



Texas A&M University IT Governance Framework

Overview

IT Governance is the university's framework for aligning technology decisions with Texas A&M's mission and strategic priorities. Through committees representing stakeholders across the institution, IT Governance provides oversight and guidance for technology policies, investments, and major initiatives. By establishing clear priorities and informed decision-making, the framework helps ensure IT resources are invested responsibly, risks are effectively managed, and technology delivers the greatest value to the university community.

- Executive IT Council – Approves institutional strategy, policies, and major investments.
- Strategic Governance Committees – Evaluate, prioritize, and recommend.

Executive Summary

This consolidated framework establishes a tiered IT Governance model designed to strengthen institutional alignment, improve transparency, and support responsible technology decision-making.

Decision-Making Roles and Authority

Strategic Governance Committees evaluate proposals, gather stakeholder input, and recommend actions within their respective areas of responsibility. The Executive IT Council serves as the final decision-making authority for enterprise technology governance matters within its charter, including institutional priorities, significant enterprise technology investments, policies, and escalated cross-committee decisions. When a proposal involves competing recommendations, unresolved disagreements, or conflicting institutional priorities, the Executive IT Council will serve as the escalation point and make the final governance decision within its delegated authority.

Each significant governance proposal should identify the recommending committee, required agreement authorities (if any), key stakeholders providing input, responsible implementing party, and final decision-maker.

Risk-Based Technology Review

Technology requests will be evaluated based on both financial cost and potential institutional impact to determine the appropriate level of governance review. Requests exceeding \$500,000 or involving significant enterprise, security, privacy, data, AI, regulatory, or operational implications may require review by the appropriate Strategic Governance Committee or Executive IT Council, regardless of cost.

A brief initial screening, completed by the requesting unit or service owner and reviewed by Technology Services as appropriate, will help identify requests requiring additional review. Requests with limited institutional impact may proceed through existing procurement and service approval processes, while requests presenting potential risks or broader institutional implications will be routed to the appropriate subject-matter authorities and governance bodies.

This screening process supplements, but does not replace, existing procurement requirements or required security, privacy, data governance, legal, and compliance reviews. The CIO or designee will establish and maintain the screening criteria and routing process.

Executive IT Council

Purpose:

- The Executive IT Council (EITC) provides executive oversight of the university's IT Governance framework by ensuring technology strategy, investments, and policies align with Texas A&M University's mission, strategic priorities, and institutional objectives. The council serves as the university's highest decision-making body for enterprise technology governance.

Charge/Responsibilities:

- Establish strategic priorities for university-wide technology and ensure investments align with Texas A&M University's mission, strategic plan, and responsible stewardship of institutional resources.
- Review and approve significant enterprise technology policies, standards, governance recommendations, and major technology investments and initiatives, including projects exceeding a total cost of \$500,000, requests designated by the CIO, and requests with significant institutional implications identified through the risk-based review process.
- Resolve disputes and conflicting recommendations between Strategic Governance Committees or other governance bodies when issues cannot be resolved at the committee level. The Council will determine the appropriate course of action, establish priorities when competing institutional needs exist, and document its decisions.
- Provide executive direction for the IT Governance framework by reviewing recommendations and resolving issues escalated from subordinate governance committees.
- Ensure IT delivers value and meets institutional expectations.

Committee Members (Voting):

- Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Chief Operations Officer
- Chief Information Officer
- Senior Vice President for Strategy and Business Services
- Vice President for Research

Term Limit:

- None.

Committee Leadership:

- Chair: Chief Information Officer

Committee Operations:

- Meeting Frequency: 4-6 times a year
- Quorum: Simple majority of 50% +1
- Minutes/Agendas:
 - The Chair shall set meeting agendas and document decisions.
 - Meeting minutes should be distributed within two weeks of each meeting.
 - Meeting materials should be distributed 5 business days in advance, sans holidays.

Enterprise Services Committee

Purpose:

- The Enterprise Services Committee (ESC) Provides strategic oversight and recommendations for university-wide enterprise IT services. The committee evaluates institutional needs, establishes priorities for enterprise technology investments and initiatives, and promotes standardized, interoperable solutions that support Texas A&M University's mission, strategic goals, and operational effectiveness.

Charge/Responsibilities:

- Recommend priorities for enterprise technology investments, initiatives, and major enhancements that support institutional goals and business needs.
- Evaluate enterprise applications and services to improve operational effectiveness, streamline business processes, and reduce administrative burden.
- Review enterprise applications and services to enhance the academic experience, facilitate seamless collaboration, and minimize technical friction in teaching and learning.
- Promote enterprise architecture principles, including standardization, interoperability, and the reduction of duplicative technology solutions.
- Provide cross-functional guidance on enterprise initiatives that impact multiple units, ensuring broad stakeholder input and coordination with the University Data Governance Committee when institutional data is involved.
- Recommend significant enterprise technology proposals and governance recommendations to the Executive IT Council.

Committee Members (Voting):

- 1 Division of Operations representative (appointed by Chief Operating Officer)
- 1 Strategy and Business Services representative (appointed by Senior VP for Strategy and Business Services)
- 1 University Staff Council representative (appointed by University Staff Council)
- 1 Student Government Association representative (appointed by Student Government Association)
- 1 Graduate and Professional Student Government representative (appointed by the Graduate and Professional Student Government)

- 1 Division of Research representative (appointed by Vice President for Research)
- 1 Council of Principal Investigators representative (appointed by Council of Principal Investigators)
- 2 Faculty Advisory Council representatives (appointed by Faculty Advisory Council)
- 1 Council of Deans representative (appointed by the Council of Deans)

Ex-Officio Members (Voting):

- Associate Vice President for Enterprise Application Services
- Assistant Vice President for IT Academic Operations

Term Limit:

Committee term limits will be staggered so that half of the members serve a one-year term, and the other half serves a two-year term. This structure helps ensure the committees can continue functioning effectively each year without a complete turnover in membership. Ex-officio membership is position based, so there are no term limits.

Committee Leadership:

- Chair: Elected by committee members
- Vice Chair: Elected by committee members

The selected Vice Chair should be a member serving a two-year term, allowing them to transition into the Chair role the following year.

Committee Operations:

- Meeting Frequency: Every other month (6x per year) January, March, May, July, September, November)
- Quorum: Simple majority of 50% +1
- Minutes/Agendas:
 - The Chair/Vice Chair shall set meeting agendas.
 - Define who does the meeting minutes (committee secretary).
 - Meeting minutes should be recorded and distributed within two weeks of each meeting.
 - Meeting materials should be distributed 5 days in advance, sans holidays.

Collaborating Committees:

Collaborating committees brief and inform the Enterprise Services Committee on committee activities to ensure alignment.

- LMS Executive Committee (Liaison: AVP for Enterprise Application Services)
- Digital Learning Environment Advisory Committee (Liaison: AVP for Enterprise Application Services)
- Banner Steering Committee (Liaison: AVP for Enterprise Application Services)

Reporting & Accountability:

Committee will determine.

Cybersecurity & Risk Committee

Purpose:

- The Cybersecurity & Risk Committee (CRC) provides strategic oversight and recommendations for the university's information security and IT risk management programs. The committee evaluates cyber threats, regulatory compliance requirements, and institutional risk tolerance to recommend policies, standards, and technology investments that safeguard university data, systems, and digital infrastructure while minimizing friction for academic and research missions. The committee works in close collaboration with the Privacy Officer, Chief Data Management Officer, and University Rule Team within the Office of Risk, Ethics and Compliance.

Charge/Responsibilities:

- Review and recommend enterprise-wide cybersecurity policies, standards, and guidelines to ensure the protection and resilience of university information assets.
- Evaluate and prioritize strategic investments in security technologies, risk mitigation initiatives, and infrastructure improvements.
- Assess institutional IT risk exposure, ensuring alignment with state, federal, and industry regulatory requirements (e.g., Texas Administrative Code, FERPA, HIPAA, NIST).
- Collaborate closely with the University Data Governance Committee to establish and enforce data classification, privacy standards, and secure data handling practices across the institution.
- Advise on enterprise incident response strategies, business continuity, and disaster recovery planning for critical university systems.
- Promote university-wide security awareness initiatives and advocate for a culture of proactive risk management among students, faculty, staff, and researchers.
- Recommend significant cybersecurity proposals, major risk acceptances, and compliance-related governance decisions to the Executive IT Council.

Committee Members (Voting):

- 1 Division of Research representative (appointed by Vice President of Research)
- 1 Strategy and Business Services representative (appointed by the Senior VP for Strategy and Business Services)

- 1 Division of Operations Representative (appointed by the Chief Operations Officer)
- 1 Office of the Provost representative (appointed by the Provost)
- 1 Faculty representative (appointed by Faculty Advisory Council)
- 1 Council of Principal Investigators representative (appointed by CPI Executive Committee)
- 1 Student Government Association representative (appointed by Student Government Association)
- 1 Graduate and Professional Student Government representative (appointed by the Graduate and Professional Student Government)

Ex-Officio (Voting):

- Chief Information Security Officer
- Privacy Officer
- Chief Data Management Officer
- Office of General Council representative
- Research Integrity Officer

Term Limit:

Committee term limits will be staggered so that half of the members serve a one-year initial term, and the other half serves a two-year term. This structure helps ensure the committees can continue functioning effectively each year without a complete turnover in membership. Ex-officio membership is position based, so there are no term limits.

Committee Leadership:

- Chair: Elected by membership.
- Vice Chair: Elected by membership.

The selected Vice Chair should be a member serving a two-year term, allowing them to transition into the Chair role the following year.

Committee Operations:

- Meeting Frequency: Quarterly January, March, July, November
- Quorum: Simple majority of 50% +1
- Minutes/Agendas:

- The Chair/Vice Chair shall set meeting agendas
- Define who does the meeting minutes (committee secretary).
- Meeting minutes should be recorded and distributed within two weeks of each meeting.
- Meeting materials should be distributed 5 business days in advance, sans holidays.

Collaborating Committees:

Collaborating committees brief and inform the Cybersecurity & Risk Committee on committee activities to ensure alignment.

- University Data Governance Committee (Liaison: Chief Data Management Officer)
- University Rules Committee – Risk & Compliance (Liaison: Chief Compliance Officer)

Reporting & Accountability:

Committee will determine.

Research Technologies Committee

Purpose:

- The Research Technologies Committee (RTC) provides input for the research mission of Texas A&M University by reviewing, evaluating, and recommending strategies, plans and policies regarding IT projects and services that support research by faculty and students.
- The committee solicits input from key stakeholders and constituents across the campus to ensure that institutional needs are met regarding technologies needed to support campus research activities.

Charge/Responsibilities:

- Review and recommend research technology applications with a university-wide impact.
- Identify and evaluate university-wide technology IT policy issues as requested by the Vice President for Research or related stakeholder groups.
- Identify and evaluate university-wide research data management or governance issues in collaboration with the University Data Governance Committee.
- Identify and evaluate university-wide data science technologies and infrastructure.
- Make recommendations for university-wide projects and service priorities in support of research technologies.
- Strategic planning covering technologies needed to support Division of Research strategic plan objectives.
- Develop strategies to assist Principal Investigators (PIs) on existing and planned grant funded initiatives to support existing technology investments or potential technology investments.
- Evaluate potential university-wide and institutional data systems projects using academic data in partnership with the University Data Governance Committee that uses research data.

Committee Members (Voting):

- 1 Faculty Advisory Council representative
- 1 Faculty representative (appointed by the Provost)

- 1 Sponsored Research Services representative (appointed by Vice President of Research)
- 1 Research Centers and Institutes representative (appointed by Vice President of Research)
- 1 High-Performance Research Computing representative (appointed by Vice President of Research)
- 2 Council of Principal Investigators (CPI) representatives
- 1 Graduate and Professional Student council representative

Ex-Officio Members (Voting):

- Associate Vice President for IT Architecture and Design
- Associate Vice President for Research and Education Network

Term Limit:

Committee term limits will be staggered so that half of the members serve a one-year term, and the other half serves a two-year term. This structure helps ensure the committees can continue functioning effectively each year without a complete turnover in membership. Ex-officio membership is position based, so there are no term limits.

Committee Leadership:

- Chair: Elected by membership.
- Vice Chair: Elected by membership.

The selected Vice Chair should be a member serving a two-year term, allowing them to transition into the Chair role the following year.

Committee Operations:

- Meeting Frequency: Every other month (6x per year) January, March, May, July, September, November)
- Quorum: Simple majority of 50% +1
- Minutes/Agendas:
 - The Chair/Vice Chair shall set meeting agendas.
 - Define who does the meeting minutes (committee secretary).
 - Meeting minutes should be recorded and distributed within two weeks of each meeting.

- Meeting materials should be distributed 5 business days in advance, sans holidays.

Collaborating Committees:

Collaborating committees brief and inform the Research Technologies Committee on committee activities to ensure alignment.

- VISION Super POD Governance Committee (Liaison: AVP for IT Architecture and Design)

Reporting & Accountability:

Committee will determine.

Health Technologies Committee

Purpose:

- The Health Technologies Committee (HTC) serves as an input and guidance body to enable innovative and effective health technologies and initiatives across Texas A&M Health.

Charge/Responsibilities:

- Review and recommendation of clinical, health research, and classroom applications to be procured and supported by Technology Services.
- Periodically assess satisfaction with technologies across Texas A&M Health using surveys, focus groups, town halls, or any other form of input assessment.
- Identify and facilitate Texas A&M Health strategic plan initiatives of digital health, research partnerships, and related strategies.
- Analyze the health technology portfolio to reduce technology fragmentation, eliminating duplicated clinical/research platforms, and adopting university-wide enterprise standards
- Analyze the health technology portfolio to identify opportunities for modernization for the purpose of reducing technical barriers to teaching and learning.
- Provide input to Texas A&M Health focused technology initiatives with periodic review of project portfolio initiatives.
- Identify and evaluate health technology policy issues in collaboration with University Risk and Compliance.
- Make funding requests for technology budget changes to executive leaders and relevant governance bodies within the University-wide IT Governance program and from other governance bodies.
- Evaluate potential university-wide and institutional data systems projects in partnership with the University Data Governance Committee that use generalized health science data, protected health information, personally identifiable information, or HIPAA regulated data.

Committee Members (Voting):

- 1 representative appointed by Dean of the Naresh K. Vashisht College of Medicine
- 1 representative appointed by Dean of the College of Dentistry

- 1 representative appointed by Dean of the College of Nursing
- 1 representative appointed by Dean of the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy
- 1 representative appointed by Dean of the School of Public Health
- 1 representative appointed by the Dean of the School of Engineering Medicine (EnMed)
- 1 Student Government Association Representative
- 1 Graduate and Professional Student Government Representative
- 1 representative appointed by Vice President for Research
- 1 staff representative appointed by the Vice President for Texas A&M Health
- 1 representative appointed by Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

Ex-Officio Members (Voting):

- Chief of Staff for the Vice President for Texas A&M Health

Term Limit:

Committee term limits will be staggered so that half of the members serve a one-year term, and the other half serves a two-year term. This structure helps ensure the committees can continue functioning effectively each year without a complete turnover in membership. Ex-officio membership is position based, so there are no term limits.

Committee Leadership:

- Chair: Elected by membership.
- Vice Chair: Elected by membership.

The selected Vice Chair should be a member serving a two-year term, allowing them to transition into the Chair role the following year.

Committee Operations:

- Meeting Frequency: Monthly
- Quorum: Simple majority of 50% +1
- Minutes/Agendas:
 - The Chair/Vice Chair shall set meeting agendas.
 - Define who does the meeting minutes (committee secretary).

- Meeting minutes should be recorded and distributed within two weeks of each meeting.
- Meeting materials should be distributed 5 business days in advance, sans holidays.

Reporting & Accountability:

Reports to the Senior Vice President for Texas A&M Health and the Executive IT Governance Committee.