

Interrelated Missions of Faculty Advocacy Organizations Advocating for Higher Education in Texas and Beyond

This handout provides an overview of key faculty advocacy organizations and their interconnected missions in supporting higher education faculty in Texas.



Organizations and Their Missions

Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS)

- Unites faculty senates across Texas public universities.
- Focuses on shared governance, academic freedom, and higher education policy.
- Serves as a forum for faculty leadership collaboration.

American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

- Founded by faculty in 1915 to formulate principles on academic freedom and shared governance with associations of college/university presidents and governing boards
- Organizes 42,000 members and 500 campus chapters to champion academic freedom, advance shared governance, and promote economic security and quality education
- Affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in 2022

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

- National labor union with 1.5M in K-12 education and 300,000 in higher ed
- Focuses on workplace rights, collective bargaining, and education policy.
- Collaborates with AAUP to support faculty advocacy and organizing

Texas AFT

- Advocates to improve the teaching profession and educator working conditions
- Champions the freedom to teach, affordable health care, and secure retirement
- Collaborates with Texas AAUP to support faculty advocacy and organizing

Texas AAUP-AFT

- Connects AAUP members into a network of scholars across campuses and Texas
- Helps faculty in navigating policies and responding to investigations
- Organizes and trains faculty for advocacy on campus and at the Texas Legislature

Texas Faculty Association (TFA)

- Affiliate of the Texas State Teacher's Association (NEA) focused on higher ed faculty
- Advocates for faculty working conditions, economic security, and professional rights.
- Provides legal support and organizes faculty to advocate.

Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT)

- Independent organization advocating for faculty in Texas public and private higher ed
- Legislative advocacy on faculty pay, tenure protections, and retirement benefits.
- Promotes professional development and faculty networking.

Key Takeaways

- These organizations collectively support faculty through governance, labor rights, and legislative advocacy.
- Faculty members can engage with multiple organizations depending on their advocacy interests.
- Strengthening faculty voices requires collaboration across these groups.



For more information, visit:

American Association of University Professors - aaup.org

Texas Association of College Teachers - tact.org

Texas Faculty Association - texasfacultyassociation.org

Texas Council of Faculty Senates - txfacultyssenates.org

Texas AAUP-AFT - aaup-texas.org

Texas AFT - texasaft.org

Overlapping Areas by Texas Higher Ed Advocacy Organizations

