

RULES AND REGULATIONS



THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

LAMAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

LAMAR STATE COLLEGE - ORANGE

LAMAR STATE COLLEGE - PORT ARTHUR

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY RIO GRANDE COLLEGE

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN MARCOS

**Adopted September 1, 1980
Amended August 21, 2008**

2.3

Retirement and Recognition of Service.

- 2.31 Retirement Programs. The Board of Regents authorizes each Component in the System to make retirement programs available to each eligible employee through the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, or the Optional Retirement Program, and tax sheltered annuities as authorized by statute.
- 2.32 Requirements of the Optional Retirement Program.
- 2.321 Company Qualifications. Each Component will design its specifications for companies to qualify as Optional Retirement Program vendors on that Component's campus. The Board of Regents must approve those specifications. Thereafter, the Component's President (or the President's designee) may authorize any insurance or investment company qualified and admitted to do business in this State to offer an ORP on the Component's campus. Any program offered is subject to compliance with statutory provisions, the prescribed *Rules and Regulations* of the Texas Department of Insurance, the State Securities Board, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the requirements of the Board of Regents.

- 2.322 Contributions. Employee and State contribution rates for the Optional Retirement Program and Teacher Retirement System shall comply with law.
- 2.323 Tax Considerations. Whether or not the employer's and/or employee's contributions to the Optional Retirement Program are tax sheltered, the employee's contribution is made on all salary reduction as required by the ORP statute. All contributions shall comply with IRS laws and regulations for accounts authorized under *Section 403(b)* of the *Internal Revenue Code*."
- 2.324 Authorization. The Component President or a representative designated by the President shall be authorized to sign the forms necessary to administer the Optional Retirement Program and the Teacher Retirement System.
- 2.325 Certification of State Comptroller. Each Component shall be required to certify to the State Comptroller each Fiscal Year an estimate of the amount of funds required for payments of State Matching Contributions for participants in the Optional Retirement Program.
- 2.326 Eligibility to Participate. An employee of a Component of The Texas State University System is eligible for participation in the Optional Retirement Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. An employee who has met the ORP vesting requirement and subsequently transfers to a position which would not otherwise qualify for ORP participation shall remain in ORP except as authorized by TRS rules.
- 2.33 Salary Reduction Plan of the Optional Retirement Program. The Components are authorized to participate in the salary reduction agreement of the Optional Retirement Program as provided by statute. The Component President or a representative designated by the President is authorized to approve the forms required for this salary reduction agreement through those carriers approved by the Board of Regents in the implementation of the Optional Retirement Program.
- 2.34 Honorary Titles and Resolutions for Retirees. Faithful and distinguished service by a retiring faculty member or administrator may be recognized by an appropriate resolution of the Board, upon recommendation of the Local Committee.
- 2.341 Long and distinguished service by a faculty member holding the rank of Professor or Associate Professor may be recognized upon retirement by conferral of the title of

Professor Emeritus, Associate Professor Emeritus, Distinguished Professor Emeritus or Distinguished Associate Professor Emeritus as provided by *Section 4.(16)* of this *Chapter*.

- 2.342 Faithful and distinguished service by the President of a Component may be recognized by the Board upon retirement, or upon returning to full-time teaching if a tenured member of the faculty, by conferral of the honorary title President Emeritus of the Component, without remuneration or authority for this honorary title.