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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes for Regular Meeting on Monday, April 3, 2006

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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes for Regular Meeting on Monday, April 3, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by President Win Jordan.

1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

- 1a. March 7, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved. One change was made to the roster, adding Senator Keith Dreiling to the March attendance roster.

2. Announcements and Information Items (no action required)

- 2a. Information from Kansas Board of Regents: President Jordan
 1. Academic Bill of Rights, testimony by David Horowitz
 2. President Jordan suggested that we view the following web site in order to get an understanding of the issue at hand:
<http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=21657>
 3. President Jordan also asked whether or not we should pass a resolution regarding Horowitz's initiative.
- 2b. COFSP Meeting, March 15, 2006
 1. Primary topic was the Academic Bill of Rights.
- 2c. Strategic Planning Committee, Ongoing Forums
 1. Series of forums have been conducted and will continue throughout the week.
 2. President Jordan urged faculty to get involved since their numbers have been small at these forums.
- 2d. President's Cabinet
 1. At the time of this meeting, President's Cabinet had not met.
- 2e. Council on Institutional Effectiveness
 1. This council cancelled its meeting due to the series of ongoing forums being conducted.
 2. However, President Jordan reported that a subcommittee is working on creating an employee satisfaction survey.

3. Reports from Committees

- 3a. Executive Committee: Win Jordan
 1. We briefly discussed the creation of permission-only adds for Virtual College courses once class starts unless the student already has the books.
 2. After a small discussion, it was determined that enough rules and guidelines were in place to regulate this problem.
- 3b. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes
 1. The following courses were presented for a vote:
 - a. **CHEM 382, Introduction to Forensic Science**
 - b. **BIOL 620L, Biostatistics Lab**
 - c. **BIOL 670L, Landscape Ecology Lab**
 2. All three classes passed by a unanimous vote.
- 3c. Student Affairs: Robert Howell
 1. Senator Howell reported that the allocations meeting was an unusual event that lasted nearly four hours and ended with providing allocations that were in place at the beginning of the meeting.
- 3d. University Affairs: Loretta Dorn
 1. **Resolution 05-04**
 2. Text for the KS legislature's proposed endorsement can be found at the following website:
 3. <http://www.kslegislature.org/journals/2006/hj0202.pdf>
 4. After discussion of the implications of this issue, Faculty Senate to a vote. The resolution passed with one abstention.
 5. Blackboard Issue: The Faculty Senate expressed the definite opinion that no requirement should be put in place concerning Blackboard use by faculty.

6. Faculty Evaluations: Where did this issue go? The general sentiment is that the recommendations were created, but Faculty Senate does not have the power to enforce them.
- 3e. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Daniel Kulmala
 1. No report.
- 3f. University Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Tim Crowley
 1. No report.
4. Reports from Special Committees and Other Representatives
 - 4a. Writing Across the Curriculum: Daniel Kulmala
 1. The following items were briefly discussed
 - a. Survey of writing has been created for General Education courses.
 - b. Plans to create a Research and Writing Center, expanding upon the Writing Center already in existence.
 - c. Plans to create writing awards for the Research and Creativity Week in Spring 2007.
5. **Old Business**
 - 5a. Progress on a stakeholder-derived strategic plan for FHSU.
 1. President Jordan invited faculty to participate in the forums concerning this initiative.
 - 5b. Discussion on requiring use of Blackboard by faculty.
 1. Most senators felt that Blackboard should not be mandated.
 2. SGA President Kiley Eisenhower emphasized that SGA did not want to mandate its use and she read from a statement which stressed that SGA wants to work with Faculty Senate in order to remedy the problem of students not getting grades for their classes.
 3. Some senators suggested that we investigate the usefulness of Blackboard.
 4. Some solutions to the Blackboard use problem were raised, like setting Blackboard up for all new faculty members during orientation.
 5. President Jordan suggested that we might pass a resolution or recommendation that emphasizes faculty should give students feedback about their progress and standing in class. He also suggested that we take this matter back to our chairs for further discussion.
6. **New Business**
 - 6a. Elections for Vice President/President Elect and Secretary.
 1. Senator Kulmala was nominated for the VP position. He was elected VP, with twenty-seven votes (27) and one abstention.
 2. Senator Cooper and Eric Gillock were nominated for the Secretary; Senator Cooper won the election by a vote of twenty-six (26) to two (2).
7. **Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting**
 - 7a. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.