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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, February 8, 1961

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Discussion: Withdrawal from classes.

English Proficiency Testing.

RECOMMENDATION: That the English Department adjust the load of the members of the staff so that they will have time to grade the English Proficiency test papers. Seconded and carried.

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Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Wednesday, February 8, 1961, at 3:45 p.m. in the Dean's Office.

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

Members absent: Dr. Tomanek.

Others present: Mr. R. Burnett.

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

Withdrawal from classes: It appears that there are more and more students requesting withdrawal from courses after Thanksgiving and especially just after the Christmas vacation. The regulation is that students may not withdraw from a course except for a good and sufficient reason. It seems that most of the requests for withdrawal are made in order to keep from being on probation. The student realizes that if he withdraws passing, it is better than to stay in the course and earn a D or U which would lower the grade average. It was suggested that occasionally it seems that a fairly good student has been enrolled in too big a load. If students are allowed to withdraw, they may have to enroll in an additional semester or summer session in order to complete the work for a degree and perhaps that is sufficient penalty to allow the withdrawal. Students who are not permitted to withdraw frequently do not attend classes even if the request is denied. It was suggested that there always will be people who are trying to outwit any regulation or to be deceitful. Something might be accomplished by reminding the advisers to do all they can in helping students with their enrollments.

English Proficiency Testing: The English Proficiency Testing which has been discussed at previous meetings was presented. The problem seems to be the grading of the test papers. There seem to be two possibilities for handling this:

1. Funds should be provided to the English Department so that they may make arrangements for employing people outside of the department to do this grading, or to make allowance for it in the total teaching load of the regular staff or part-time instructors. It was suggested that graduate students should not do this work.
2. English Proficiency test papers should be graded by the complete teaching faculty of the college.

One of the advantages of having the complete faculty assist with the grading of the English Proficiency tests is that the faculty members would realize the student's lack in this skill. It was asked whether the ability to speak well is a talent such as art, music, etc. Perhaps not everyone can do this. The idea of the English Proficiency Test is to determine whether the

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graduates of the college are properly prepared to write and speak creditably. It seems that many graduates are not aware of their lack and the value of this until they start working after graduation.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the English Department adjust the load of the members of the staff so that they will have time to grade the English Proficiency test papers. Seconded and carried.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be Wednesday, Feb. 22, and the question regarding the Honors at Graduation will be presented.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

E. R. McCartney, Chairman

S. V. Dalton, Secretary