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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, March 7, 2006

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes for Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m. by President Win Jordan.

1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

1a. February 6, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Announcements and Information Items (no action required)

2a. Proposal concerning the continuation of hard-copy schedules: Joey Linn

1. Joey Linn gave a demonstration on how to use on-line registration and scheduling.
2. Questions were raised during the demonstration in which the following was discussed:
 - a. Emphasis placed on the real time of on-line scheduling versus paper hard-copy.
 - b. Possibility of a dual screen process in the future.
 - c. Significant savings in money and time using this method.
 - d. In the future FHSU hopes to make ADD/DROP easier through this process
3. After the demonstration a general discussion ensued in which the following was discussed:
 - a. Several senators expressed their satisfaction with the system and felt impressed by its ease.
 - b. However, some were concerned about not always having Internet access which would make the paper hard copy a necessity.
 - c. Eventually, printing a hard copy off the Internet will contribute to the OOE costs for each department.
 - d. Senator Howell expressed his fears that with his some ninety advisees this new on-line process will slow him down.
 - e. Some senators expressed concern about whether or not students will be informed of the change to on-line scheduling.
 - f. Senator Trout expressed that he would like to have a paper copy at least until the university works the kinks out of the new system.
 - g. Joey Linn offered to print a paper hard copy off for any faculty member who needs one at the Registrar's expense.
 - h. A motion was made to accept Linn's proposal. Senator Trout made the motion, and Senator Sanders seconded the motion. The motion to accept Joey Linn's offer to print hard-copy schedules for any faculty member who needs one was unanimously accepted.

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

1. Approved a distance education plan for the system. President Jordan offered to print a copy of the plan for anyone who wants to read it.

2c. COFSP Meeting, February 15, 2006

1. Primary concern is an Academic Bill of Rights developed by a conservative organization called Students for Academic Freedom. President Jordan provided links for us to check out.
 - a. Provost Gould emphasized that we cannot ignore this initiative, indicating that it is something like a distorted affirmative action for conservatives.
 - b. President Jordan sent this concern to University Affairs in order to devise an FHSU statement.
 - c. Faculty Senate gave unanimous approval to send this concern to University Affairs for a future resolution.
2. President Jordan outlined the following COFSP concerns:
 - a. US Department of Education is pushing to standardize General Education requirements throughout the nation, creating a "No Child Left Behind" for higher education.
 - b. COFSP discussed support for electronic transcript transfer throughout the system.
 - c. Kansas Board of Education is considering approving teachers who have a BA degree in a content area and pass the PLT.

- 2d. Strategic Planning Committee: Assistant Provost Chris Crawford
 - 1. Assistant Provost Crawford discussed the Strategic Plan for FHSU, and he invited faculty to join one of several committees he outlined in his handout.
 - 2. President Jordan indicated that a series of forums will be conducted about this initiative.
- 2e. Report from President's Cabinet, March 1, 2006
 - 1. President Jordan provided a list of items discussed and provided details on a few.
 - a. Discussed the possibility of about 50 students and 5 instructors involved in ESL coming to Hays from October 1-June 15.
 - b. Re-introduced the Midterm Grade and the Use of Blackboard by Faculty issues raised by SGA. President Hammond wants Faculty Senate to reconsider the SGA resolutions.
 - c. FHSU is in the process of selecting students to go to China.
 - d. A new Scatcat server went online. The new server can handle a greater load of information. The previous server ran at 90% of its capability; the new server can handle the same load using 2.5% of its capability.

3. Reports from Committees

- 3a. Executive Committee: Win Jordan
 - 1. Dr. Heinrichs attended the meeting and discussed the Learner Outcome Assessment Task Force. The recommendations made two years ago meet the expectations of both AQIP and the Kansas Board of Regents.
 - 2. Members discussed the possibility of FHSU creating exit exams for General Education. It was suggested that Faculty Senate might generate a resolution proposing such an exam.
 - 3b. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes
 - 1. The following courses were presented for a vote:
 - a. **INT 292, Internetworking II**
 - b. **INT 671, Linux in Networking**
 - c. **INT 672, Advanced Linux in Networking**
 - d. **INT 684, Foundations of Information Systems Security**
 - e. **INT 686, Network Security Firewalls**
 - 2. All five classes passed by a unanimous vote.
 - 3. The following course and the necessary changes to General Education were discussed:
 - a. **IDS 333, Exploration in the Humanities**
 - b. Several faculty members spoke of the need and benefit of this course and its possible topics.
 - c. The course received unanimous approval.
 - 4. Approval of IDS 333 meant that Faculty Senate needed to discuss and vote upon **Recommendation 05-02.**
 - a. The Academic Affairs Committee of Faculty Senate recommends the addition of an area called "Interdisciplinary Studies" to the Humanities section of Part II: B. Distribution in the General Education program. The course listed under this new area will be the present course IDS 350 Multiculturalism in the US and IDS 333 Exploration in the Humanities.
 - b. Some discussion ensued, but the recommendation received unanimous approval.
 - 3c. Student Affairs: Robert Howell
 - 1. Allocations will be conducted before Spring Break.
 - 3d. University Affairs: Loretta Dorn
 - 1. No report.
 - 3e. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Daniel Kulmala
 - 1. No report.
 - 3f. University Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Tim Crowley
 - 1. No report.
- ### 4. Reports from Special Committees and Other Representatives
- 4a. No additional reports.

5. Old Business

5a. Progress on a stakeholder-derived strategic plan for FHSU.

1. President Jordan invited faculty to participate in the forums concerning this initiative.

6. New Business

6a. President Hammond wants faculty input on uses for increased block grant monies. Two issues were presented for consideration.

1. **Salaries versus OOE:** Are we willing to take less salary for more OOE? (Our auditor frowned on imposing extra fees to cover normal costs. Need to either change policy or stop doing it.)
2. **Full-time faculty salary increases versus Adjunct faculty payment increases:** How much are we willing to forego to increase adjunct income?
3. General discussion ensued in which the following was considered:
 - a. Provost Gould stated that we need to do something about adjunct salaries given how low they are.
 - b. Some faculty expressed how difficult it is to hire and keep part-timers due to the low pay. Some see the increase in adjunct faculty pay as a good investment for the future of FHSU given that FHSU is hiring many of these types of instructors.
 - c. Some senators suggested that we leave this issue alone. It's not the place of Faculty Senate to make such decisions.
 - d. Some senators wanted more information about salaries, the amount of funds available, and how the money is currently distributed before making a decision.
 - e. Many expressed concern about not "getting the whole picture" in the above proposals.
 - f. A motion was made by Senator Stark to table these decisions for the next meeting after senators have had time to discuss the issue with their respective departments and after President Hammond provides more information than he has. Senator Trout seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval.

6b. President Hammond wants Faculty Senate's input on two SGA resolutions.

1. One, requires grade to be constantly available to students (especially midterm grades)
2. Two, requires/recommends that Blackboard be used by every teacher.
3. General discussion ensued in which the following was considered:
 - a. Some senators expressed the need to do away with midterm grades since it is an antiquated practice.
 - b. SGA President Kiley Eisenhower stated that some students need the midterm grades for scholarship reasons and for car insurance rates.
 - c. Some senators wondered what students at all the other universities that do not offer midterm grades do about the above issues. They often use the last official grades or get a letter from the Provost or similar official.
 - d. The following motion was made by Senator Trout and seconded by Senator Sanders: **Faculty Senate moves that we eliminate midterm grades.**
 - e. The motion passed with unanimous approval, making it **Resolution 05-03.**
4. The next item of discussion—concerning Blackboard usage—was tabled for the next meeting.

7. Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting

7a. Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.