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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, December 6, 2004

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate
Minutes for Regular Meeting on Monday, December 6, 2004

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

1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

- 1a. November 2, 2004 minutes and sign-in roster (See attachments)
- Motion to approve made by Senator Morin and seconded by Senator Koerner. The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the minutes and roster for November 2, 2004.

2. Announcements and Information Items (no action required)

- 2a. Information from Kansas Board of Regents: President Goodlett
- The Council of Faculty Senate Presidents discussed two primary issues
 1. Concurrent enrollment: Work is in progress toward finalizing a proposal; and this council asserted the need to maintain contact with faculty from a variety of institutions throughout the state—universities and community colleges.
 2. Tuition Assistance: This issue has continued to receive discussion and consideration for an acceptable, flexible policy based on an individual university's needs.
 - Kansas Board of Regents is investigating the retirement program, wanting to ensure that funding is safe and that companies offering the programs remain solid. In addition, regents expressed concern about raising salaries while also emphasizing the imminent need for building maintenance.
- 2b. Report from the President's Cabinet
- No report
- 2c. Report from Dr. David Schmidt on the new portals
- David Schmidt explained the benefits of the new portal system to be deployed at FHSU in January 2006. One benefit, for example, includes the role-based access aspect of the new portals, allowing a user access to specific information that is applicable for that person—like a faculty member having access to advisor-related information.

3. Reports from Committees

- 3a. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes
- No report
- 3b. Student Affairs: Robert Howell
- No report
- 3c. University Affairs: Loretta Dorn
- Senator Dorn reported that Ed Howell will meet with them at the next meeting to discuss safety procedures and issues at FHSU.
- 3d. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Daniel Kulmala
- Senator Kulmala reported that members are investigating the number of senators for each department for possible reapportioning.
- 3e. Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Win Jordan
- Senator Jordan reported that members of this group are gathering input on international contracts.

- 3f. Executive Committee: David Goodlett
- Discussion was saved for Old Business below.

4. Reports from Liaisons

- 4a. Instructional Technology Policy Advisory Committee:
- David Schmidt reported that this committee discussed the role of laptops on campus, asking questions like whether or not laptops really make a difference for education and the educational experience. He suggested that FHSU might have a pilot run for a variety of classes first before making a decision. Provost Gould added that he has not found any evidence to suggest that laptops enhance education.
- 4b. International Programming Team: Dosse Toulaboe
- No report
- 4c. Virtual College Advisory Committee: Michelle Selk
- Five issues are under consideration: one, centralized professional advisors for on-line students; two, community college liaisons/adjunct appreciation day; three, the committee looked at the issue of on-campus students who take Virtual College courses; four, on-line TEVALs and when they should be distributed; and five, the encouragement of faculty members to take advantage of Safe Assignment.
- 4d. Classified Senate: Tom Martin
- No report
- 4e. AQIP and Institutional Effectiveness Committee: Chris Crawford
- Provost Gould reported that they hope to have a document ready soon for the Focus Systems Portfolio—should have it ready by the end of December.
- 4f. Report from AAUP Liaison: Douglas Drabkin
- Senator Drabkin reported that a meeting concerning fiscal matters will be held on December 14. He also noted two issues discussed at the tenure forum:
 1. Standards: each department should have a say about standards for its tenure-track faculty and that they should not be judged by standards that are not at the department level.
 2. Constant Growth: does a tenure-track faculty member need to show constant growth? The answer is: no. Also, how does one really define growth?
- 4g. Student Government: Robert Howell
- SGA expressed its concerns about getting more students to go to athletic events.
- 4h. General Education: Martha Holmes
- Members are reviewing syllabi for general education courses and should have this work finished in January. Also this group discussed the Democracy Project and how it could relate to the general education courses.

- 4i. Faculty Development Committee: Amy Schmierbach
- President Goodlett read from Carol Patrick's report. Ten Faculty Development applications were received and all ten were funded for \$3, 970.00.
 - Provost Gould added that the committee questioned whether or not the cap on funding should be increased. He recommended that the cap be raised from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. Faculty Senate voted on the motion approved by Senator Koerner and seconded by Senator Trout: the cap for funds for Faculty Development is to be raised from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 4j. Library Committee: Dianna Koerner
- Senator Koerner distributed a report outlining twelve topics for discussion by this committee. She suggested that should anyone have questions about the topics that person should contact her for an explanation.
- 4k. Graduate Council: Fred Britten
- At the November meeting Dean Jackson provided data concerning the demographics of graduate school students. He suggested that anyone interested in this information should contact Dean Jackson. Senator Britten encouraged people to read this material in order to discover the positive impact that the Graduate School has on FHSU.
- 4l. Research Environment Committee: Amy Schmierbach
- Senator Trout expressed that this committee had an extremely productive meeting, and he was happy to report that we will get much of what was asked for in their report. In the near future, he hopes to report on the specific items to be to put into practice at FHSU.
- 4m. Faculty Research Association: Steve Trout
- No report

5. Old Business

- 5a. Faculty evaluation task force proposal acceptance and discussion
- Continued concerns and a discussion of the report ensued, in which senators expressed the following questions and ideas about the report:
 1. Senator Koerner questioned the amount of time it will take to administer this evaluation, especially the amount of work a chair will need to perform. She also had concerns about team-teaching courses and how this evaluation system would work for those classes.
 2. Senator Trout fears that this evaluation format will force departments to drown in paperwork and use up valuable instructional time for students.
 3. Senator Jordan expressed a concern about it becoming too cumbersome.
 4. A question concerning norming was raised, concerning time of day, class size and whether or not a course was a general education course. Provost Gould

indicated that we are required to norm but that it has not been done in about ten years.

5. Some suggested that we might try to pilot the TEVAL first.
 6. President Goodlett suggested that a motion be made to move the report to University Affairs. Senator Britten made the motion and Senator Johnson seconded it. The motion was made to refer the report to University Affairs for deliberation and for the committee to report its findings at the February 2005 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 6. New Business**
- No new business to report
- 7. Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting**
- Meeting was adjourned at 5:02 P.M.