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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, November 19, 1963

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presented request: to change the gen. ed. requirement from Man and Society 56, 5 cr. hrs. to the three courses, Amer. Govt. 34, Sociology 40, and Economics 35, total 9 hrs.
Discussed -- This question to be discussed further at the next mtg.

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Tuesday, November 19, 1963 at 4:00 p.m. in the Dean's Office.

Members present: Dr. Bartholomew, Dr. Falls, Mr. Marcus, Dr. Pierson, Miss Rowlands, Dr. Sackett, Mr. Spomer, Dr. Staven, Miss Veed and Dr. Garwood, Chairman.

Members absent: Mr. Dalton, Dr. Coder, Mr. Berland, and Mrs. Hellem.

Others present: Mr. Westley.

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

General education course, Man and Society 56. Dr. Garwood presented the question regarding changing the general education requirement from Man and Society 56, to the courses, American Government 34, Sociology 40, and Economics 35. He gave a brief background of the course. At present some of the areas (education, economics, political science, and sociology) do not require the course but do require the three courses in place of it.. The Social Science division and the division of Economics and Business have requested this change.

Dr. Garwood asked Mr. Spomer to comment on the course since it is being taught in the economics and business division. Mr. Spomer said that at present they are trying to cover in the one course something about psychology, government, sociology, economics and anthropology. Those who are teaching this course feel the burden of it as there is not enough time to cover all of these with any degree of satisfaction. The instructor naturally slants the course somewhat according to his own area, stressing his own field.

This change was discussed covering the following questions and considerations: There is the problem of replacing a five hour course with three 3-cr. hr. courses making an addition of four credit hours to the general education program. Some doubt was expressed regarding the wisdom of extending the general education program to this extent. It was asked how broad should the coverage of the general education courses be. Is it necessary to take all the present courses to gain a general education background? Is it necessary to take music, art, government, or any of the other courses to get a general education?

What about the other areas? Would they come up with the same type of question? How would the above change fit into the program of the student? With the present four-year program of work for a degree, is it possible to add courses to the student's required program of study? Would it be better to let the student make some choices?

It was explained that Kansas State initiated this course. They asked the other state schools to meet with them to discuss this type of course for the general education program, and although the other colleges were not convinced they were pulled into the change.

The question regarding the high-numbered course being supplanted by the three low-numbered courses was discussed. The Man and Society 56 course was put in the program with the idea that it would be a general education course for students who have reached a little more maturity in the college program.

The nurse education division is well pleased with the course as it is and would not like to have it changed. The students like the course. The division would not like the addition of the four credit hours in their crowded program.

It was suggested that students might be given the choice of two of the three-credit hour courses which would make a total of six hours and would permit students to have some leeway in electives. The problems of having alternative courses were discussed. Perhaps there could be an option--let the student select two of the three suggested courses.

It was asked if there is an obligation to the student that he can complete his college work in four years? How many electives may a student have after completing the required courses? It was mentioned that the state certification requirements should be observed and followed.

The material covered in the course, Man and Society 56, might be cut down. Since there is a psychology course in the general education program, it was asked if the psychology part of the course might be eliminated.

Consideration was given to the fact that students are not getting a background in economics. High schools do not offer courses in economics. The course, Economics 35, gives a good background and is the minimum amount which everyone should have. It was also noted that very few high schools offer courses in psychology.

What would happen if the 5-hr. general education courses were discarded letting the students choose their own programs with the aid of the advisors. This would present a great many problems connected with the scheduling of classes, having sufficient faculty members, etc.

Perhaps the whole general education program should be studied in place of trying to patch the present one. Could the whole program be explored in place of changing a little here and a little there? This, it was noted, would require a great deal of study. The present proposal is being made now so that any changes may be made in the scheduling for the coming summer, and fall and spring schedules which will be prepared soon.

It was suggested that it might be worthwhile to have the biological and physical science groups send representatives to the next meeting to present their views regarding the general education courses. The history area is well pleased with the Modern Civilization course. It was asked if it might be cut down and taught in a three credit hour course in place of the five. Mr. Marcus said the present material could not be covered in a single three credit hour course without cutting down on the material covered at present. Two 3-cr. hrs. might be used in place of the one five.

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Dr. Garwood said that this question would be discussed further at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

Standlee V. Dalton, Secretary

Florence Bodmer, Recorder