

5-13-1959

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, May 13, 1959

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FHSU Faculty Senate, "Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, May 13, 1959" (1959). *Faculty Senate*. 359.

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Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Wednesday, May 13, 1959, at 4:00 p.m.
in the Santa Fe Room, Memorial Union.

Members present: Mr. Dalton, Mrs. Bogart, Dr. Craine, Mr. Friesner, Dr. E. Martin,
Dr. J. Martin, Dr. Parish, Dr. Ray, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Tomanek,
and Dr. McCartney, Chairman

Member absent: Dr. Coder

Others present: Dr. Broach, Dr. Choguill, Dr. Harbin, Dr. Moreland, Dr. Thompson,
and Dr. Welty

The meetings was called to order by the chairman, E. R. McCartney who stated that the Senate had been considering the question of special methods courses for the secondary education students. Others interested in this question were asked to meet with the Senate today for further discussion of the question.

Dr. McCartney gave a brief resume of the growth of the methods course during the past twenty years. At one time there was a special methods course for each department. This was discontinued in favor of the general education methods course except that in a few departments the special techniques and materials course appeared to be necessary and they offered such courses. Dr. Wood who met with the Senate sometime ago explained that the methods course, Education 95, is a general course and it is not intended to give special methods to cover all fields.

Dr. Harbin was asked to report on the state department requirements. He explained the present requirements and how we meet these requirements. It is probable that the directed teaching should be increased to six credit hours because of the requirements of other states. Dr. Harbin said that it had been suggested that the suggested special methods might be given in time released from the general methods course or each department might set up a separate course. If a separate course is set up, the credit should be included in the thirty-hour major or elsewhere but not to be included as part of the education "block." Dr. Harbin reported that there is some discussion under way in the State Department of Education to increase the "competence in instruction" area to eight hours and perhaps some movement for nine credit hours in student teaching.

At the last meeting of the Senate, Dr. J. Martin, who had been asked to contact the education faculty members, reported. The chairman asked him to give a brief report here. Dr. Martin reported that he talked with Dr. Broach, Dr. Harbin, and Mr. Youmans who teach the secondary methods classes. They said that they had no objection to any special methods course but asked the following questions: 1.) size of the classes--in some departments, there would be less than five students, even one or two enrollees. Would classes be available for them, 2.) what about the personnel to teach these special courses--one of the requirements should be experience in secondary-school teaching, 3.) what about those departments which have special methods courses now--would these be discontinued or incorporated? 4.) how would the time be arranged.

The present Methods and Principles courses are combined and integrated, and

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meets for eight hours a week before and after the period of time spent in directed teaching in the cooperating school. It was asked if the students realize that they are being taught methods. Dr. Broach answered that there is no specific distinction made, that is, to say this is methods and this is principles in the course.

It was asked if there was an actual need for special methods. The reasons for the request for special methods courses were given as follows:

- Dr. Tomanek and Dr. E. Martin -- Science graduates who are teaching report that they do not have enough practice regarding setting up for laboratories, and laboratory procedures, how to make out orders for materials needed, and how to organize field trips.
- Dr. Moreland -- Graduates do not have enough information regarding teaching aids, where to obtain them, etc. These people ask for help after they begin teaching. This is information they should have when they start.
- Dr. Thompson -- Very few students are preparing for teaching. The department has special methods courses but have not had calls for them for some time.
- Dr. Welty -- Complaints were made by the master teachers when there were on the campus for a meeting last fall. They said that the graduates do not have information about organizations, materials, methods, etc. Most of the graduates feel that they do not have enough information about the procedure and methods of presentation, etc.

It was suggested that the important thing is the preparation of our students and that they should have the proper preparation so that they may enter the teaching field. It seemed to be the consensus that the special methods-- those things pertinent to the individual student's field--probably should be part of the college training.

If the special methods courses are to be used, there are many problems and questions which would need to be settled. Would it be a separate course handled by the department or would it be on released time from the methods course? If it is released time, how many clock hours would departments wish to use. Would there be a conflict of time, how would the grading be handled? If a separate course is used how many credit hours would it be? If the released time is used then all the students would be released which would mean that all departments would use the time. It was decided to discuss this at a later meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

E. R. McCartney, Chairman

S. V. Dalton, Secretary