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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 21, 1959

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RECOMMENDATION: that a letter be sent to the administrators (Supts. or principals) in our area informing them about our stand on the ACT testing.

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Announcement: Summer schedules will be requested soon.

Grading for Basic Eng. and Basic Math.

RECOMMENDATION: That the record for the students in the non-credit courses, Basic Math and Basic Eng. be recorded on transcripts as S or U

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Wednesday, October 21, 1959,
at 4:00 p.m. in the Dean's Office.

Members present: Pres. Cunningham, Mr. Dalton, Mrs. Bogart, Dr. Craine, Mr. Friesner, Dr. Herren, Dr. Garwood, Dr. Martin, Dr. Moreland, Dr. Parish, Mr. Toalson, and Dean McCartney, Chairman.

Member absent: Dr. Coder

Also Present: Dr. Dechant

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, E. R. McCartney, who said that in continuation of the discussion at the last meeting about testing and the recommendation at that time, Dr. Dechant was asked to meet with the Senate to report on the DAT, SCAT, and ACT tests and testing and to give his opinion about these tests. Dr. Dechant was asked to present his report.

DAT Test: Dr. Dechant reported that he had attended four conferences regarding the DAT (Differential Aptitude Test) which is a test designed to measure skills and abilities. This test is being given in the high schools, usually to the juniors, and is actually more a measure of high school abilities than college. It does not seem to be applicable for measuring college entrance. At present there is some probability that the test will be administered at a lower level, perhaps junior-high students. Dr. Dechant said that the State Dept. of Education seems to be in favor of moving this testing downward. The test is probably too simple for college level students.

SCAT Test: Dr. Dechant said that this is the test being used for our freshmen and it seems to be fairly satisfactory. He suggested that this test is familiar to the Senate.

ACT Test: Dr. Dechant gave the Senate Members the following report regarding the ACT Test:

"The ACT consists of four tests of approximately 45 minutes in length each in the areas of English, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Natural Sciences. A total score provides a measure of the student's general scholastic ability.

"1. The ACT program is comparable to the Emporia testing program. Since the DAT is now being administered only on the ninth grade level, it serves a different purpose than either the ACT or the Emporia tests. The ACT has the following advantages:

"a. It is not strictly a Kansas program. Certain colleges in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Wisconsin are in the program. Thus, the norms have a broader base.

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(Report continued.)

"b. The administration of the test is completely handled by the colleges. This eliminates studying for the test and prevents copies from getting into the hands of the student and/or high school teachers and administrators.

"c. Each participating college will be sent the names and the scores of those persons who have named the college among their three choices.

"2. Disadvantages of the ACT:

"a. Each student must foot the cost of the test (\$3.00).

"b. The test is being administered this year on November 7, and on February 27. This allows only for a minimum of counseling at the high school level. If the test is to have real value, the scores must be utilized on the college level.

"c. High schools in our area are giving the student the option to take or not to take the test. Since no school in the state is actually requiring it, students generally are not taking it.

"d. The publicity on the test has been poor. Administrators were not consulted and even the coordinator at Kansas State has not seen the test. I have been told that a copy of the tests will be sent to us on November 7. Thus, no reliability or validity data are available to us at this time.

"3. Observations:

"a. As a test, the ACT probably could serve the purposes of our present testing program. It provides a total score and in addition gives some data on English and Mathematics ability.

"b. We are not now using the SCAT verbal score. In its place we are using the Barrett-Ryan. Unfortunately, from reliable sources we hear that copies of the Barrett-Ryan are available to certain students. Some students come to Fort Hays "prepared" for the test.

"c. Even if we should want to administer the ACT to our freshmen, the \$3.00 fee seems prohibitive. Furthermore, the results would come too late for advisement purposes.

"d. Mr. Sackett is developing an English test designed to measure essentially what is being measured by the Barrett-Ryan. He has developed six forms. Students seem to maintain the same relative position on this test as on the Barrett-Ryan.

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(Report continued.)

"4. Recommendations:

"1. That Fort Hays State refrain from making a decision on the ACT:

"a. Until after the November 7 administration of the test.

"b. Until the test can be carefully examined by the college personnel.

"c. Until there is enough demand by the students of the high schools in our area to warrant the service.

"2. That a letter be sent to high schools of the state informing them of our policies.

"3. That the letter contain the following data:

"a. The reasons for the letter, a statement of our position, and the reasons for our present position.

"b. Fort Hays State will not base admission policies on ACT or any other test performance.

"c. Fort Hays will furnish administrative services for the ACT if enough schools in our area request such services."

* * *

The above report was discussed. It was the consensus that the letter explaining our position on the ACT should be prepared and sent out to the administrators. It was suggested that it would be best to send it immediately so that they would have the information before the KSTA meetings, and before the first testing date which is Nov. 7.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that a letter be sent to the administrators (superintendents or principals) in our area informing them about our stand on the ACT program. Seconded and carried.

It was decided that Dean McCartney with the help of others on the Senate prepare the letter and mail it to the high schools in this area. Senate members suggested that the letter should be sent to all the faculty members so that they will have the information previous to the KSTA Convention, Nov. 5 and 6, as there will be many inquiries at that time. It was suggested that there have been inquiries at the area meetings which our faculty members have attended.

Summer Schedule planning. It was announced by the chairman that a notice had been sent to the subject field advisers calling a meeting on Nov. 3, for

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the purpose of planning the summer session. This is being held now in an effort to get the material for the summer schedule of classes planned. If possible, we would like to have the summer schedule of classes printed somewhat earlier this year.

Grading for Basic Mathematics and Basic English courses. Mr. Toalson asked whether there was to be grading for the Basic Mathematics course and also whether there should be a semester grade sent to the Registrar's Office for these students. This would apply to students in both the non-credit courses--Basic Mathematics and Basic English. This was discussed.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the record for the students in the non-credit courses, Basic English and Basic Mathematics, be recorded on the transcript as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S or U). Seconded and carried.

The chairman thanked Mr. Toalson for arranging the program for the faculty meeting. Dr. Moreland said that the program for the faculty meeting, November 24 is being arranged. One of the Social Security representatives, either from the local office or from the Salina Office will present the program.

It was suggested that persons on the programs should try their voices so that they may know how much to project in order to be heard. The microphone was not turned on at the last meeting. Another suggestion was that there should be a better way of checking the attendance than signing slips.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

E. R. McCartney, Chairman

S. V. Dalton, Secretary.