

12-14-1998

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, December 14, 1998

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

FHSU Faculty Senate, "Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, December 14, 1998" (1998).
Faculty Senate. 885.
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Meeting of December 14, 1998

Special Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting of 12/14/98

Acting President John Durham called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

In his opening remarks, Acting President Durham observed that the Executive Committee had invited a representative of AAUP to speak to the Faculty Senate about its collective bargaining initiative at its December meeting. Due to schedule conflicts, it did not come to pass. He also proposed that organizations, such as the AAUP and the Faculty Senate, organize forums

Attachment B: Announcements

State and Federal matters

So far as I can determine, the Collections of Data Anti-Piracy Act has not yet been repassed by the House. Past President Aistrup and I took the occasion of Rep. Moran's speech to Prof. Shala Bannister's class to educate Rep. Moran on this issue. A new bill, HR 313, "The Consumer Internet Privacy Protection Act of 1999" has been introduced in the House of Representatives; I have not studied the bill in detail, but it appears to prohibit disclosure of identifying information about users by Internet Service Providers. It may apply to FHSU.

At the University Cabinet meeting of January 6, 1999, President Hammond called attention to the fact that Kansas (as of 1997, actually) recognizes digital signatures.

Board of Regents

Notes from Board of Regents Meeting in Topeka, December 16-17

The Senate Presidents had a very pleasant breakfast with the Regents. There was general agreement that the Board of Regents probably needs a strategic marketing plan. Several Regents expressed disappointment that their work is not better understood by faculty. I attempted to explain in neutral terms to the Regents why FHSU faculty might be considering collective bargaining.

At the main Regents' meeting, there were lengthy presentations on advising at the six institutions. Retiring WSU President Eugene Hughes was given a plaque.

Kansas Council of Faculty Senate Presidents

Prior to the meeting, there had been much concern (mainly on the ESU and KSU campuses) that administrations had unilaterally removed language referring to sexual orientation from parts of the faculty handbooks. The Presidents of both respective Senates indicated that the situation had been (or appeared likely to be) resolved satisfactorily. (The issue here is not content, but procedure, I believe.)

At WSU the faculty is waiting expectantly for their new President.

At PSU collective bargaining negotiations are in an impasse. PSU faculty have received no merit raises since last year and are working without a contract.

At KUMC there appears to be much unrest in governance. A major issue is the treatment of merit pay dollars (academic faculty got almost nothing in Kansas City, but a full share in Wichita); another issue is the possibility of 9-month contracts (year contracts are normal).

University Administration

Meeting with President Hammond

The President-Elect met with President Hammond on Tuesday, Dec. 15. There was discussion about the Senate's support for University Forums on collective bargaining, but most of the discussion concerned seeking legislative support for faculty pay increases.

Meeting with Provost Gould

President-Elect Durham met with Dr. Gould on Dec 15. The meeting included more discussion of summer & Virtual College pay. There was also some general discussion of strategy for "distance learning". The Provost also raised the issue of possible use of "lecturers" (non-tenured faculty with continuing appointments).

University Steering Committee and the Strategic Planning process

This committee's work is now completed; the Strategic Plan should be released shortly.

Senate Resolutions

(no new signings)

University Faculty Concerns

See the minutes of the special meeting of December 14. The first Senate-sponsored forum on collective bargaining will be January 29 at 2PM in Pioneer Lounge.