

Statement in Defense of Tenure and Academic Freedom
by the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M International University

The Faculty Senate at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) supports academic freedom and opposes any attempt to weaken tenure. For decades, faculty and administrators have confirmed tenure as a protection of academic freedom in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge.

As a regional campus, designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution dedicated to research, teaching, and student support, TAMIU and the communities we serve will be hurt by attacks on tenure and academic freedom. Abolishing tenure will weaken TAMIU's ability to recruit and retain faculty and to establish a reputation as a destination university for both faculty and students. Academic freedom is the process by which faculty and students freely exchange ideas, engage in discourse, and push the boundaries of knowledge. Academic freedom is essential to teaching and research, as it enables universities to develop cutting-edge research and to graduate students with critical thinking skills, relevant competencies, and academic expertise that empower them to become the next generation of leaders.

The TAMIU Faculty Senate joins the Texas Council of Faculty Senates' (TCFS) Executive Committee in expressing profound concern related to Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick's desire to end tenure for Texas colleges and universities where free expression of ideas in teaching, learning and research are deemed to be associated with critical race theory.

TCFS is a federation of faculty senates, councils, and assemblies at Texas public colleges and universities that coordinates, supports, and represents Texas faculty governance organizations in matters of professional standards, academic freedom, and shared governance to government and other bodies for the benefit of all higher education stakeholders – students, faculty, staff, administration, governing boards, citizens of Texas, and a free society.

[NOTE: This draft was fashioned borrowing some wording from the TAMUSA and TCFS Executive Committee statements.]