

November 12, 2023



# TCFS NEWS

A Message to our Member Institutions

TEXAS COUNCIL OF  
FACULTY SENATES

## Message from the President

Faculty colleagues,

Thank you so much for your part in making the Fall 2023 TCFS Meeting a highly productive and valuable experience. Together, we put in the work to effectively communicate as faculty governance leaders to benefit the state of Texas and the universities we support through shared governance. I have no doubt that Texas higher education continues to improve as a result of bringing our minds and our voices together.



Our time in San Antonio was well spent. We are so fortunate to have had the opportunity to interact through two Texas-AAUP panel discussions, contributing to statewide conversations on academic freedom & tenure and DEI offices, policies, and practices, further equipping faculty to effectively contribute to solutions and planning.



Lastly, we are very fortunate to have learned more about Texas A&M's challenges from the summer of 2023 from Dr. Tracy Hammond. Her reflections on shared governance at Texas A&M are very instructive in how the health of an institution is dependent upon effective (joint) communication, transparency, and honesty between (and from) faculty and administration within an environment that values teamwork, debate, dissent, courage, and compassion.

Many thanks for your attendance,

Joseph Velasco, TCFS President

## Roundup Report Themes

TCFS identified 7 themes of trends, achievements, challenges, & faculty governance concerns across Texas university faculty governance leaders:

1. Challenge of Developing Policies in Response to SB 18
2. Challenge of Compliance with SB 17
3. Concern about DEI Policy Over-compliance
4. Concern about Salary and Workload Across Campuses
5. Concern about Top-down Academic Reorganization
6. Trend in Administrative Turnover
7. Need for Training on the Role of Faculty in Shared Governance

## *Looking forward to our Spring 2024 Meeting*

Embassy Suites - San Antonio Brooks, February 23-24

