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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, January 12, 1955

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Minutes of the regular meeting of the Faculty Senate, Wednesday, January 12, 1955, at 3:30 p.m. in the Dean's Office.

All members were present:

Arrangement of the catalogue:

The arrangement of the catalogue was discussed. Attention was called to the present arrangement in which the subject fields are arranged alphabetically. There have been some suggestions that this might be arranged according to divisions. It was explained that until 1941 the catalogue was arranged by divisions and some of our catalogues prior to 1941 were examined by the Senate members.

It was suggested that the students as well as others prefer the alphabetical arrangement because it is simple and usable. The divisions of the college are shown in our present catalogue beginning on page 51, which probably is sufficient. There seems to be less emphasis on any one area when the course material is not listed under divisions.

It was the consensus of the group that no change should be made in the subject field arrangement of our catalogue.

Problem of parking automobiles:

It was suggested that the parking of automobiles is a real problem and that as the enrollment increases, this will get worse. No discussion was given to this as it does not come under the jurisdiction of this group.

Enrollment in graduate courses:

Dr. Thompson asked about the policy regarding graduate courses numbered 300 and above, and said that it is difficult to enroll enough students in these courses to warrant teaching them. He also said that it might be better to number the courses so that seniors and graduates may enroll, in which case the classes would probably develop.

Dr. Coder said that it is not possible to enforce the rule regarding the 300 courses and that exceptions have had to be made in some cases. It is a fairly standard policy that one-half of the courses for graduates should be strictly graduate.

Easter Vacation:

Attention was called to the error in the calendar in the schedule of classes and the catalogue regarding the Easter vacation. The Easter vacation period is from Thursday, April 7, to Tuesday, April 12, inclusive.

Dr. Coder reported regarding the foreign language requirements:

Dr. Coder said that for some time it has been the feeling that foreign language requirement is a deterrent in getting the A.B. Degree. The enrollments in the language courses have dropped very much during the past fifteen years, and if this continues there will be no call for the language courses. There is a belief among some people that a foreign language is not needed. In fact a number of colleges have abandoned the requirement for the A.B. Degree.
Dr. Coder said that in the seaboard states, many schools are teaching language conversation in the elementary schools. It would be wonderful if every child could be given the opportunity to learn to speak one other language beside English. Knowledge of a language is very worthwhile for its cultural value as well as necessary if we are to follow through in our position in world leadership.

Dr. Coder explained that the freshmen here have not been given much opportunity to enroll in a language course because of the program of general education. If students wait until they are juniors or seniors, there is little chance that they can or will enroll in language courses. It seems that the only solution would be that the lower division advisers would encourage those students who want to enroll in a language course.

Dr. Coder said that other methods for the language courses have been discussed by the staff, such as meeting for regular class periods three days a week and then meeting as a club once a week, but no satisfactory plan has been found. Another suggestion is the possibility of substituting a course in linguistics, philology, or/and semantics in lieu of one year of language.

It was decided to discuss the question regarding the languages at a later meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

E. R. McCartney, Chairman

S. V. Dalton, Secretary