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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, December 5, 2005

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes for Regular Meeting on Monday, December 5, 2005

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

1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

- 1a. November 1, 2005 minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Announcements and Information Items (no action required)

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

1. President Jordan distributed a summary of his information to the Faculty Senate. The following items were presented:
 - a. The Board wants institutions to shift emphasis to more direct rather than indirect performance indicators.
 - b. Stretch goals are encouraged by the Board. Primarily, these goals look for progress toward such goals, not necessarily accomplishing them.
 - c. Senator Dorn asked for clarification of a "stretch goal." President Jordan explained that "stretch goals" intends to make an institution or group to do more with less; in other words, one would reach for the goal and make progress toward it, yet not necessarily accomplish it.
2. The Council of Faculty Senate Presidents discussed a series of topics, and President Jordan highlighted the following:
 - a. KSU is instituting an honor system in the student website that mirrors the existing faculty handbook. For example, should a student fail a course due to cheating, an "XF" is placed on the transcript.
 - b. KUMC has adopted its new 270-page handbook.
 - c. A need to convert student and faculty IDs from SSNs by June.
 - d. Some discussion on the need to use textbooks longer or use older editions to keep costs down for students.
 - e. Suggested that when Regents visit the campus that the best teachers on campus need to meet with them.

2b. Report from President's Cabinet

1. President Jordan provided a list of items discussed. But did not elaborate on them, asking senators to contact him for details.
 - a. Revised policy statement on the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the FHSU campus.
 - b. Final United Way update.
 - c. Policy on the use of campus facilities.
 - d. Revise statement on legal defense of state employees.
 - e. Report on MLS concentrations.
 - f. National Center for Education Statistics Data Feedback Report 2005.
 - g. Review of guidelines on phased retirement program at Regents institutions.

3. Reports from Committees

3a. Executive Committee: Win Jordan

1. Visited by Bookstore representatives. Saved this information for New Business.
2. Discussed, read, and signed "Thinking of You" card for Carol Patrick.

3b. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes

1. No report.

3c. Student Affairs: Robert Howell

1. About eighty students qualified for Who's Who of Outstanding Students.
2. SGA President Kiley Eisenhower discussed SGA's concerns about recent resolutions pushed by SGA. The resolutions concerned the following areas:

- a. The need for faculty to abide by the policies outlined in the Faculty and Staff Handbook, especially Chapter 2.
 - b. The need for all faculty members to post online syllabi and include ISBN for course books two weeks prior to the students' first day of classes.
 - c. Wanting FHSU to require all faculty members to provide an accurate, up-to-date grade report at any time students want to know their grades.
 - d. The need for a university-wide mandate requiring all faculty members to use Blackboard and to receive training in order to ensure that faculty use Blackboard effectively.
- 3. SGA President Kiley Eisenhower wanted to ensure Faculty Senate that SGA wants to maintain good relations with Faculty Senate.
 - 4. She also expressed her serious doubts about signing the resolutions.
 - 5. Senator Drabkin asked what SGA is concerned about. President Eisenhower stated that she believed that "power issues" by the students seemed to be fueling these resolutions.
 - 6. General discussion ensued in which several senators discussed why the resolutions were unnecessary and problematic.
- 3d. University Affairs: Loretta Dorn
- 1. Senator Dorn discussed the following issues:
 - a. The need for a tenure file cap on size of the tenure file.
 - b. Long-term temporary employee issue.
 - c. The giving of a Professional Award of some kind in order to make it possible for full professors who have taught for six years beyond promotion to be recognized should they continue to produce research and demonstrate commendable service and teaching.
- 3e. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Daniel Kulmala
- 1. Discussed the problems with re-defining the term "teaching faculty."
 - 2. Hope to have a working definition for the next Executive Committee meeting.
 - 3. Will have results of the faculty vote to eliminate the June Faculty Senate meeting for the next meeting.
- 3f. Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Curt Brungardt
- 1. No report.

4. Reports from Special Committees and Other Representatives

- 4a. Writing Across the Curriculum Task Force: Daniel Kulmala
- 1. The committee has met to discuss the direction of its activities. Currently, the committee has plans to examine writing assignments in general education classes.
- 4b. Other
- 1. AAUP representative Senator Stark reported on the following:
 - a. Concerns about who should be members of AAUP given the different types of teaching faculty currently at FHSU.
 - b. Asked for continued support for the Peer Parity campaign.
 - c. Expressed that the Intellectual Property Forum went well.

5. Old Business

- 5a. No Old Business discussed.

6. New Business

- 6a. Discussion on textbook situation by Chris Schyler and Dottie Staab
- 1. After an information sheet was distributed, the following was discussed:
 - a. Textbook prices determined by publishers, not bookstore.
 - b. After 9/11 an increase in cost for textbooks occurred.
 - c. Discussion of the buy-back book activities
 - d. Money spent on textbooks is distributed in the following manner: Publisher 67%, Author 9%, Freight 2.5%, Revenue to the university 9%, Bookstore salaries 10%, and Bookstore direct expenses 2.5%.
 - e. General discussion over whether or not to give ISBN to students. The Bookstore now provides the information on its website.

6a. Discussion on whether or not faculty members wish to take a stand on evolution/intelligent design policy

1. President Jordan informed Faculty Senate that KBOR will make a decision about this issue in the near future.
2. General discussion ensued in which the following was discussed:
 - a. Senator Dorn stated that the problem is that Intelligent Design is being taught as scientific fact and that its coming through a political venue, not a scientific one.
 - b. Senator Dorn expressed the need to take a stand on what is or is not scientifically valuable.
 - c. Senator Drabkin stated that FHSU has a responsibility to the community to express such ideas and that it might be appropriate for FHSU to draft something in the interest of taking a stand for relevance and truth.
 - d. A general proposal was made that science faculty draft a resolution.
 - e. Senator Britten suggested that we appoint a task force with a limited goal to draft a resolution.
 - f. Senator Stark questioned what is to be gained by drafting such a resolution since it might make some constituents angry.
 - g. Senator Levy expressed that we have an academic obligation as professionals and teachers to support an approach.
 - h. Senator Dorn stated that silence is consent.
 - i. This concern has been passed to University Affairs in order to decide what to do with this issue.

7. Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting

7a. Meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.