

5-12-1964

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, May 12, 1964

FHSU Faculty Senate

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FHSU Faculty Senate, "Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, May 12, 1964" (1964). *Faculty Senate*. 434.

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Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Tuesday, May 12, 1964 at 4:00 p.m. in the office of the Dean of the Faculty.

Members present: Dr. Bartholomew, Mr. Berland, Mr. Dalton, Mrs. Hellem, Mr. Marcus, Dr. Pierson, Mr. Spomer, Dr. Staven, Miss Veed, Dr. Garwood, Chairman.

Members absent: Dr. Coder, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Falls, Miss Rowlands.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Dr. Garwood.

The committee which was appointed to study the Master Report was asked to report to the Senate. The members of the committee are Mr. Berland, Chairman, Mrs. Hellem, and Mr. Spomer.

Mr. Berland, Chairman, gave the following report:

The Committee made a survey of the different divisions in which three questions were asked:

1. What percentage of the graduates were required to write a Master's Thesis, write a Master's Report, or take extra hours?
2. What are the requirements in your division for a Master's Degree?
3. Each division chairman was asked to define the distinction between a Master's Report and a Master's Thesis.

As to requirements for a Master's Degree, the divisions of biological science, physical science, and health and physical education require a thesis and will not accept the Master's Report or extra hours as a satisfactory fulfillment for the requirement.

In the division of music, most students fulfill requirements for the degree by taking extra hours. In the case of outstanding students, a graduate recital fulfills the thesis requirements.

In the division of social sciences, the thesis is almost a compulsory requirement for a Master's Degree. The Master's Report is only rarely accepted.

In the division of applied arts, the industrial arts division reported that extra hours was the most common means of

achieving the degree. In this area they are considering the adopting of a project type thesis. In the area of art, a creative thesis is required of all graduates.

In the division of language, literature and speech, a thesis is required in all areas with the exception of the drama area, where the directing and producing of a play may be accepted in lieu of a thesis.

The division of business and economics requires a thesis for those majoring in economics and accepts the Master's Report for those majoring in business education.

The education division accepts any of the three requirements.

The consensus of the division chairmen, with the exception of education, was that the Master's Report was a lesser requirement used mainly in cases when the advisor felt the student was too weak to write a thesis.

The education department representatives defended the Master's Report. It was pointed out that the Master's Report allowed the student to be involved in gathering and compiling information that would be more useful and of broader range than were he limited to the restrictions of a Master's Thesis. It was also stated that in some cases, the Master's Report required more work than some Master's Theses.

In attempting to study other college catalogues as to the requirements for a Master's Degree, the committee was unable to come to any definite conclusion. It would seem that about 25% of the colleges and universities require a thesis in all areas.

The report was discussed by the Senate members. Questions and comments were as follows:

Some of the areas consider that the Master's Report is as good as the thesis.

Some of the theses which are on file do not indicate that they are very high grade.

The pressure is being put on the teachers in the elementary and high school to get the M.S. degree. Increases in salary, etc., are determined by this.

It was suggested that pressure should be put on the school boards to accept 30 hours of credit and not necessarily hold the M.S. degree.

A person who has taken several summers of work beyond the B.S. does not have a degree to show for this work unless he takes a M.S.

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The Senate will not meet next Tuesday, May 19. Dr. Staven's committee will report on their study of the general education program at the first meeting of the Senate during the summer session.

The Senate members were asked if they had any suggestions for the Faculty Conference in September.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

S. V. Dalton, Secretary

Florence Bodmer, Recorder