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# Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, April 8, 2008

FHSU Faculty Senate

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**FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**  
**Minutes for Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2008**

*The meeting was called to order in the Stouffer Lounge at 3:35 p.m. by President Kulmala.*

**1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting**

- a. March 3, 2008 minutes. Jeff Burnett motioned to approve the March 3 minutes; Helen Miles seconded the motion. Motion carried. There were no changes to the meeting's sign-in roster.

**2. Announcements and Information Items (no action required): Dan Kulmala**

- a. Board of Regents meeting
  - Report combined with item 2b
- b. COFSP meeting
  - Addressing issues concerning Liberal Arts—see Statement on the Value of Higher Education. Dan reported that the document was primarily produced by Rick Levy, professor at the School of Law at the University of Kansas. The quality of education is being discussed in relation to work force preparations, disciplines that have a practical application for employment, the needs of Kansas, science, and so forth. At the February meeting, the Board of Regents agreed that the statement is something they need to take into consideration. President Robinson has agreed. We cannot lose sight of the value of a Liberal Arts education and those things we see important for a university education. It was suggested that all Faculty Senates should either vote upon it, or note concerns. We can express our support by stating that we agree, or we can have a discussion about anything problematic. We will return to it at the next meeting.
  - Five Strategic Initiatives—see Five Strategic Questions. Five strategic questions were proposed by the Kansas Board of Regents. The Board would like to know Faculty Senate thoughts. The FHSU Council for Institutional Effectiveness has taken on these questions. Question 1) Educational Systems Alignment – is about issues and concerns with K-12 education and whether it is preparing students for upper education, interested in pursuing initiatives that engage our educational practices in that area; Question 2) Participation – Are we getting enough people participating within our educational system? Who could come and receive a college or university education by our reaching out to the general population; Question 3) Persistence – has to do with completion and retention rates. Presidents of universities and others have raised accountability as a means of determining success. Students enter at a variety of levels of preparedness and readiness. There are other things to consider. What are we going to use to monitor retention rates and engage students in the education process? Question 4) Outcomes – is about a sense of learner outcomes and accountability. How are we going to monitor that success? We are piloting an e-portfolio system for next year. Might that be a way to monitor learner outcomes? Are we teaching what we say we are teaching? Are students leaving with the skills we believe

they should be leaving with? Question 5) Alignment – with the Kansas economy. What are we producing? Does it meet the needs out there? What are the hot vocations? Do we have a strong quality product? What are we not considering? In the Department of English, there is an area of trade publications we are not meeting. What's out there that we may need to respond to in terms of the students who graduate out of our system?

Where do we go with these things? What if a Department wants to engage in these questions? Dan believes that the Council for Institutional Effectiveness is addressing these as part of our future goals. Provost Gould suggested that we consider these as new Kansas Regents System Goals. Faculty in Departments should review them regarding what they want to have for their strategic plan for the Department. Discuss the possibilities in Departments and start planning for next year.

**c. President's Cabinet**

- Salary increase—2 to 2.5%. There was some discussion about a possible 2% faculty raise to be allotted according to merit. There was additional Faculty Senate discussion about the potentially lower quality of courses when tuition is low, recommended class size, graduate program size, and other issues related to graduate programs.

**3. Reports from Committees**

**a. Executive Committee: Dan Kulmala**

- CoursEval: Pilot the database this semester. The committee that is engaged in coming up with policy statements will use CoursEval as a means to engage faculty in pedagogical development and faculty development. Jake Glover has been researching, along with Carol Patrick, various ways to use CoursEval. Seven departments and a school in China will participate this semester. The Faculty Senate will address whether we want to keep all 16 questions, or reduce the number to 8 or 10. Each Department may have discipline specific needs and interests. The evaluation should not be too cumbersome. The package has a tenure/promotion section. We can decide what we want to customize, or Departments can decide what they want in that section. There is faculty representation on the committee. There was discussion about how to get more student responses, especially more Virtual College student responses. There was discussion about limiting the questions based on the purpose of the evaluation such as feedback to improve the course or overall teaching effectiveness. CoursEval can be used at midterm or other times during a semester.
- General Education Program Review—Task Force for the Review of the General Education Program: to study and survey the current trends and practices of General Education Programs and to report back to Faculty Senate with its findings by April 2009. What kind of general education programs exist out there? Several people on the Executive Committee volunteered or seemed to be interested in being on the task force. If you are interested or know of someone, let Dan know. He will make sure it will have each college represented. The task force will look at what exists

now in our program so we can compare and contrast it with other universities. It will study and survey the possibilities, and provide a report next year. This is one way that faculty can take a proactive approach. The Provost agreed that there is a need to look at our program as it was last revised in 1992. Dan noted that a lot of the work with Writing Across the Curriculum overlapped with the general education program relative to transferability. Do the things taught in that course transfer over the educational experience and beyond? What is the place of a general education? What are key academic skills? We can address some of those issues as well.

- Chair and Dean Evaluation—next year’s agenda. See Ken Trantham if you are interested. Do we want to have a systematic and constructive evaluation across the University?
- b. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes.
- Martha reported that Academic Affairs approved the new program, “Tourism and Hospitality Management,” by a unanimous vote of 7-0-0. Dr. Maughan brought a program summary handout. He emphasized that the program will be preparing *managers*, from a business standpoint. There was a question about the availability of faculty and staff. For the actual concentration courses, they will need one additional faculty member. Steve Trout made the motion for the Faculty Senate to approve the new degree program. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Martha reported that, after much discussion and review in Academic Affairs, each new course application has been approved by a vote of 7-0-0. Dianna Koerner made the motion for the Faculty Senate to approve the new courses. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Student Affairs: Jeff Burnett
- Jeff reported on some simple, understandable questions posed by students that they will continue to discuss and bring forth at future Faculty Senate meetings. One concern is about the number of Virtual College courses relative to on-campus courses.
- d. University Affairs: Jerry Wilson
- Dare to Dream: Design Element 3—Commitment to Entrepreneurship—see attachment. Jerry reported that the University Affairs recommendation passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0-0. Ken Trantham motioned for the Faculty Senate to approve the recommendation. The recommendation passed unanimously.
- e. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Win Jordan
- No report
- f. University Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Josephine Squires
- No report.

#### **4. Reports from Special Committees and Other Representatives**

a. Writing Across the Curriculum: Dan Kulmala

- WAC Program Report—focus on criteria and credit hour requirement. Dan would like Academic Affairs to look at the credit hour plan for the next meeting. There are recommendations for the future of the program.
- Working with College of Education and Technology for University Director of Writing.
- Library Report by Dianna Koerner. See handout dated March 14, 2008. Dianna briefly summarized the handout and noted that exciting things are going on.

**5. Old Business**

**6. New Business**

- Faculty Senate Elections: Vice President/President-Elect and Secretary. Helen Miles nominated Jeff Burnett for Vice President. He was elected by unanimous vote. Dianna Koerner nominated Rita Hauck for Secretary. She was elected by unanimous vote.
- Teacher Scholar Journal, the Journal of State Comprehensive Universities. Steve Trout reported on the new Teacher Scholar Journal. He noted that comprehensive universities such as FHSU do not have status about what gets talked about in higher education journals. The concept of the Teacher Scholar Journal was inspired by Bruce Henderson's Teaching at the People's University: An Introduction to the State Comprehensive University. – Steve will be the Editor in Chief. Other editors are Provost Larry Gould, Hong Wang, and Bruce Henderson (Western Carolina University). It is a fully peer-reviewed journal produced by CTELT, the Office of the Provost, the Graduate School, and will probably involve the English Department, the Art Department, and the INT Department, with May 1, 2009 as the first issue. Articles will address what it's like to work at a campus like this. For graduate education, people don't think of state comprehensive universities. What kind of graduate education does FHSU produce? The journal will have not simply scholarly articles, but reflective articles. What sort of meaning, satisfaction, and challenges exist at a state comprehensive university? A brochure will be available in about two weeks. It will launch at the Research at Predominantly Undergraduate Institutions conference. The idea came from an action plan by Hong Wang. There are 408 comprehensive institutions ranging in size from 1500 to 37,000 students. The comprehensive university has been a staple of higher education for 50-60 years when democratization of higher education came out in the 1960s with a teacher scholar core. This is a ground-breaking opportunity.
- Dan announced that he has reserved the Robbins Center Sunflower Communications room for the May 5th meeting, possibly with refreshments.

**7. Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting.** Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.