator from each list. The College President shall provide the Vice President of Academic Affairs with a complete list of appointed senators.

Section 2. Initial Faculty Elections and Term Staggering

Within two (2) weeks of the Effective Date of BGC (Regulation), each department chair shall hold an election to select their department's Faculty-Elected Senator. If only one faculty member volunteers, that person shall be considered to have run unopposed. If more than one volunteers, the department shall select by majority vote. The department chair shall immediately notify the Vice President of Academic Affairs of the results.

Initial Faculty-Elected Senators shall serve terms ending as follows:

Terms ending at the 2026 Fall Convocation:

Fine Arts, Industrial Technology, Math & Computer Science, Nursing, Social & Behavioral Science

Terms ending at the 2027 Fall Convocation:

Humanities, Business/Public Service Careers, Human Services Careers, Health Professions, Science & Engineering

The staggering rotations described above will continue accordingly in subsequent years.

Section 3. Initial Officers

Within three (3) weeks of the Effective Date of BGC (Regulation), the VPAA office shall contact all initial senators to solicit volunteers for the offices of Senate President, Senate Vice President, and Recorder. The VPAA office shall provide the list of volunteers to the College President, who shall appoint the initial officers. Initial officers shall serve until not reappointed by the College President, the end of their senate term, resignation, or removal for cause.

ARTICLE XIV: COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 1. Compliance with State Law

The Senate and all its members shall at all times operate in compliance with Texas Education Code §§51.3522–51.3523, College policy, and all applicable state and federal law. Any provision of these Bylaws found to conflict with applicable law shall be automatically suspended and replaced by the applicable legal requirement.

Section 2. Texas Higher Education Ombudsman

Faculty members or administrators may submit complaints regarding compliance with SB 37 to the Office of the Ombudsman at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as established by state law. Information regarding how to contact the Ombudsman's office shall be posted on the College's Faculty Senate webpage.

Section 3. College President Oversight

The College President retains authority to prescribe procedures governing Senate meetings and operations as required by Tex. Educ. Code §51.3522(j). In the event of a conflict between any Senate action and applicable law or Board policy, the College President's determination shall control.

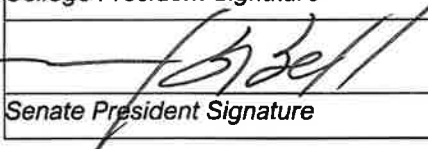
ARTICLE XV: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Process

These Bylaws may be amended only upon approval by the College President. The amendment process is as follows: (1) The Senate shall initiate a proposed amendment by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote at a meeting where a quorum is present. (2) The proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the College President within five (5) business days of the Senate vote. (3) Amendments take effect upon approval by the College President. The Senate President shall notify the full Senate of any approved amendments within five (5) business days.

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

These Bylaws were reviewed, approved, and adopted by the College President of College of the Mainland on the date indicated below, as an exhibit to BGC (Regulation), and in accordance with Texas Education Code §§51.3522–51.3523 as enacted by Senate Bill 37, 89th Texas Legislature.

 College President Signature	<u>10/12/26</u> Date
 Senate President Signature	<u>10/12/26</u> Date

College President Printed Name: Helen Brewer

Senate President Printed Name: Michael Bell

Date of Adoption: 10/12/2026