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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, December 14, 1960

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Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Wednesday, December 14, 1960
at 3:45 p.m. in the Dean's Office.

Members present: Dr. Coder, Mr. Dalton, Mrs. Bogart, Dr. Dick, Dr. Garwood,
Dr. Herren, Dr. Moreland, Dr. Parish, Mr. Toalson, Dr. Tomanek and
Dr. McCartney, Chairman

Members absent: Mr. Friesner

Others present: Mr. R. Burnett

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

Science Institute courses. Requests for new courses in chemistry, geology, and
physics were presented. These courses are necessary for the Science Institute
which has been approved for the Summer Session, 1961. Last week, two courses
in biology were approved for the Institute. Those two courses and the following
six courses will complete the curriculum for the Institute:

281. Institute in Chemistry. Three credit hours. Prerequisite, permission.
An institute for secondary school teachers stresses recent developments in
chemistry and presents topics which are useful in chemistry instruction. The
course will include lectures, discussions, demonstrations and individual labora-
tory investigations.

292. Projects in Science. Two credit hours. Prerequisite, permission.
Projects in chemistry constitutes part of the summer institute program for
secondary school teachers. The projects are designed to give the participants
experience in the methods of scientific investigation which may in turn be used
to assist high school students in science.

281. Institute in Earth Science. Three credit hours. Prerequisite,
permission. The program for secondary school teachers includes lectures, class-
time laboratory, and extensive reading in the various areas of the earth sciences.
Emphasis is placed on bibliographic surveys of the different fields. Outstanding
museum exhibit and study specimens, visual aids and interesting field trips
supplement the lectures and discussions. Museum techniques involving educational
interpretive exhibits related to the earth sciences are also considered.

292. Projects in Earth Science. Two credit hours. Prerequisite, permission.
The projects in Earth Science provide an opportunity for individual participants
to select problems related to some phase of the earth science program. This
experience should aid secondary school science teachers in selecting and super-
vising projects for their students.

281. Institute in Physics. Three credit hours. Prerequisite, permission.
The program of the institute features a special topic of physics for intensive
study, by secondary school teachers, lectures, discussion, demonstrations, and
laboratory work is utilized.

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292. Projects in Physics. Two credit hours. Prerequisite, permission. Projects in physics provides an opportunity for secondary school teacher participants to select an individual project for study. The project should aid science teachers in selecting and supervising student projects in their high schools.

The Institute and suggested courses were discussed.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Senate approve the six courses described above. Seconded and carried.

English Proficiency. In May of 1960, the Faculty Senate approved the appointment of a committee composed of representatives from each division and department, to examine the present practices in administering the college requirement of a test to prove the student's proficiency in English. The Senate asked the committee to suggest whatever changes might seem necessary and desirable. As a result the committee studied the practices and reported the following suggestions:

1. That a B average in English Composition 1 and 2 as shown on the official records cause the student to be exempt from taking the English Proficiency Test, and that a notation be made on his transcript to indicate his having satisfied the requirement of English Proficiency.

2. That all other students be required to take the test in English Proficiency not later than the first semester of the junior year.

3. That chairmen of divisions have the privilege of requiring that majors or minors in their fields take the English Proficiency Test if the writing of these students is poor, even though their grades in English Composition 1 and 2 are high enough to exempt them.

4. That arrangements be made to give the English Proficiency Test at regular intervals during the entire academic year, in order to deal with the increasing number of students.

5. That all the tests be graded by two graders chosen by or members of the English staff.

The report called attention to the fact that English Proficiency is a requirement of the college and of the "teaching block" and so is the responsibility of the college as a whole. All instructors and especially chairmen of divisions can be very helpful to students by making the students aware of the value of the ability to write clearly and correctly, and by checking with students about signing for the Test, etc.

The Senate members decided to give consideration to the above five items by considering each one separately.

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Item 1 above was discussed. It was suggested that although a student might have a B grade average in English Composition 1 and 2, that he would not necessarily have sufficient proficiency in English. This deficiency may not be apparent to the English staff nor should it be their responsibility to determine this. Actually, it should be the responsibility of any instructor and particularly the student's major division chairman and/or staff to determine if a deficiency exists. They should advise students to enroll in Expository Writing 51, and if necessary add this course to the requirements for completing work toward a degree.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Senate approve Item 1 above. Seconded and carried.

Item 2 was discussed.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Senate approve Item 2 above. Seconded and carried.

Item 3 was discussed. It was pointed out that this is the prerogative of instructors at present. This item might be used as a footnote.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that Item 3 should be stricken from the record. Seconded and carried. It was the consensus of the Senate that this item should be used as a footnote to serve as a reminder.

Item 4 was discussed. Mrs. Bogart was asked to explain "regular intervals." She explained that the original intention was that the English Proficiency Test would be administered once a month but that appeared to be too often and at present the plan is to schedule the test once every six weeks. For the coming test to be given, Dec. 15, tomorrow, there are twelve students registered, Mrs. Bogart reported.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the Senate approve Item 4 above. Seconded and carried.

Item 5 was discussed. No action was taken at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

E. R. McCartney, Chairman

S. V. Dalton, Secretary