

10-2-2006

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 2, 2006

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate
Minutes for Regular Meeting on Monday, October 2nd
(3:30pm, Memorial Union, Pioneer Room)

The meeting came to order at 3:35p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

Diane Koerner moved to accept the Sept. 5, 2006 faculty senate minutes as written. Senator Fahey seconded. Faculty Senate unanimously approved the motion.

2. Announcements and Information Items (no action required): Rich Lisichenko

2a. Board of Regents meeting

- CORE initiative: *senate discussed whether we will vote on a CORE initiative, which is about having universal objectives in general education classes so that two year and four year colleges/universities will be more uniform and will make transcript transferal easier.*
- Retirement program changes: *TIAA/CREF and ING are officially the only retirement programs at FHSU now.*

2b. COFSP meeting

- Digital transcripts: *Discussed.*
- Faculty survey concerning faculty accepting/not accepting Kansas positions: *Discussed the goal of creating an instrument to gather general data to share with regents by the end of the academic year.*
- Teaching evaluation instruments: *Discussed the TEVAL, that the term "TEVAL" was coined by K-State and that although our TEVAL is derived from this name, we don't actually use this instrument the way it is designed. Discussion had over getting all Kansas regent institutions' evaluation instruments that are used to see what other institutions are using. SEE item #5a under "Reports from Special Committees and Other Representatives."*

2c. Strategic Planning Committee

- Strategic Planning Themes and Goals for 2006: *Goals and objectives were determined and were or will be sent out to departments for input.*
- Mission statement: *A document will be circulated to faculty senate for input on the mission statement.*

2d. President's Cabinet

- China/Virtual College degree stamps: *Discussion had over China's degree stamp for completing the degree requirements through the virtual college. There is no equivalent term for "virtual degree" in Chinese so the stamp literally translates as "nonexistent degree." This raised concerns regarding these applicable graduates being able to use their degrees to attain jobs. Questions were raised about whether the stamp will read "virtual college" or will be modified to reflect "Fort Hays State University" or any other phrase. Also, related discussion was brought up about the current problems with students with "home study" education being able to move into graduate school or other professional schools.*
- KBOR data report: *The regents have statistics showing how Fort Hays State University is doing in providing an education. The file (in pda format) is available on the Kansas Board of Regents website.*

- Tablet hardware/software repairs: *The goal is to have outside vendors repair tablets. However, faculty will still go through the computing center for major problems. For students, they will be able to go through the Forsythe library for limited maintenance and repairs. A limited number of tablets will be available to students while their tablets are in for repair.*
- Regents support of study abroad: *faculty were asked to think about program(s) we might implement in this regard.*
- NCAA official graduation rates: *FHSU is doing well with athlete graduation rates.*
- Beijing Normal University Zhuhai 2+2 model: *is 2 years in China, then 2 years at FHSU. A question was raised regarding whether this model would be two way (meaning also whether two years at FHSU then two years in China) would also apply. For now, it looks like only China, and then FHSU is the model.*
- Travel policy concerning guest travel: *Announced to remind faculty and other FHSU employees that the policy at FHSU is that employees can't have non-state employees in Fort Hays vehicles. For more information, contact the Motor Pool.*
- Homecoming guests: *Announced that we had representatives from China at homecoming. (They were high ranking officials).*

3. Reports from Committees

3a. Executive Committee: Rich Lisichenko

- Course/teaching evaluation instrument: *The Executive Committee is looking into this. A resolution did pass a year ago. SEE item #5 under "Old Business."*
- Faculty Associate/Senior Faculty Associate designation: *There are faculty classified as .9 FTC who are good teachers. Discussion whether their salaries can be augmented? Is there a way to promote them and/or give them better benefits? The senate discussed an idea of limiting the percentage of .9FTC faculty who could have this designation so that it would still be workable for the administration and their budget, and so the integrity of the terminal degree was protected by still allowing the majority of faculty to still be terminally degreed*

A point was brought up from representatives of the Communications Studies Department about not liking the designation of "faculty associate" or "senior faculty associate" because they would rather see them put in a tenure track position since the new designations would create a second populations. The faculty handbook says that a terminal degree is PhD, but also says the designation is per department. For example, some departments classify as a terminal degree those with "a Masters Degree plus 5 years teaching experience." Also, some departments allow a "J.D." degree to be a terminal degree. This issue is being sent to University Affairs so questions should be directed to that committee's chair, Senator Loretta Dorn.

- January Faculty Senate meeting status: *See item #3e under "Reports from Committees."*
- Scholarly activity resolution: *Regarding the misinterpretation of what is included in "scholarly activity," a resolution will be put together for a vote.*
- Criteria towards serving on the senate: *This issue needs to be revisited on the issue of what is an adequate amount of time to faculty member before serving as a senator and whether to include program specialists like we have for the library, by including perhaps .9 faculty, for example.*
- Internationalization efforts: International travel grant/scholarship: *Announced that the Executive Committee has been visiting this topic.*
- AAUP items in consideration for next year: *Nothing to report.*

3b. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes: *Nothing to report.*

3c. Student Affairs: Robert Howell: *Discussed use of blackboard for reporting midterm and/or final grades. The Student Government Association passed a resolution in which they wanted "accurate grades" despite where they are posted.*

3d. University Affairs: Loretta Dorn: *Nothing to report.*

3e. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Win Jordan: *Are leaning toward a resolution abolishing January meetings. Faculty Senators are encouraged to provide their thoughts to Senator Jordan.*

3f. University Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Stephen Schleicher: *Nothing to report except that Steven Schleicher was elected as the chair of this committee.*

4. Reports From Special Committees and Other Representatives

Faculty Senate liaison for the Forsyth Library, Dianna Koerner, discussed issues brought up by the University Library Committee. One issue was that some faculty are not accepting references or citations to these online databases, which is limiting students' use of scholarly material. Senator Koerner wanted to point out that the database provide the same information as would be found in the hard copy of these journal articles and encouraged faculty to accept them in papers, especially since the online databases cost the library about \$180,000 each year. Other information about the library included topics pertaining to their strategic planning and the "Learning Commons Proposal."

5. Old Business

5a. Course/teaching evaluation instrument resolution: *Senator Goodlet presented background information on the course/teaching evaluation instrument resolution passed and presented to the Executive Committee on March 18, 2005 by the task force on that issue. The previous task force was given responsibility to conduct inquiry into the matter (this task force was headed by Carol Patrick). Background information about what the previous task force had concluded and issues they had already entertained were discussed with the current faculty senate. This included the fact that Carol Patrick's task force had issued a forty-four page report on the matter at that time. Some important information faculty senate was informed about in the findings of this previous task force include the following: that feedback in a timely manner was an issue most important to students; that the task force concluded that the evaluation needed to be "normed" (i.e. the questions are weighted to take into account things like whether the course was for general education versus the major and what the size of the class was, etc.); that the questions should be able to apply across the board (with each discipline being able to add more specific questions to the instrument); whether the evaluation questions could be placed in an alternate order had never been decided upon; that written comment could be given after each question; and finally, that there had been a previous issue regarding whether students were in the best position to give feedback on the "expertise" of their instructor.*

Faculty Senate discussed the student course evaluation, whether to continue work on coming up with one or to use the one already submitted in the earlier resolution. Further discussion was had. Senator Drabkin proposed that an actual evaluation form for the new instrument be created for the faculty senate to view and then voted upon at the next faculty senate meeting. President Lisichenko said he would email the proposed evaluation form to all senators before the next meeting if this is what the senate ultimately decided they wanted. However, Senator Britten moved to accept the prior recommendation of the task force and to do a pilot of the proposed evaluation in addition to the TVAL at the end of the Fall 2006 semester. Senator Schleicher seconded this

motion. More discussion followed. Larry Gould mentioned that the AAUP should be consulted with first before any actual change in the evaluation went through since the TVAL instrument is in the body of the Memorandum of Agreement. However, discussion generally seemed to favor doing the evaluation to test it and then moving forward with issues, discussion and revision from that point. A vote was had on Senator Brittan's motion: all voted in favor of the motion except for Senator Jordan who abstained.

6. New Business

6a. Scholarly activity resolution: *Discussion was had on whether the faculty senate should adopt a resolution simply to show where we stand on the issue of scholarly activity (in light of a perceived problem with tenure evaluation committees' review of this subject according to what is accepted by a tenure track faculty member's department).*

Discussion was had on whether the faculty senate should adopt a resolution to the effect that the "policy and procedures in the Memorandum of Agreement are the official policies of the university" or whether we should address the perceived problem at all.

Other: *Senator Drabkin asked what had happened to the issue of midsemester grades.*

Discussion on this topic referred back to item #3c under the "Reports from Committees" topic.

7. Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting

Senator Dorn motioned to adjourn the meeting, to which Senator Holmes seconded. The faculty senate unanimously approved the motion. The meeting ended at 5:05p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Andria Cooper, Faculty Senate Secretary.