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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, September 3, 1996

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Minutes of Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate
3 September 1996

A. President Jean Gleichsner called the meeting to order in the Pioneer Lounge of the Memorial Union on September 3, 1996, at 3:30 p.m.

B. Senators Present were: Tom Guss, James Murphy, Robert Stephenson, Michael Miller, Alan schoer, Martha Holmes, Richard Packauskas, Greg Farley, Ann McClure, Richard Peters, Max Rumpel, Stephen Shapiro, Bruce Bardwell, Fred Britten, John Durham, Jean Anna Sellers, Thomas Johansen, Steven Trout, David Ison, Kenneth Neuhauser, Steven Sedbrook, Helen Miles, Ann Liston, Phyllis Schmidt, Erv Eltze, Evelyn Toft, Dan Delisi, Martin Shapiro, Dianna Koerner, Richard Hughen, Roger Pruitt (for Keith Kruger), Dean Zerr, Joseph Aistrup, Arthur Morin, Robert Markley, Alice Humphreys and Debora Scheffel.

Senators absent were: Craig Shewry and Don Barton.

Guests of the Senate were: Provost Arevalo, Chad Nelson and Terry Bruce, SGA President and Vice-President, respectively.

C. The senate approved the minutes of the July 1996 meeting.

D. Announcements:

Chad Nelson informed the assembly that the students are currently investigating the possibility of offering students general information about each class (e.g.: how the course is taught, how it is evaluated, etc.).

E. Standing Committees:

1. Academic Affairs - Senator Martha Holmes

-No Report

2. Bylaws and Standing Rules - Senator Richard Hughen

-No Report

3. External Affairs and Faculty Salary - Senator Dianna Koerner

a. Senator Schmidt presented the revised Sabbatical Policy. Senators expressed concern for protecting research. Some senators voiced the idea that sabbaticals for reasons of pedagogy must not receive priority over research. The draft was returned to the

committee for final review, to be brought back to the October 7 Faculty Senate meeting for final approval.

4. Student Affairs - Senator Craig Schwery was absent, so Steve Sedbrook gave the report.

a. The committee is currently researching the pricing of textbooks at the University Bookstore.

b. The committee is reviewing the incomplete grade policy.

c) The proposed Four-Year Guarantee Degree was reviewed. The committee felt that the deadline was too early and discussed changing it from January 1st to February 1st. Discussion and clarification of the basic philosophy of the Four-Year Guarantee Degree Program followed. There was mention of possibly identifying students through their enrollment records in the Registrar's Office, so that advisors would be able to know which advisees were enrolled in the Four-Year Guarantee Degree program. The vote to change the dates of the deadlines passed. Results were 21 yes, 5 no, 0 abstentions.

This policy does not require any additional work by the advisers, but places the responsibility upon the students.

Policy was approved as amended.

5. University Affairs - Senator Martin Shapiro

a) The committee presented a policy dealing with chronically under-performing faculty. The main issue is the number of years a faculty member may be a low performer before being called a chronic low performer. Senator Alice Humphreys expressed concern that the department ensure that everything possible be done to help the faculty member to improve.

Dr. Durham proposed an amendment that ensures that a faculty member diagnosed as a chronic low-performer be dismissed only after the process has passed through the appropriate appeals level. The amendment passed, voting results were 20 yes, 6 no, 0 abstentions.

Dr. Guss stated that he does not believe that the Senate has the authority to make such a decision.

Implementation of this policy will take place January 1, 1997 (calendar year). The Policy on Chronic

Low Performance passed on a vote of 24 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention (David Ison abstained). Several senators expressed concern that there was confusion about the directives in some departments concerning the development of a departmental policy containing minimal requirements identifying chronically low-performing faculty, since the Policy had not yet been approved by Faculty Senate and was still in draft form. Provost Arevalo explained that he had shared a draft copy with the Chairs and told them that something similar to this, pending a discussion at the September 3 Faculty Senate meeting, would probably be approved and that they needed to begin talking to faculty about developing the guidelines. Timelines could be a problem since the guidelines are to be implemented January 1, 1997. The emphasis is to get started developing them.

F. Old Business

- None

G. New Business

a. Any person interested in being appointed a Liaison should contact President Gleichsner.

H. Reports from Liaisons - None

I. Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.

K. Standing Committees:

1. Academic Affairs - Senator Martin Wilson

-No Report

2. Rules and Standing Rules - Senator Barbara Hughes

-No Report

3. Internal Affairs and Security Safety - Senator Diana Decker

4. Senator Gotsch presented the revised Substantive Policy. Senators expressed concern for protecting research. Some senators voiced the idea that academics are research of pedagogy must not register priority over research. The draft was returned to the