

FACULTY COUNCIL BYLAWS
BYLAWS of the FACULTY COUNCIL of the
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

PREAMBLE
BACKGROUND, MISSION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Faculty Council of the School of Medicine shall consist of all persons holding faculty full-time appointments other than visiting or resident physician appointment as defined in the "The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System. All members shall have equal rights and privileges.

The School of Medicine was created by the Legislature of the State of Texas in 1969 (H.B. 498) to be a "...medical school of the first class..." It provided that, "...when in the best interests of medical education... affiliations should be developed in Lubbock and its environs... to provide clinical, postgraduate (including internship and residency) and/or other levels of medical educational work for the new school." Students were first enrolled in 1972 and the Faculty Council was officially constituted in 1975.

The School of Medicine's mission encompasses undergraduate, graduate, continuing medical education, and graduate studies; has appropriate emphases on primary and highly specialized patient care; and is enriched by the conduct of relevant biomedical investigation and scholarly pursuits. The mission statement is, "To provide excellence in patient care, create a model teaching environment and strive to meet the primary and specialty care needs of the community, as we encourage scholarship and research among our faculty and students."

Within the limits of the policies and regulations of the Board of Regents of TTUHSC, the Faculty Council, its Executive Committee, and its individual members shall have certain responsibilities, striving to achieve and maintain excellence in all aspects of medical education, research, and service in all components of the School of Medicine. They shall review and make recommendations on such matters as admissions, curricula, standards of instruction, student conduct, student promotions, graduation, or any other matters which may affect the pursuit of academic excellence.

To this end, they shall:

- A. Be available for consultation by the Dean on general administrative affairs of the School of Medicine and on matters pertaining to the future development of the school.
- B. Serve on school committees and accept other responsibilities as deemed necessary and appropriate.
- C. Exercise their responsibility to establish by example and maintain by appropriate means, high standards of ethical, moral, and personal conduct by the student body.
- D. Involve student representation on committees when appropriate.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

The name of this organization is the Faculty Council of the School of Medicine of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC). The purpose of the Faculty Council is to have input through the Executive Committee into all matters which pertain to the faculty of the School of Medicine.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Membership of the Faculty Council

A. All full-time faculty members of the School of Medicine in Lubbock and its associated Regional Academic Health Centers are members of the Faculty Council.

B. Those committees of the Faculty Council whose charge is student-related will continue to have representation from the El Paso campus until such time as there are no longer any third- and fourth-year students on the El Paso campus who completed years one and two on the Lubbock campus.

Section 2. Leadership

A. There shall be a Faculty Council Executive Committee, which shall be elected by and be representative of the Faculty Council in proportion to the respective numbers of Faculty Council members at each of the Regional Academic Health Centers. The respective number of representatives per campus shall be adjusted if necessary at the time of annual Executive Committee elections.

1. The Executive Committee shall administer affairs of the Faculty Council and shall report regularly to the Faculty Council which has veto authority over the actions of the Executive Committee.

2. The Executive Committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Chairperson-Elect from its membership. The Chairperson shall serve a one-year term and shall be succeeded by the Chairperson-Elect. In the event that the Chairperson, during his/her year in office becomes unable or ineligible or declines to continue to serve, the chairperson-Elect shall assume the office of the Chairperson. In the event that the Chairperson-Elect office becomes vacant, the Executive Committee shall elect a new Chairperson-Elect from its membership.

3. Each Regional Campus shall elect a Regional Executive Committee consisting of at least five members. This committee will serve as a sub-committee of the Executive Committee and will deal with matters pertaining to that campus. The Chairperson of each Regional Executive Committee shall serve as a member of the Faculty Council Executive Committee.

4. The Executive Committee has the prerogative also to appoint its own *ad hoc* committees to assist it in the conduct of its affairs. These committees shall be appointed as need arises and the charge and term of function shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Conduct of Business

In the discharge of its responsibilities, the business of the Faculty Council is conducted through elected and appointed committees as defined in these bylaws and with the approval of the Faculty Council. The functions of these committees shall lie within the purview of the Faculty Council and the committees will be responsible to the Faculty Council and, through it, to the Dean. The Faculty Council shall create new committees as needed or shall dissolve existing committees whose tasks have been completed. This privilege in no way limits or amends the power of the Faculty Council Executive Committee to create its own *ad hoc* committees. Additionally, the Executive Committee may appoint members of certain committees of the School of Medicine (SOM) and Health Sciences Center (HSC) as defined in these bylaws as well as make recommendations to the Dean relative to the members of committees he appoints.

ARTICLE III. MEETINGS OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

Section 1. The Chairperson of the Faculty Council Executive Committee, the Chairperson-Elect of the Faculty Council Executive Committee or the Chairperson's designee shall serve as the Presiding Officer for all meetings of the Faculty Council. No decision, recommendation, or advice shall come from the Faculty council except when one of the three above is presiding.

Section 2. The Faculty in Lubbock and of each Regional Academic Health Center shall hold regular local meetings not less frequently than quarterly during the academic year. Meetings of the entire Faculty Council may be called by the Dean or the Chairperson of the Executive committee.

Section 3. The dates and time of the regular meetings shall be determined by the presiding officer. Notice of any meeting and its agenda shall be mailed in advance to the appropriate membership or posted online. Special meetings may be called by the Dean or the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. A quorum for meetings of the Faculty Council shall consist of the voting members of the Faculty Council who are present at the time of the meetings. Meetings must be announced in advance, and a majority of those voting members present may request a referendum on any matter put to a vote. The vote may be taken at an official called meeting or online.

Section 5. Except as stated otherwise in these Bylaws, the conduct of the meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order as revised in the latest edition. The Chairperson of the Faculty Executive Committee shall serve as the parliamentarian for the Executive Committee and the Faculty Council meetings.

Section 6. Minutes will be recorded at each meeting of the Faculty Council, the Faculty Executive Committees and all subcommittees unless they are in Executive Session. The Chairperson of each of these entities will designate as to the means of recording the minutes.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committee Structure

- A. There are six types of committees with faculty membership. This includes a) those elected by the Faculty Council, b) those appointed by the Executive Committee, c)

those appointed by the Dean, d) those that are hybrids with some members appointed by the Dean and others either appointed by the Executive Committee (Grievance) or elected by the Faculty Council (Educational Policy) and e) those HSC committees whose members from the SOM are elected by the Faculty Council or appointed by the Executive Committee.

B. Governance policies applying to all committees unless otherwise stated in the description of the committee include:

1. Faculty committees are created by and exist as the province of the Faculty, with composition and responsibilities being developed by the Faculty. As such, any proposed changes to the composition of or overall charge to or responsibilities of any of the Faculty committees must be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration and approval before any such changes can become effective. The Executive Committee may decide that approval is also required by the Faculty Council and the Dean, and, if so, will obtain such approval prior to the changes being implemented.

2. The members of these committees shall be elected or appointed annually for three-year staggered terms, unless otherwise stated, with the election taking place in May and the elected members taking office September 1.

3. In the case of each committee where an odd number of members are specified, the majority (with regard to basic or clinical science affiliation) shall alternate from year to year.

4. All members of the Faculty Council shall be eligible for election or appointment to committees pursuant to requirements as stated in the bylaws. However, those members appointed to part-time administrative positions by the Dean of the School of Medicine should not serve on committees where a conflict of interest might potentially exist. Those appointed in the middle of an academic year may complete that year with a replacement elected or appointed to fill an unexpired term either at the end of that year or when the member resigns. *Ex officio* members may be appointed to serve with voice but without vote on these committees.

5. At the initial meeting of each elected committee, terms of office of one, two, or three years shall be determined by lot. Thereafter, each of the newly elected members shall serve for a three-year term unless otherwise specified.

6. Each Committee shall elect its own Chairperson and Chairperson-Elect from its membership. The Chair shall serve a one-year term and succeeded by the Chairperson-Elect. In the event that the Chairperson, during his/her year in office, becomes unable, ineligible or declines to continue to serve, The Chair-person-Elect shall assume the office of Chairperson, and the committee shall elect a new Chairperson-Elect. In the event that the office of the Chairperson-Elect becomes vacant, that committee shall elect a new Chairperson-Elect from that Committee.

7. All vacancies which occur during the year on any of the committees shall be filled by action of the Executive Committee by notifying the next runner-up for elective committees or appointing a new member for appointed committees.

8. Any committee member who misses three (3) or more meetings of a committee during the year, without adequate cause, shall be replaced by action of the Executive Committee.

9. Specific charges for each committee will be developed by the respective committees in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Dean as needed.

10. All committees shall report to the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee to the Faculty Council as requested or on a periodic basis set by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Elective Committees in the School of Medicine

A. The following committees shall be standing committees of the Faculty Council and shall be elected from a slate prepared by the Nominating Committee: 1) Faculty Council Executive Committee, 2) Faculty Research Committee, 3) Library Committee (School of Medicine members thereof), 4) Student Promotions and Professional Conduct Committee, 5) Student Affairs Committee, and 6) Hearing Committee.

B. The composition and overall charge for each of these committees shall be as follows:

1. The Faculty Council Executive Committee shall comprise eleven members in proportion to the respective numbers of Faculty Council members at each of the Regional Academic Health Centers. The respective number of representatives per campus shall be adjusted if necessary at the time of annual Executive Committee elections. Each campus shall have at least one representative. This committee shall administer the affairs of the Faculty Council and shall report regularly to the Faculty Council which has supervisory and veto authority over the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall act as a Committee on Committees. This responsibility shall include presenting a ballot to the faculty for election to the various committees of the Faculty Council as well as submitting names of faculty to the Dean for consideration for the Dean's committees.

The Executive Committee shall have regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Special meetings may be called upon the written request of five or more members of the Executive Committee. A quorum of one more than half the members of the Executive Committee is required in order to conduct business.

The Dean of the School of Medicine, the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Development and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may attend meetings of the Executive Committee as *ex officio* members and make regular reports as a means of enhancing communication and keeping the faculty informed about current activities and potential issues. Other individuals may be asked to present special reports as necessary. The Executive Committee may go into executive session at any time as required.

A special meeting will be held in August each year at which members, current and incoming, from all campuses will be present together with the Dean for the purpose of orienting new members, reviewing committee reports and developing an agenda for the upcoming academic year.

2. Faculty Research Committee: Seven (7) members from Lubbock and one (1) from each of the Regional Centers and *ex officio* representation from the Office of the Dean. It shall meet at least quarterly. This committee shall consider matters referred to it by the Dean, the Faculty or the Faculty Council Executive Committee which have to do with the conduct and support of research in the school. These would include serving as a review panel for in-house grants and providing input on a) availability and funding of in-house grants, b) laboratory space availability for current and potential investigators, c) needs related to support current and future research efforts and d) operation of research support service such as the Animal Resource Center.

3. Student Promotions and Professional Conduct Committee (SPPCC):
Membership: Twenty-one faculty council members from four campuses elected to serve staggered, three-year terms. Twelve members are elected from the Lubbock campus with six originating from the basic sciences and six from the clinical sciences. Three members are elected from each of the Amarillo, El Paso and Permian Basin campuses. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs serves as an *ex officio* representative from the Office of the Dean.

Leadership: A Chair-Elect is elected at the first meeting of the year, preferably from faculty in their first year on the committee. The Chair serves for a term of one year or until a replacement is elected. The Chair, Chair-Elect, Past Chair along with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (Lubbock) constitute the Executive Committee of the SPPCC.

Subcommittees: Most of the work of the SPPCC is performed by subcommittees that are responsible for students in different years of the curriculum and/or on different campuses. The Year 1/Year 2 subcommittee is constituted by the 12 members from the Lubbock campus and is responsible for all students until they have obtained a passing score on USMLE Step 1. Year 3/Year 4 subcommittees are constituted on each campus by the three faculty members from that campus (three of the six members on the Lubbock campus).

Charge: The full committee is responsible for developing and reviewing policies related to student promotion, conduct and leaves of absence on a biannual basis. Each subcommittee meets to consider appropriate actions related to medical students whose academic performance or conduct is deemed to be unsatisfactory according to guidelines described in the SOM Promotion Policy and Conduct Policy. The Year 1/Year 2 subcommittee will meet with students with unsatisfactory performance in blocks, on the Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE) or USMLE Step One exam. Each Year 3/Year 4 subcommittee will meet with students with unsatisfactory performance on clerkship components or on either component of USMLE Step 2. Each subcommittee makes recommendations to the Dean about potential requirements for remediation or termination. Each subcommittee also addresses concerns about timely progress of students through the curriculum (for example, those related to the requirement for students to complete the first two years of the curriculum within three years of matriculation and the entire curriculum within six years of matriculation), adherence to timelines for completing curricular requirements (for example, taking USMLE Step 2CK and CS prior to December 31 of the fourth year), requests for leaves of absence and issues related to inappropriate conduct. Conduct hearings are conducted as described in the TTUHSC Code of Professional and Academic Conduct.

4. Student Affairs Committee: Membership: Seven faculty council members from the Lubbock campus, one faculty council member from the Amarillo and Permian Basin campuses and the Vice Presidents of the MSIII classes on each campus will constitute the committee. Faculty council members will be elected through the annual election process on a campus-specific basis. Faculty committee members will serve for three years, while students will serve for a single year. In addition there will be an *ex officio* representative from the Office of the Dean.

Leadership: A Chair will be elected from the faculty members and will normally serve as Chair in the second year of their service on the committee.

Charge: The functions of this committee will include but are not limited to a) deliberating on matters related to student morale and the learning environment as needed, b) evaluating requests for accommodation for learning disabilities, c) evaluating initial campus assignments and requests for campus reassignment and d) serve in an advisory capacity to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The Student Affairs Committee will review school policies related to these functions on a biannual schedule. The Chair of the committee is also responsible for assigning faculty to serve on hearing panels as defined under the Code of Professional and Academic Conduct.

5. Hearing Committee: The Hearing Committee is charged with conducting hearings for cases of non-renewal of contract and dismissal for cause/termination of appointment as described in Regents' Rule 04.02 and HSC Policy (HSC OP 60.01). The Committee shall be composed of twelve associate or full professors who are preferably tenured (but not chairs or SOM Administrators) to include six (6) from Lubbock and three (3) each from Amarillo and the Permian Basin, all elected to serve three-year terms with possible renewal. The Committee shall have a Chair and Chair-Elect. It shall meet at the beginning of each academic year to elect a new Chair-Elect and to review and orient new members on its charge and the procedures to be used in hearings. The Chair, or his/her designee, upon notice from the Dean, shall be responsible for assembling a hearing panel from among the committee members and naming a chair of the panel. The panel should have no less than five (5) members, including its chair. The panel members should not have any conflict of interest in the case and be acceptable to the faculty member and his/her Chair. Should there be difficulty in assembling a panel in a reasonable period of time, the Chair of the committee may name senior members of the School of Medicine Faculty to serve on the panel. The committee shall establish the procedures to be used during any hearings and make these available to all parties at the beginning of the process.

Section 3. Committees Appointed by the Executive Committee

A. Nominating Committee:

The Faculty Council Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members at the beginning of each academic year. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of more than one nominee for each committee position or office prior to the May elections. Similarly, each Regional Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members for developing slates for representatives from that campus to school-wide committees and for each committee on that campus. It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to screen candidates for potential conflicts of interest, such as holding a chairmanship or other administrative position appointed by the

Dean. These individuals should not be put up for election or appointment as voting members of any committee.

1. Each faculty member nominated for committee membership shall return in writing to the Nominating Committee his/her consent to serve if elected.

2. Nominations may be taken from the floor during the preceding Faculty Council meeting provided that the consent of the nominee has been received previously in writing.

B. Peer Review Committee:

The Peer Review Committee shall be composed of twelve (12) tenured faculty members drawn from all Regional Academic Centers and appointed prior to the beginning of the calendar year by the Faculty Council Executive Committee. Representation should be approximately proportional to the number of tenured faculty at each Center. Each member serves a three-year term. This committee conducts the Periodic Review of Tenured Faculty, a process required as a result of legislation enacted by the Texas Legislature in 1997 and mandated under the Board of Regents Rules (04.03) and HSC Policy (HSC OP 60.03). It calls for a comprehensive review of tenured faculty no less than once every six years. The Guidelines for the process within the School of Medicine were drawn up by the Executive Committee in 2003 and approved by the Dean and President of TTUHSC.

1. The Guidelines for the process are accessible on-line at the HSC Operating Policies and Procedures website <http://www.ttuhsu.edu/HSC/OP/op60/op6003d.pdf>. The definition of the evaluation focus as defined in the Guidelines reads, "The Peer Review Performance Evaluation process will be directed toward the professional development of the faculty member. It will include a comprehensive review of the faculty member's performance of duties and responsibilities as assigned by the departmental chair consistent with institutional policy."

2. A list of appointments plus alternates will be made at the November meeting of the Faculty Council Executive Committee and finalized at the December meeting based on availability of appointees.

3. Each regional campus will have representation on the Peer Review Committee proportional to the number of tenured faculty eligible for evaluation, and the number of appointees from Basic and Clinical Science departments will be proportional to the relative distribution of tenured faculty. A Ph.D. in a Clinical Department and an M.D. in a Basic Science Department may be counted as either. Pathology will be considered a Clinical Department for these purposes.

4. The Chair each year will be the member who served as Chair-Elect in the previous year. The committee will elect a new Chair-Elect from among its members at the beginning of each year. The Chair will be responsible for directing the process according to the Guidelines and for writing the report containing the committee's judgments and recommendations and submitting it to the Dean. A quorum at all meetings shall be considered to be seven (7) members.

C. Bylaws Committee:

An *ad hoc* Bylaws Committee shall be appointed annually by the Executive Committee. This committee shall be responsible for reviewing the Faculty Council Bylaws for possible amendment thereof. It also may be asked to review proposed or existent SOM, HSC or Board of Regents policies for the purpose of providing the Executive Committee or its designate with background material and suggestions. This process may be initiated by the Dean or the Faculty Council.

Section 4. Hybrid Committees

A. Faculty Grievance Committee:

The Faculty Grievance Committee shall comprise fourteen members, associate or full professors who are preferably tenured (but not chairs or SOM Administrators), appointed at the beginning of each academic year. Half of the representation is appointed by the Dean and half is appointed by the Executive Committee. There will be representation from each Regional Campus, one appointed by the Dean and one appointed by the Faculty Council Executive Committee. Members will be appointed for a three year term which may be renewed.

The Committee elects its own Chair and Chair-Elect. This committee is charged with seeking resolution of grievances not covered under the TTUHSC Tenure and Promotion Policy, the Medical Practice Income Plan Bylaws, or the HSC Operating Policies and Procedures. The Faculty Grievance Committee shall be responsible for nominating members of mediation teams and shall serve as a pool of faculty members from which five-member Hearing Panels can be selected to hear grievance cases as described under the Faculty Grievance Policy. The Dean shall forward a list of his appointees to the Faculty Executive Committee prior to its meeting in September.

B. Educational Policy Committee:

On the Educational Policy Committee, any faculty member or medical student in good standing who demonstrates an active interest in medical curriculum beyond their immediate educational responsibilities is eligible for membership. The EPC is composed of a total of 22 voting members: 16 faculty and 6 students. Faculty members are selected from all the campuses through appointment by the Dean of the School of Medicine (Lubbock Campus), appointment by the Regional Deans (Amarillo, El Paso, and Permian Basin Campuses); or election by the Faculty Council on the respective campuses. The faculty members are selected from all the campuses as follows: ten (10) from Lubbock – five (5) appointed and five (5) elected; two (2) from Amarillo – one (1) appointed and one (1) elected; two (2) from El Paso – one (1) appointed and one (1) elected; and two (2) from the Permian Basin – one (1) appointed and one (1) elected. Faculty will serve on the EPC for three years and can serve consecutive terms. One-third of the members are appointed or elected each year. New members receive appointment letters from the Dean that specify the duration of membership. Faculty members can serve consecutive terms. Members will be notified one year in advance of the end of their term to permit a decision regarding reappointment. All student members are elected by the student body and distributed as follows: one MS1 and one MS2 in Lubbock. One MS3/MS4 student each from the Amarillo, El Paso, Lubbock and Permian Basin Campuses. An alternate for each student representative is also elected to serve, as needed. Ex-officio, non-voting, faculty members include the Dean, School of Medicine, the Associate/Assistant Deans who represent the curriculum, faculty development, educational programs, and admissions on all TTUHSC campuses, and the President of the Teaching Academy (or their designee).

Section 5. Dean's Committees

A. In the discharge of its responsibilities, the Nominating Committee of the Faculty Council shall prepare a slate of nominees for the Dean's committees to include the 1) Admissions Committee, 2) Faculty Appointments Committee on each campus, 3) Tenure and Promotions Committee, 4) Risk Management Committee, 5) Professional Liability Committee at each campus, Clinical Operations Committee and 7) Faculty Development Leave Committee.

1. The Dean shall define the structure of these committees, their functions and the qualifications for service.

2. Prepared slates for these committees shall be transmitted to the Dean for his/her consideration in making appointments to these committees.

3. The slates for the Admissions Committee shall be presented to the Dean by May 1 of each year and those for the other committees by July 1.

4. The proceedings of the meetings of the Professional Liability Committees shall be privileged.

Section 6. HSC Committees

A. Certain committees have been created to serve the Health Sciences Center as a whole. These are described in the Health Sciences Center Bylaws.

1) HSC Faculty Senate: Three (3) representatives from the Faculty Council shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve three-year terms in the HSC Faculty Senate. It is recommended that present and past officers of the Executive Committee be selected in order to maximize the interaction between the two bodies. Executive Committee representatives to the HSC Faculty Senate shall be the immediate past Chairperson, current Chairperson, and the current Chairperson-Elect. If any of these representatives are unable to attend a meeting, they may appoint an alternate with voting privileges from the Faculty Council membership, preferably a member of the Executive Committee.

2) Library Committee: The Library Committee serves as an advisory committee to the Dean and the Director of the libraries on matters pertaining to general policies affecting the HSC Library, including such matters as needs (acquisitions and deletions), planning, budgets, functions, online access and operations. Each Center shall have a committee of five faculty with the director of Libraries or the regional director being an *ex officio* member. Members representing the School of Medicine faculty shall be elected to serve three-year terms.

B. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall, in the discharge of its duties as prescribed in Art. IV:2:A, prepare a slate of more than one nominee for each vacant School of Medicine position on these HSC committees and at the time of general election the Medical School faculty delegates to these committees shall be elected.

ARTICLE V. ACTIVITIES OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

Section 1. The Faculty Council, or appropriate committees thereof, may review and make recommendations on all faculty affairs. Issues may be referred to the Faculty Council by members of the faculty and by the Dean. Faculty affairs shall include, but may not be limited to, such matters as admissions, curricula, standards of instruction, student promotions, and

graduation. If recommendations of the Faculty Council are submitted to the Dean, the Dean shall respond in writing within 20 working days to the Chairperson of the Faculty Executive Council and, if disapproving, should state the reasons for disapproval in writing.

Section 2. Actions taken by the Faculty Council shall be compatible with the laws of the State of Texas and the policies and regulations of the Board of Regents.

ARTICLE VI. **AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Recommendations for proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall be directed to the Chairperson of the Executive Committee for referral to the Bylaws Committee.

The Chairperson, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Executive Committee, may modify the proposed amendment(s) or refer it (them) back to the Bylaws Committee prior to presentation to the Faculty Council.

Section 2. Notice of any proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall be circulated by the Secretary of the Faculty Council at least two weeks before presentation to a regular or special meeting of the Faculty Council.

Section 3. Opportunity shall be given at a regular or special meeting of the Faculty Council for debating and modifying any properly proposed amendment to any part of the Bylaws. If a quorum is present, a vote may be held then.

Without a quorum present, the amendment(s) as proposed by the Executive Committee shall be voted upon in a mail ballot.

Section 4. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting members present at a meeting of the Faculty Council shall be required to amend or rescind any portion of these Bylaws. Failing a quorum at such regular meeting, the presiding officer may authorize a mail ballot. The proposed amendment(s) and ballot shall be mailed promptly to each voting member of the Faculty Council. The time of beginning and closing of the balloting and the reporting of results shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. Affirmative votes of a two-thirds majority of the members of the Faculty Council returning ballots shall be required for adoption.

Amendments shall become effective after approval by the Dean of the School of Medicine, the President of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, the Chancellor, and the Board of Regents of the University.

ARTICLE VII. **RATIFICATION**

These Bylaws shall become effective when approved by a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of a meeting of the Faculty Council at which a quorum is present, or by a two-thirds majority affirmative vote by the members of the Faculty Council returning a ballot by mail or email and ratified by the Dean of the School of Medicine.