

2-5-2008

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, February 5, 2008

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate. 107.
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FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
Minutes for Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order in the Stouffer Lounge at 3:35 p.m. by President Dan Kulmala.

1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

- a. The December 3, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved, after a motion and second by Ken Trantham and Martha Holmes. There were no changes to the meeting's sign-in roster.

2. Announcements and Information Items (no action required): Dan Kulmala

- a. Board of Regents meeting
 - Measuring Learner Outcomes–Key Academic Skills. Dan reported that the Board of Regents discussed issues about the need to measure learner outcomes and key academic skills.
 - General Education–Defining Liberal Arts and Education. Dan reported on the Board's discussion about issues of defining liberal arts and education as we move away from what is typically called the Industrial Age education. The discussion goes along with the topic of measurement and assessment. How do you measure critical thinking, problem-solving, and other skills? We are engaged in measuring and assessing the skills, but how do we quantify it? These are just discussions and concerns going on. Next year, FHSU will probably evaluate its general education program, asking questions such as, "What is the purpose of general education? Do we need to insert new courses?" We are anticipating change rather than waiting to be told how to change.
- b. COFSP meeting
 - Voluntary System of Accountability Program. FHSU has signed onto this system. It provides information such as student demographics. Starting next year, FHSU will have its information on the website.
 - Addressing issues concerning Liberal Arts
- c. President's Cabinet
 - No report – Dan noted the Cabinet was supposed to meet tomorrow at the Holiday Inn, and that the Holiday Inn is planning to give a reduced rate of \$45/night for people interviewing or on other business with FHSU.

3. Reports from Committees

- a. Executive Committee: Dan Kulmala
 - CoursEval: Pilot the database this semester – The Executive Committee believes it's a good database, especially the various features available through CoursEval3. This is a collection tool for student responses. We will probably have an information forum this semester to see what it has to offer and what qualities we see. Academic Management Systems is letting us pilot it again for free this semester. We will probably include

HHP and have some Departments include some of their own questions. There will probably be a policy statement in June for the Provost's Council to review. This is the process of implementing the questions that the evaluation committee developed over the past four years. The Faculty Senate voted to pass the questions on to the Provost. Four years ago, the questions were presented to the Provost. There are multiple ways to manage the information from the CoursEval system. Certain things will have to be done as a University, but on the whole, Departments will determine how it is used. There are basically 32 prompts for students. Each Department can preference certain questions.

- Dare to Dream Initiatives – We were asked to look at the proposals about foreign language and idea of entrepreneurship. Dan commented on the University of Rochester concept of entrepreneurship – that another concept is “being innovative” – and ways a university can be innovative. There was some discussion about what Dr. Hammond intends by the term entrepreneurship. Martha Holmes read the recommendations of Academic Affairs that no change be made to the current course requirements, that the Provost convene a task force, and that advisors make recommendations that more students study foreign language. She will bring these forward at the next meeting.
 - University-wide Evaluation of Chairs and Deans – By the next meeting or the April meeting, we may bring a policy statement for standardization of the process for the evaluation of chairs and deans. Perhaps they should be evaluated on an annual basis. There was a question about why consistency across the university is important. It is mainly an issue that some deans and chairs are never evaluated, perhaps because they leave before three or four years. It's a matter of timing and frequency that they should be evaluated yearly. Fred Britten commented that the College of Health and Life Sciences has the process of the evaluation of chairs and deans clearly explained in its operational procedures, and the process seems to work.
- b. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes.**
- Application for a New Course “Women and Leadership” – Martha provided a handout about the new course application and noted that the Academic Affairs Committee had unanimously approved it. The new course was approved unanimously by the Faculty Senate.
 - Application for a New Course “Ethics for Accountants” – Martha provided a handout about the new course. There was some discussion about the potential course content and materials. The new course was approved unanimously by the Faculty Senate.
- c. Student Affairs: Jeff Burnett**
- No report
- d. University Affairs: Jerry Wilson**
- No report

- e. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Win Jordan
 - No report
- f. University Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Josephine Squires
 - No report

4. Reports from Special Committees and Other Representatives

- a. Writing Across the Curriculum: Dan Kulmala
 - Dan is pulling together a report about the needs analysis. The concept is to use writing as a means by which to measure skills such as critical thinking, analysis, and problem-solving. He is looking at criteria for these courses, and what's going on at other universities. If people agree with what he is imagining for the future for these courses, he would be glad to have the Faculty Senate sanction the courses. We are looking at what we might want to do with the writing that is currently being done by students. Students coming to FHSU are "below average" in terms of what would be considered their peers according to Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA). By the time they leave, they are "above average," so we are doing what we profess to do in terms of educating people who come to this university. It's a matter of using what we are already doing to engage in other educational activities.
 - There was a question about the Writing Center and support provided for it. Dan is looking at expanding what the Writing Center can offer, integrating it more with the Learning Commons, with options for providing courses through the Writing Center. We are looking at the purpose of the Writing Center. Rather than turning students away, we hope to expand the Writing Center, integrating more Colleges into the Writing Center, conceivably through faculty development means.
 - Dan noted that the current analysis is mostly about undergraduate students. Graduate students could be part of the next step or process
 - The analysis considers taking our students to the next level such as exceptional writers and thinkers with e-portfolio programs, and other systems that can involve students at the high school level, taking their e-portfolios onto the college level.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

- Faculty Senate Nominees and Appointees – See attachment – Typically, the Faculty Senate President appoints someone to each vacancy. If a representative has someone in mind, send Dan the names and he will send them to the Provost rather than waiting until this summer.
- Computer Removal Issue – This is no longer an issue. Dan learned from the Provost Council that computers will not be removed from mediated classrooms and labs for another year

- Iran Resolution—See attachment. Brett Zollinger introduced the resolution. Some questions, issues and concerns were discussed such as the following: How are other universities addressing the issue? Berkeley and Harvard have passed resolutions. Would our action on this issue set a precedent for the Faculty Senate on political issues and concerns? We are a university and, as such, we need to have more facts. Iran may not be the most appropriate place to start addressing political and global concerns. What about Darfur and other places? Baha'is may not be the largest minority in Iran. There are 250,000 people of the Baha'i religion in Iran. Marilyn Ray, Adjunct Professor of Sociology, provided a brief history of the persecution, with a concern that it may lead to genocide – and the international outcry since 1979. She said the Baha'is are the largest religious minority in Iran. Perhaps a letter in support of higher education for all should be sent to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

REC announcement – A contingent of faculty and students are going to Parkville University, May 1. The Graduate School sponsored the conference here last year. If anyone is interested in going April 31, contact Germaine Taggart. To leave May 1, in the early morning, contact Gene Rice. Dan is presenting there.

- 7. Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting.** A motion to adjourn the meeting was approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.