



TEXAS FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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House version is better, but tenure bill is unnecessary and a threat to higher education

Texas Faculty Association President Pat Heintzelman issued the following statement:

We appreciate that the Texas House has disagreed with the Senate and attempted to preserve tenure in Texas. We also are grateful that the House amended the committee version of the bill to clarify and strengthen faculty members' property rights in tenure.

That said, we still think Senate Bill 18 is unnecessary and would prevent institutional flexibility in formulating and adjusting higher education policies. The bill also sends a strong message to scholars throughout the nation and the world that Texas does not trust the long-held beliefs that higher education can and does follow the highest standards preserving excellence in teaching and research. Post-tenure review ensures that the caliber of faculty work remains exemplary.

The Texas Faculty Association calls on the Texas Legislature to preserve tenure and the academic freedom that tenure provides. If Texas abolishes or curtails tenure, Texas will be the only state in the country to remove this chief expectation for the top academic talent seeking their long-worked-for dream job in higher education.