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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, November 2, 2004

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes for Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 P.M. by President David Goodlett.

1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

1a. October 4, 2004 minutes (see Attachment A) and sign-in roster (see Attachment B)

- Three corrections were noted. Senator Britten corrected his statement under item 4l concerning Graduate Council activities; Graduate Council was completing course approvals. Senator Selk corrected the use of “chair” to “liaison” under item 4c for her participation on the Virtual College Advisory Committee. And a correction was made concerning Senator Drabkin as a member and, hence, liaison for the Library Committee since he no longer serves on that committee.
- Motion to approve made by Senator Koerner and seconded by Senator Trout. The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the minutes and roster for October 4, 2004.

2. Announcements and Information Items (no action required)

2a. Information from Kansas Board of Regents: President Goodlett

- President Goodlett reported on two issues from the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents:
 1. Discussion continues on concurrent enrollment and the desire to establish a formal set of resolutions on this issue and practice.
 2. Tuition assistance for dependents of faculty and staff has been raised again. This time the hope is to devise a plan that would be amenable to the Board of Regents that would allow each individual university to adopt tuition assistance or to not adopt it as a practice based on a university’s needs.

2b. Report from the President’s Cabinet

- The issue of student athletes’ receiving grades for the sports in which they participate was discussed.
- Provost Gould indicated that the Provost Council is investigating this issue and that it is taking into consideration the way credit is awarded for participation in marching band, etc. One option is to offer a pass/fail system for grades for these types of activities.

2c. Report from Dr. Heinrichs on Research Environment Task Force

- Dr. Heinrichs paraphrased and explained the history, activities, and goals of this task force. And then he highlighted several aspects of this task force’s findings: one, faculty are strongly dissatisfied with the amount of time available to do research; and two, each department needs to look at what it expects of research by its faculty.
- The Research Environment Committee is now in place with Dr. Heinrichs as the chair and Senator Schmierbach as the liaison for this committee.

2d. Report from Dr. David Schmidt on new portals.

- This report will be given at the December meeting rather than the November meeting.

3. Reports from Committees

3a. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes

Recommendation 104-049: GSCI 220

- Unanimously approved

3b. Student Affairs: Robert Howell

- Senator Howell stated that considerations were being made for candidates for Who’s Who of Students.

3c. University Affairs: Loretta Dorn

- Senator Dorn reported that this committee continues to gather information regarding the Oktoberfest issue.

3d. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Daniel Kulmala
• This committee will meet in November to discuss the issue of senatorial representation.

3e. Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Win Jordan
• No report

3f. Executive Committee: David Goodlett
• President Goodlett saved discussion for the issue under Old Business.

4. Reports from Liaisons

4a. Instructional Technology Policy Advisory Committee: Paul Siegrist
• No report. Senator Siegrist was recently named liaison, so he will not have a report until the next meeting.

4b. International Programming Team: Dosse Toulaboe
• Grant proposals and the development of a website were at issue for this group.

4c. Virtual College Advisory Committee: Sue Jacobs
• Senator Taylor reported that a survey was filled out concerning top priorities for this committee.

4d. Classified Senate: Tom Martin
• No report

4e. AQIP and Institutional Effectiveness Committee: Chris Crawford
• Assistant Provost Crawford indicated that the system portfolio is due soon.

4f. Report from AAUP Liaison: Douglas Drabkin
• No report

4g. Student Government: Robert Howell
• SGA expressed its concerns about moving to the MIAA conference due to the cost to students.

4h. General Education: Martha Holmes
• Senator Holmes reported that this group would meet later that week.

4i. Faculty Development Committee: Carol Patrick
• No report

4j. Staff Development Committee:
• No report

4k. Library Committee:
• No report

4l. Graduate Council: Fred Britten
• Plan to complete course approvals for classes submitted over the summer.

4m. Research Environment Committee: Amy Schmierbach
• Will meet this month and have more to discuss at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

4n. Faculty Research Association: Steve Trout
• The second issue of "Research Matters" was ready to disburse. And Senator Trout reported that Dr. Robert Rook will present a sabbatical lecture on Middle-Eastern war memorials on Thursday, November 11.

5. Old Business

5a. Faculty Evaluation Task Force proposal acceptance and discussion

- President Goodlett reported that the Executive Committee voted to accept this report.
- Then the Faculty Senate voted on whether or not to accept the report in order to make it possible to discuss it.
- Senator Lisichenko made a motion to accept the report and Senator Dorn seconded the motion. The Faculty Senate unanimously voted to accept the report.
- A general discussion of the report ensued, in which senators expressed the following concerns and ideas about the report:
 1. Senator Dorn questioned the self-evaluation component since ratings could be confounded by bias given that it would be to the instructor's advantage to rate himself or herself high to better the score.
 2. Some questioned the need for self-evaluation. Former President Patrick responded by indicating that self-evaluation provides an attempt to see how the instructor sees himself in relation to others.
 3. Senator Siegrist questioned the item on approachability under Interpersonal questions, suggesting that such a question might be an assessment of personality and not teaching skills. President Goodlett indicated that approachability would suggest whether or not students felt that they could contact or e-mail the instructor.
 4. Senator Drabkin questioned whether or not the two items under Expertise were really separate prompts.
 5. Senator Jordan suggested that the General/Overall questions be placed last in the evaluation, not first.
 6. More than several senators expressed deep concern for the tremendous amount of work required by this format, foreseeing the possibility of an extended time commitment.
 7. Provost Gould commented on the positive aspect of this evaluation system, suggesting that it offers a comprehensive plan that could contribute to our commitment to quality.
 8. Senator Britten recommended that further discussion at the next meeting should be conducted.
 9. President Goodlett suggested that the next step would be to send the report to University Affairs.
 10. Former President Heinrichs suggested that a committee be formed to address written comments about this document.
 11. The Faculty Senate decided to resume discussion at the next meeting, giving Faculty Senators the chance to read the report further and to gather opinions from members of their departments.

6. New Business

- No new business to report

7. Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting

- Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.