

7-23-1963

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, July 23, 1963

FHSU Faculty Senate

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FHSU Faculty Senate, "Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, July 23, 1963" (1963). *Faculty Senate*. 467.

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Discussed: Sectioning of students in Psychology classes. *Office*
RECOMMENDATION: approved the sectioning of the Psychology *To Pres.*
students (See below.) *July 29, '63*
Discussed: Assemblies.
Arrangement of Schedule of Classes -- by divisions
and not alphabetical.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Senate, Tuesday, July 23, 1963
at 3:30 p.m. in the Dean's Office.

Members present: Dr. Bartholomew, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Colburn, Mr. Dalton,
Dr. Dick, Dr. Kinsinger, Mr. McKee, Mr. Slechta, Miss Veed,
and Dr. Garwood, Chairman

Members absent: Dr. Coder, Mr. Coulson, Miss Rinker, Mr. Spomer

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

Psychology 1, Sectioning. Dr. Garwood presented the question regard-
ing the sectioning of students in the Psychology 1 classes. This was
discussed at the last meeting and it was pointed out that we have the
Honors Program into which students will be shifted and this is a form of
sectioning; that other general education courses might seek to section the
students in classes; and the attitude of students toward the sectioning.
The members of the Senate were asked to discuss this question with their
division people and be ready to take action at today's meeting.

Reactions reported by the Senate members were as follows:

1. This might be run as a pilot study to see if it could be carried out in other areas.
2. Is there too much sectioning? Would this be worthwhile? What about the need for more staff members?
3. 3. It was asked whether there is a waste of time when students are asked to take the general education courses. For example if the student intends to major in English, is it necessary for him to take physical science?
4. Is this along the same line as taking the exemption tests in the different areas, and are those still being given?
5. Staff members seem to agree that it would be fine if it is not the start of a trend toward sectioning.
6. No interest in sectioning and not much enthusiasm for it.
7. Will this be a sort of recruiting for majors? (Dr. Dick said that it is not likely to influence the number of majors.) Would sectioning work to the advantage of a division and be a method of attracting students?

8. When would the sectioning, if recommended, be begun? Since the pre-enrollment is so far advanced, it may be that this should not start until the second semester.
9. The Faculty Senate members reported that for the most part the members of their divisions favored a pilot study as proposed by Dr. Dick.

RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Slechta recommended that the Senate approve the sectioning of the Psychology students as proposed by Dr. Dick. Seconded and carried.

The Proposal for Special Sections of General Psychology is as follows:

The purpose of the special section is to permit and encourage the gifted student to become more deeply involved with psychology than students ordinarily do in an introductory course. It is assumed that the needs and interests of students of average ability and motivation are met in the typical large section in which the major goal is simply a broad survey of the field of psychology. We would like to select students of above average ability, keep the size of the class smaller than usual, and undertake a considerably different treatment of the material. It is our impression that becoming directly involved in behavioral experimentation can be an excellent learning experience, but that a certain degree of familiarity with subject matter is necessary. Therefore, for each area, class time would initially be devoted to lectures, discussions, and demonstrations calculated to familiarize the students with the contents; following this, for each area, the students will be assisted in isolating experimentally meaningful problems, then in devising, and in some cases executing, plans for attacking these problems, students will be given as much freedom as they can handle and as much direction as they need in carrying out the investigations they devise.

Only those students scoring above the 75th percentile on the ACT test will be invited to enroll in the special section and the size of the section will be limited to not more than 30 students.

The proposed text would facilitate a methodical, four-part survey of psychology which is given in some detail below. Approximately one fourth of the semester would be devoted to each area. Additional topics would be covered in this course to place a greater emphasis on the experimental basis of behavioral science.

It was suggested that Dr. Dick report back to the Senate during the fall semester on the planning for the sectioning and look toward a pilot section in the spring semester of 1963-64.

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Problems and/or Questions.

Assemblies: The problems connected with assemblies--such as faculty members who fail to be on hand at the proper time and the students wait 10 or 15 minutes and then leave; students who are not on time for the classes; problems connected with scheduling examination so that they will not be given on days when there are shortened periods. Are there too many assemblies? Could some of them be scheduled for the afternoons--particularly pep, election of cheerleaders, etc. It was noted that there are complaints about the time lost due to assemblies and yet instructors dismiss classes early which is also a loss of time.

Schedule of Classes: It was suggested that it is more difficult to find the areas, since the schedule is arranged by divisions. It was explained that this arrangement is used since it is the order used in the catalog. A table of contents in the schedule might be added.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

Standlee V. Dalton, Secretary

Florence Bodmer, Recorder