

7-6-1964

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, July 6, 1964

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

FHSU Faculty Senate, "Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, July 6, 1964" (1964). *Faculty Senate*. 439.

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Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Monday, July 6, 1964, at
3:30 p.m. in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.

Members present: Dr. Bartholomew, Mr. Berland, Mr. Dalton, Dr. Edwards,
Dr. Falls, Mr. Forsythe, Mrs. Hellem, Dr. Pierson, Mr.
Rice, Mr. Spomer, Dr. Staven, and Dr. Garwood, Chairman

Members absent: Dr. Coder, Miss Rowlands

Others present: Dr. Choguill, Dr. Tomanek

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

Dr. Choguill and Dr. Tomanek were asked to meet with the Senate today to consider the changes in the two areas, Physical Science and Biological Science, as proposed in the Report of the Committee for the Investigation of General Education. At present we require five credit hours of Biology and five credit hours of Physical Science in our General Education program. The proposed plan is for six hours in sequence from one of several areas in each division as follows:

VI. Physical Science: 6 hours in sequence from one of the following areas. All courses carry 3 credit hours.

1. Physics I
Physics II
2. Chemistry I
Chemistry II
3. Physical Science I
Physical Science II
4. Geology I
Geology II

VII. Biological Science: 6 hours in sequence from one of the following areas. All courses carry 3 credit hours.

1. Biology I
Biology II
2. Zoology I
Zoology II
3. Botany I
Botany II

Dr. Staven, chairman of the Committee, was asked to explain how the committee arrived at the proposed plan.

Dr. Staven said that the committee thought that there should not be a definite course but rather a choice of courses for students. This should provide more depth and would permit the students a choice of areas of study. This, the committee thought, would be more valuable than to require all students to take one specific course regardless of the students' wishes or high school preparation.

It was asked if the science courses as proposed were intended to be laboratory courses. The committee thought that there should be some laboratory experience in this program. It was asked if this was too large a science requirement in comparison with some of the other areas. It was explained that this requirement could be met with any distribution, i.e., 9 hours in biological science and 3 hours in physical science, or some other distribution of courses. Most of the colleges seem to require some laboratory experience in the general education science courses.

Dr. Choguill was asked to give his reaction to the plan as proposed. He said that he doubted that the students would get more depth in the course sequence as proposed than from the present five-hour course. The laboratory experience is very desirable but with the present facilities and staff this would be impossible. The only way that the laboratories would be available would be to keep them open at night and on Saturday and that would require additional faculty members. Dr. Choguill said the choice of areas was much better than the rigid plan of requiring all students to take one specific course. The proposed plan would require quite a number of additional faculty members. This would be the only way to adjust the problem of space. Most colleges do have a laboratory course in the general education program. Dr. Choguill said that the two universities in Kansas--K.U. and Kansas State--do have physical science in their general education program.

Comments and questions were as follows:

1. Would it be possible to change the physical science requirement to two 3-hr. courses? There seems to be a feeling among faculty members that two 3-hour courses would be better.
2. Would it be possible to offer four credit hour courses? These would not be any easier to handle than the five hour courses.
3. Is there a swing away from the general education courses? The committee reported that there is a trend toward the general college idea and that the general education plan is on the increase.
4. Are two 3-hr. courses easier to transfer? Since there is a migration of students from college to college this might be worth while considering.
5. A movement toward all courses going to three credit hours will result in Saturday and night classes.
6. It was asked if laboratory assistants could be employed in place of faculty members to supervise the labs. It has been the policy not to do this.

7. Freshmen students who have had several mathematics courses, and also science courses in high school may wish to take chemistry, physics or geology in place of the physical science course.

Dr. Tomanek was asked to give his reaction to the proposed plan. He said the big problem which this plan would present would be the space and faculty problem. If more assistantships were available that would be a help. Some of assistants have been very fine but not many are available as they wish to go elsewhere because of pay, etc. If the biological science requirement is to be changed as proposed, the laboratories would have to be scheduled at night and Saturdays. Dr. Tomanek said that the problems regarding the physical science area are also the problems of the biological science area.

In the area of Physical Science, it was suggested that Physical Science I, (3 cr. hrs.) and Physical Science II (3 cr. hrs.), or Chemistry I (5 cr. hrs.) or Physics I (5 cr. hrs.) or Geology II (5 cr. hrs.) be permitted to meet the general education requirements.

In the area of Biological Science, it was suggested that Biology I (3 cr. hrs.) and Biology II (3 cr. hrs.) or Zoology I (5 cr. hrs.) or Botany I (5 cr. hrs.) be permitted to meet the general education requirements.

There seemed to be some thought that this type of requirement would be suitable.

Dr. Garwood asked the Senate to consider what would be the best general education program for this College. Would it be better to go to the two 3-hr. sequence plan for these areas? If a change is to be made in the general education program, it should be ready to put into effect in the fall of 1965.

It was asked if the increase in the number of hours in the general education program as outlined by the committee would create a problem for students in completing a college program in 120 hours which is the required number. It was asked why we stay with the 120 requirement? Would it be possible to count some of the department courses as part of the block? Do students get interested in an area after the first course? It was suggested that the students' ACT scores should always be used in the enrollment of students particularly in advising them regarding alternatives in the science area. The Senate felt that the laboratory in the science courses would be preferable.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

S. V. Dalton, Secretary

Florence Bodmer, Recorder