

10-2-1957

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 2, 1957

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Recommended Citation

FHSU Faculty Senate, "Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 2, 1957" (1957). *Faculty Senate*. 308.

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Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Wednesday, October 2, 1957
at 4:00 p.m. in the Dean's Office.

Members present: Mr. Dalton, Dr. Coder, Dr. Craine, Mr. Friesner, Dr. Martin,
Dr. Parish, Dr. Ray, Mr. Rematore, Dr. Richardson, Dr.
Tomanek and Dr. McCartney, Chairman

Members absent: Dr. Garwood

Others present: Mr. Toalson

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Dr. McCartney, for the transaction of business.

The chairman announced that the amount of credit given for private lessons in music was a question which should be brought before the Senate soon. The members were asked to be thinking about the question.

Discussion of the courses, Basic Mathematics and Basic English: A study of our general education program which was made a year ago by a faculty committee provided no definite help pertinent to the problems involved in these courses. Basic mathematics as a remedial course probably should not be included in the general education program but some general mathematics should be included. This applies to the Basic English course. Students should be capable of entering English I when they come to college. Basic English probably should not give college credit.

Mr. Toalson suggested that some mathematics should be included in the general education program but the present course is not actually general education. The present course deals mainly with the mechanics of mathematics. It is likely that students should not be exempted from general education courses. Students from the business department, elementary teachers and others have enrolled in the Basic Mathematics. If the needs of these students are filled, the course may not be general education. Some of the pre-engineering students have enrolled in Basic Mathematics although it is not the proper course for them. Mr. Toalson said that at present there are several different needs being filled inadequately by the course, Basic Mathematics--general education, remedial, teachers and others, and the engineers.

It was suggested that perhaps there should be a move to eliminate the Basic Mathematics and the Basic English courses in our regular collegiate program by the fall of 1960. If mathematics is to be in the general education program then all the freshmen should be required to enroll in the course and the only exceptions would be the pre-engineering students.

One plan suggested was that students whose orientation tests indicate that they need remedial work in mathematics and English would be expected to enroll in the summer session prior to the enrollment as freshmen students or make up these deficiencies by some arrangement. The remedial courses would not give college credit. If mathematics is offered as a general education course,

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it was estimated that ten or twelve classes would have to be offered. The remedial aspect of the present course should be eliminated and the course revised to fit the general education program.

After 1960, all remedial work should be offered in a special program such as the summer sessions. One suggestion was that the remedial courses might be offered during the school year from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Students are advised by instructors that they should enroll in the remedial course in order to improve the mechanics, such as composition, grammar, usage, mathematics, etc. The disadvantages of this are that there are too many conflicting activities at the same time; also that those who need this most do not enroll in it--frequently the students in these courses are those who wish to improve and are some of the better students.

The discussion of this problem will be continued at the next meeting of the Senate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

E. R. McCartney, Chairman

S. V. Dalton, Secretary