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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, April 15, 1968

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Sent to Pres. office 4/23/68

Discussion: Dr. Sackett invited to meet with Senate to discuss the proposal for the Introduction to Literature course. (See Minutes for details.)

RECOMMENDATION: It was moved by Dr. Hamilton that the request for a Monday morning, May 6, or Tuesday morning, May 7, assembly for Dr. Zinn be granted. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Monday, April 15, 1968, at 4:30 p. m., in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.

Members Present: Mr. Schroder, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Hamilton, Mrs. Popp, Mrs. McFarland, Mr. Smith, Dr. Wilkins, Dr. Witten, Mr. Dalton and Dr. Garwood, Chairman.

Members Absent: Mr. Bachkora, Miss Gangwer, and Mr. Heil.

Also Present: Mr. Kellerman and Dr. Sackett.

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

PROPOSAL FOR INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE. Dr. Garwood stated that Dr. Sackett had been invited to meet with the Faculty Senate to discuss the proposal for the Introduction to Literature course. Dr. Sackett stated there were substantial changes in detail but not in the essential program when it was adopted a year ago. It will be referred to as individual study and is not to be classed as independent study. Dr. Sackett said there would be no regularly scheduled class meetings; the student must get the material himself. The instructors inform the students they will be given tests over material studied but how the student prepares is up to the individual. Dr. Sackett stated there were 525 students in this course last semester; 450 this semester.

There will be a number of aids to assist the students, i. e., individual conferences, tutorial sessions, graduate assistants, annotated bibliographies, tapes in the library, microfilms, staff written essays and study questions. This provides students the opportunity to come in for conferences and the poorer

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students will be able to utilize the help that is being provided. During the first two weeks, there will be orientation sessions for students to ask questions about the procedures - tapes, films, etc.

Students will sign up in advance for the tests as they are ready. There will be 9 books or plays to read. The students will be tested over each author during the semester. The student can elect when he wishes to take the test on a particular writer. If a student makes a D or U grade, he can prepare and take the test again. Dr. Sackett said that he hoped this method will get the students through Introduction to Literature with more personal contact than they have now. There will be ten 25-minute tests during certain specified testing periods with an outline at the beginning of the semester indicating types of tests and the dates. Ten points will be subtracted from the score if the student has not completed the course by the end of the first semester and an additional ten points from the score for each month that the student has an Incomplete.

Dr. Sackett itemized the areas to be covered in this course. They are:

1. The Odyssey;
2. King Lear;
3. The Way of the World;
4. Gulliver's Travels;
5. Selected Poems of John Keats;
6. Selected Poems of Edwin Arlington Robinson;
7. Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce;
8. The Snows of Kilimanjaro and other Stories by Ernest Hemingway; and
9. The Young American Poets edited by Paul Carroll.

The question was asked "Who is better qualified to discuss Literature--a

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Ph. D. or a sophomore? Will the student be penalized if he does not have an opportunity to hear a lecture on a particular work?" Dr. Sackett stated many of the lectures given this semester were taped. The advantage of a taped lecture over a live lecture ~~are~~^{is} that a student can stop the tape and replay the section he does not understand. It was hoped by next fall to have essays by staff available for more detail and depth. Students will have questions prepared by the staff. Group conferences will consist of 35 members with staff. (A copy of the Proposal for Introduction to Literature is attached to the Minutes.) There will be reading lists, Study Aids, Self-Study Aids, Tapes, Bibliographies, Microfilms, Essays, Study Questions, Programs, Conference-Study Aids, Colloquia, Group Tutorials, Private Tutorials, Interviews and Films available to students. It was felt the student is too passive and does not take an active part in the course as it is now being taught.

It was observed that there are five listening labs in the library. With such large enrollments there may be a lack of listening labs. Dr. Sackett stated Dr. Thompson has been asked for two graduate assistants to work with tapes and the graduate assistants will be at the library at various times to help students. The same text books will be used as used this semester. A syllabus will contain information needed. Students will not be studying the same literary work at the same time. They study at their own pace. Each topic will be offered more than once for testing throughout the year. The large rooms in Albertson will be used for tutorial work in night classes and as well as a few hours during the day.

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Several works will be covered in each testing period although the individual student will be tested on a single author. In this way students sitting side by side will be taking different tests.

At the end of the school year if a student has not been tested over a particular work he will receive an Incomplete and loses 10 points in his total. Would not many Incompletes occur if the pace is left to the individual student? Will the graduate students who work with the students be guided by qualified staff members? Dr. Sackett was of the opinion that these items would constitute no problem.

Has this type of teaching been tried on any other campus in a general education course? Dr. Sackett said that he knew of no course in literature conducted in this fashion.

Dr. Sackett discussed the grading system (see copy attached). The tests are the multiple choice type test. Are tests changed periodically? Dr. Sackett said the tests will be varied.

Are there enough faculty members to help these 500 students? Dr. Sackett stated they were asking faculty members to spend three hours per week for one-half hour conferences.

It was suggested that at the end of nine weeks it would be well to check the tests students have passed and inform the students as to the number of tests taken and number yet to be taken.

With regard to final examinations, Dr. Sackett stated the student can sign up

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at any time. Each student will be tested on each of the component parts of the course at his request.

Dr. Sackett stated Dr. Parish had devised a testing out test. Sometime around the second or third week of class, students can take one test of around 100 questions. If they fail, they can still go through the course. If they pass, they will receive grade achieved and course credit.

Could this new method of teaching be handled on an experimental basis? Dr. Sackett was of the opinion that we did not have staff necessary to carry out such an operation.

DR. ZINN ASSEMBLY. Dr. Garwood stated Dr. Gordon Davidson had submitted a proposal to schedule a mid-morning assembly on Monday, May 6, or Tuesday, May 7. Dr. Howard Zinn who is associated with a student project entitled "Vietnam Inquiry" is to be on campus. The Senate was asked if they wished to have a morning assembly which would necessitate shortening morning classes by 10 minutes each, have a 3:30 p. m. assembly for students who wish to come, or have an evening lecture.

RECOMMENDATION: It was moved by Dr. Hamilton that the request for a Monday morning, May 6, or Tuesday morning, May 7, ~~morning~~ assembly for Dr. Zinn be granted. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p. m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman.

Lucille Drees, Recorder.