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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 5, 1998

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FHSU Faculty Senate Minutes

October 5, 1998

Acting President John Durham called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

Please see the attached copy of the Faculty Senate roster for the record of attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by a voice vote, with the note that the spelling of Senator Marty Shapiro's name needs to be corrected on the last page.

Announcements

Intellectual property legislation is now before the US Congress. HR2281 deals with the question of fair use and could have an adverse impact on academics if it is passed. Senators were given a handout with information on where to contact members of Congress.

Acting President John Durham is submitting an action plan on behalf of the Senate to increase the personnel budget from which comes the salary for the Senate's student assistant.

Reports of Standing Committees

Senator Martha Holmes, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, presented the following courses for approval by the Senate: SOC 555 Grant Proposal Development for Social Services Professions and SOC 577 Internship in Social Work. These two courses were approved by voice vote.

Course number changes were presented for approval: SOC 410 Social Change to SOC 510, and SOC 478 Social Inequality to SOC 578, so that they could be taken for graduate credit. These changes were approved by voice vote.

Name changes and course content changes for two Department of Geosciences courses were presented for approval. GSCI 320, now called "Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology," and GSCI 320L, now called "Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology Laboratory" will be called "Petrology" and "Petrology Laboratory" respectively. The study of sedimentary rocks will be added to the course content.

The changes were approved by voice vote.

Senator Marty Shapiro, chair of the University Affairs Committee, reported that the review of the tenure process for first and second year faculty is still under discussion. The study of the proposal to raise salaries in the Virtual College also continues under review.

Senator John Ratzlaff, chair of the External Affairs and Faculty Salaries Committee, presented Resolution 9899-08 in support of the administration's interest in making FHSU a member of Western Governors' University.

Provost Gould remarked that FHSU is interested in providing different ways for students to have access to education. WGU would provide another channel of access for students. The administration has not made a decision about whether it wants FHSU to join. President Hammond would like to report that FHSU is looking into joining WGU at the next BOR meeting. The administration seeks input from all constituencies (ie. Faculty Senate, Student Senate) about FHSU joining as an individual institution. Currently, the administration is weighing the pros and cons of joining as an individual institution.

Acting President John Durham wanted to know if faculty currently teaching in the Virtual College would be required to offer their courses via WGU. Provost Gould responded that no faculty member would be required to teach for WGU. He noted that there are some potential advantages for FHSU faculty. Faculty could list their courses with WGU. It is possible that WGU courses would replace FHSU courses. That is why FHSU is looking into joining WGU. Of course, it would still be the case that individual departments would have to accept any course taken through WGU to fulfill departmental requirements. The fact that the student would be paying out of state tuition for WGU courses would discourage FHSU students from taking courses through WGU.

In response to a question about the \$10,000 fee for joining WGU, Dean Elliott pointed out that the fee covers membership for three years. If the state joins later, President Hammond hopes that the Governor will designate FHSU to be the lead institution for the state. As the lead institution for the state, FHSU would have more input into WGU's policies. This would allow for monitoring the quality of WGU's courses.

Senator Jim Hohman wanted to know what assessment policies were in place to monitor the quality of WGU courses. Dean Elliott responded that WGU offers competency-based degree programs. These programs are currently being reviewed for accreditation. The schools that offer courses through WGU are accredited. WGU is not a watch dog of the quality of the courses that its member institutions offer through their catalog. They have worked with accrediting agencies to develop standards for the courses that WGU offers.

Acting President John Durham asked Dean Elliott if it would not be fair to characterize WGU in the following way: that while WGU currently is a clearing house for distance education courses and a degree granting institution, its function as a degree granting institution is very minor at present. Dean Elliott agreed.

Provost Gould said that federal legislation designated WGU to be a test case for the offering of federal financial aid to students participating in off-campus education. Up until now, students enrolling in off-campus education were not eligible for federal financial aid. This presents an opportunity for FHSU, should it join WGU. He also sees an opportunity for FHSU to provide leadership in developing competency-based degree programs and accreditation standards for such programs in the state as not much has been done on this in Kansas. WGU could become the model for virtual universities in the future.

Dean Elliott and Provost Gould both acknowledged that there has been some hype with regard to WGU. WGU does not have the enrollment it anticipated at this time. This is why FHSU is currently weighing the pros and cons.

Since the resolution has two parts: to support the examination of issues involved in joining WGU and to endorse the President's decision to join if he decides that it is in FHSU's best interests, Senator Fred Britten moved to amend the resolution by eliminating everything after the word university. The resolution then read: "The Faculty Senate of FHSU recommends a thorough examination of the advantages and disadvantages of membership in WGU." The amendment of the resolution was approved by a voice vote. The resolution itself was also approved by a voice vote.

Resolution 9899-09 supports the BOR's initiative before the Kansas legislature to improve faculty salaries over a three year period. This resolution was approved by a voice vote.

Senator Rich Hughen, chair of the By-laws and Standing Rules Committee, distributed a proposed amendment to the by-laws for filling vacancies when officers of the Faculty Senate cannot complete their terms of office. This will be voted on in the next meeting.

Acting President John Durham presented resolutions coming from the Executive Committee. Resolution 9899-10 deals with Faculty Senate input into the university's strategic planning process. Currently, Senator Marty Shapiro and Acting President John Durham represent the Faculty Senate on the Strategic Planning committee. The resolution asks the Senate's representatives to favor actions plans which will provide faculty positions for existing programs and for library acquisitions over the creation of new administrative positions. Objections were raised to the resolution by Senators Fred Britten, Paul Adams, and Dan Delisi because there are very real equipment needs that are important to the academic programs. The resolution was amended to say that priority should be given to initiatives that support academic needs.

After amendment the resolution read: "Instructions to Senate representatives to Strategic Planning Process. The Faculty Senate requests that you prefer action plans which support academic needs." The resolution carried by a voice vote.

Resolution 9899-11 which recommends that a representative from the Library be a member of Virtual College Advisory Committee and that there be a faculty member qualified in the area of outcomes assessment on the committee. Senator Ellen Brow noted that the library representative should be the distance education librarian. The resolution was approved by a voice vote.

Resolution 9899-12 supports the Faculty Senate action plan to increase funding for the Senate's personnel budget to reflect the increase in the minimum wage. The resolution was approved by a voice vote.

Resolution 9899-13 supports the Faculty Senate action plan which asks the administration to research and prepare to implement an electronic meeting system for university committees. The resolution was approved by a voice vote.

New Business

Acting President John Durham presented Resolution 9899-14 in response to definitions of "mediated course" and "mediated courseware" circulated by the BOR's chief counsel. These definitions are of concern because it was the chief counsel's intent to have these definitions separated from the

Senate
Oct 5 98

intellectual property policy. Since these definitions are an integral part of the intellectual property policy, they should be included in it.

Senator Art Morin suggested that the Senate express itself on what it thinks the definitions should be. He suggested the resolution say that the definition of mediated courseware should not include syllabi, textbooks, exams.

Senator Fred Britten moved that the resolution be referred to the University Affairs Committee. His motion failed.

Senator Rich Hughen noted that in the case of some courses, syllabi are a part of the course and belong to the department. Provost Gould noted that General Education courses have to follow certain syllabi. To tamper with this can complicate university-wide ownership of the General Education Program. Senator Rich Hughen suggested that "syllabi" be taken out of the definition of what mediated courseware is not.

Point 2 of the resolution was amended to read: "that ownership will not include textbooks and exams." After amendment, point 2 of the resolution read: "that the draft definitions circulated at the September BOR meeting for the terms 'mediated course' and 'mediated courseware' be modified to remove any implication or expression of claims to ownership not otherwise asserted in the proposed intellectual property policy now being considered by the Board and that ownership of textbooks and examinations be left with the faculty;". The resolution carried by a voice vote.

Senator Bob Stephenson asked that the Senate examine what can be done about students approaching faculty periodically for a grade report. He would like the university to devise another way for advisors for extracurricular activities to receive periodic grade reports that does not tax faculty members unduly. His concern was referred to the Student Affairs Committee.

Liaison Reports

The liaisons to the Classified Senate and Student Government had no report.

Dave Schmidt reported on the Instructional Technology Policy Advisory Committee. At the suggestion of Provost Gould, a university-wide technology plan is being developed to identify goals and work on coordination. It would involve coordinating academic computing, administrative computing, CTELT, and all the laboratories. FHSU is looking into joining the American Association of Higher Education because it has a Technology Roundtable. The roundtable provides for structured discussions of the relationship of teaching and technology.

The liaisons to the Virtual College Oversight Committee, the Faculty and Staff Development Committee, the Library Committee, and the General Education Committee had no report.

The Senate adjourned at 5:15pm.

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Cindy Clifton
Thompson