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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, January 9, 1984

FHSU Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

January 9, 1984

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bill Welch, Faculty Senate President, at 3:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Lounge of the Memorial Union.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mr. Frank Nichols, Dr. Frank Potter, Mr. Elton Schroder, Mr. Jack Logan, Ms. Martha Eining, Ms. Sandra Rupp, Dr. Larry Nicholson, Dr. Marcia Bannister, Dr. Stephen Shapiro, Dr. John Ratzlaff, Dr. Bill Rickman, Dr. Billy Daley, Dr. Bill Robinson, Dr. Allan Miller, Dr. Carl Singleton, Mr. Stephen Clark, Dr. Gary Arbogast, Dr. Mark Giese, Dr. Robert Luehrs, Dr. Elton Beougher, Dr. Jeffrey Barnett, Dr. William Wilkins, Dr. Lewis Miller, Ms. Rose Brungardt, Dr. William Welch, Dr. Richard Heil, Dr. Robert Markley.

Alternates: Dr. Mike Gould for Dr. John McGaugh, Ms. Marian Youmans for Ms. Marilyn Scheuerman.

The following members were absent: Dr. Richard Leeson, Dr. Jean Salien, Mr. Glen McNeil, Mr. Don Barton, Dr. Stephen Tramel, Dr. Nevell Razak.

The minutes of the December 13, 1983, meeting were approved as corrected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Senate presidents of the Regents' institutions met and attended the meetings of the Board of Regents in Topeka on December 15 and 16. They met with Mr. John Montgomery, Chairperson of the Board, Ms. Sandra McMullen, Chairperson of the Board's Academic Affairs and Special Programs Committee, and Mr. Stan Koplik, Executive Director of the Board, to state and discuss some concerns about the Board's Program Review Procedures. The meeting with these individuals was very worthwhile and others are planned for the future.

The Senate presidents will again be meeting and attending meetings of the Board of Regents on January 19 and 20 in Topeka. Although a meeting has not formally been set, they probably also will meet with the House and Senate Chairpersons of the Ways and Means Committee, Representative William W. Bunten and Senator Paul Hess.

2. The Senate presidents met with Governor Carlin on Friday, December 9, in Topeka. They were very pleased with the reception Governor Carlin gave them and with the fact that the meeting lasted much longer than scheduled which allowed many topics of interest to both the presidents and the governor to be discussed. During the meeting the following events occurred:

1. Governor Carlin was presented a prepared statement supporting legislative changes necessary for the Board of Regents to implement a phased early retirement program.

2. Appreciation and encouragement was given to Governor Carlin for his recent public stance of supporting education in general.

3. Discussion of the funding of higher education in Kansas including:

- a. Fringe benefit comparisons studies.
- b. Enhancement of classified and unclassified salaries.
- c. The need for instructional equipment.
- d. Budget request procedures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive:

The Executive Committee voted to have two primary items reviewed by a standing committee. The first item dealt with the development of local program review procedures as they pertain to the Board of Regents' review of university programs. The Senate presidents felt that two areas should be included in the local program review procedures: (1) procedures to review and respond to the Regents' recommendations; and (2) procedures should be developed for utilization when a unit or program is discontinued for any reason.

Dr. Welch suggested that the document developed last year concerning procedures and guidelines for financial exigency may be utilized in developing these new procedures. The Executive Committee charged the University Affairs Committee with filling the Regents' request.

The second item sent to the Committee for review dealt with the established procedures for approval of new courses and programs. Dr. Welch indicated that these procedures (in two instances) have not been followed during Fall, 1983.

Dr. Welch felt that these procedures should either be supported or changed. Dr. Welch provided background information which indicated that procedures in the Faculty Handbook (approved in 1981) entitled "Procedures for Approval of New Courses and Programs", indicated that all new courses and programs are to be approved by the Faculty Senate.

A masters degree program has been examined by the Graduate Council without being submitted to Faculty Senate; therefore, procedures have not been followed. In addition, graduate courses (800 level +) have been examined without being sent to the Senate. Dr. Welch said the Executive Committee has charged the University Affairs Committee with examining this problem.

Dr. Murphy asked if this review would be unilateral or if there would be input from the Graduate Council when this problem is reviewed. Dr. Welch said that he would encourage the University Affairs Committee to seek input from the Graduate Council, Dean Forsythe, and Vice President Murphy.

Academic Affairs:

Dr. Giese presented two motions and an announcement to the Senate. First, the Academic Affairs Committee moved to accept a new course entitled Psychology 740--Advanced Learning and Motivation. The course is not a general education course. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

The second motion was to accept a procedure for "Student Appeal of Academic Evaluation".

Student Appeal of Academic Evaluation

Students shall have protection against prejudicial or capricious academic evaluation. They shall also be protected against actions that result from charges of academic dishonesty which are unsubstantiated. In matters relating to academic performance or to charges of academic dishonesty, a student must first consult with the professor(s) involved. Should the issue not be resolved at that level, the student shall then consult successively with (1) the department chair and (2) the appropriate academic dean. If necessary, the dean will then advise the student of formal appeal procedures.

Formal appeal procedures are initiated by the student submitting an appeal to the chair of the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee in the case of undergraduate students or to the chair of the Graduate Council Academic Standards Committee in cases involving graduate students. Formal appeal must be initiated before the end of the next regular semester in cases relating to academic evaluation or within thirty days for charges of academic dishonesty. After hearing the appeal, the Student Affairs Committee or the Academic Standards Committee will submit its recommendation to the academic vice president. The vice president will then consult with the student and faculty member(s) in an attempt to resolve the problem.

Dr. Giese provided the Senate with information concerning changes in a similar previously tabled procedure. The following discussion ensued:

Dr. Wilkins asked if summer session was considered a semester. Dr. Giese said it was not.

Dr. Giese personally spoke against the motion indicating that the proposed procedure did not specifically state who was charged with issuing the final grade. Dr. Giese provided examples of problems with this procedure, particularly as the procedure failed to be in the students' best interest. Dr. Giese felt that the procedure was really a teacher protection policy.

Dr. Markley identified four problems in the original appeal procedure developed last Spring by the Student Affairs Committee: (1) the document contained sexist language; (2) no provision for the graduate school policy was included; (3) the legal authority to change a grade was not addressed; and (4) the time frame for an appeal was not specific. Dr. Markley said there was a desire of the upper administration at FHSU to withdraw the right of student appeals of academic evaluation from the Student Court.

Dr. Allan Miller said that Student Court used to handle problems involving students and asked about the rationale for such a change in procedure. Dr. Barnett responded by indicating that Dr. Tomanek felt that Student Court was not an appropriate body to consider appeals since the appeal of academic evaluation was primarily a faculty matter. The president had no objection to student representation, but he did not prefer the Student Court becoming involved.

Dr. Markley reminded the Senate that FHSU policy indicates that the instructor has ultimate authority to change a grade. Although Dr. Markley realized the proposed policy was perhaps unfair to the students, he felt that any contrary policy would pose a real threat to academic freedom of the instructor (University lawyers have apparently indicated that any policy adapted would become legally binding).

Dr. Nichols asked if there was an AAUP precedent for authority to change grades. Dr. Welch indicated that there was no specific AAUP precedent as far as he could determine. AAUP only indicates that procedures should be established concerning capricious judgment of students.

Dr. Barnett said that the ultimate legal authority for changing a grade lies with the President of the University, Dr. Tomanek; however, he felt that an appeal of this nature should never go this far. Dr. Barnett indicated that only two appeals of academic evaluation have ever reached the Dean's level during the last thirty years at FHSU. Therefore, Dr. Tomanek felt that it was unnecessary to include the University President's authority in the proposed appeal procedure.

Dr. Murphy indicated that Dr. Thompson issued a document which described the Academic Vice President's authority in handling such appeals. Dr. Murphy suggested that the proposed academic appeal procedure would place himself, the President, and other faculty members in a difficult position. Dr. Murphy said he would suggest to the President not to support the procedure in its present form.

Dr. Welch felt that the preceding discussion had indicated to him that the problem of who can change a grade cannot be reconciled by the Faculty Senate; it appeared to be a legal question.

Dr. Giese felt that if a grade had to be changed, the Faculty Committee might be the most appropriate group to do so. He also felt that if a student had little chance at all in getting a grade change then we (the procedure) should indicate that.

Dr. Wilkins asked whether or not the designated undergraduate or graduate committee would even have the expertise to recommend a grade change. Dr. Welch agreed that this could be a problem but suggested that the procedures were open enough for the appropriate committee to invite other qualified faculty members to consult with the decision-making group. Dr. Murphy suggested that the appropriate committee would likely deal with evaluation procedures and course syllabi used by the instructor under question.

Dr. Heil attempted to summarize what the discussion seemed to indicate at this point. He felt the second half of the appeal procedure was the major area of concern.

Dr. Barnett suggested that the proposed appeals document reflects (perhaps not word for word) what President Tomanek could support. He saw no reason to send this procedure back to the Academic Affairs Committee unless this committee received very specific avenues concerning the restructuring of this procedure.

Dr. Singleton did not see the necessity for the second paragraph (formal appeal procedure). He felt that a student who could not come to some agreement with the parties identified in the first paragraph (instructor, chairperson, Dean), would probably not agree with the parties identified in the second paragraph (committee, Academic Vice President, University President).

Dr. Welch called the question. A hand count was necessary to determine the outcome. The motion failed, 14 to 12.

Dr. Giese announced that changes had been made in the form for applying for a new course. The major change on the form provided for documentation (when appropriate) concerning dialogue between/among department chairpersons whose courses may overlap. Other minor changes were also described by Dr. Giese and Dr. Welch.

By-Laws and Standing Rules:

No report.

Student Affairs:

No report.

University Affairs:

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

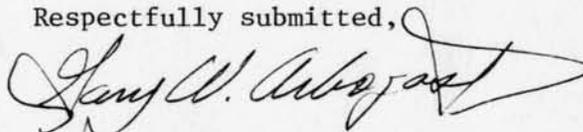
No new business.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
December 13, 1983

Unfinished Business: Third sentence, page four; change ... report to each of the three areas, to, ... report to the Senate for each of the three areas...

Dr. Heil moved to adjourn. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. Motion passed at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary W. Arbogast
Faculty Senate Secretary