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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, February 5, 2001

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Fort Hays State University
Faculty Senate

Minutes for Regular Meeting
of
February 5, 2001

3:35 called to order

1. Announcements and Information Items (no action required)

1a. With the consent of the Senate, Dick Heil (speaking for Rose Arnold) gave an update on the Campaign 2001. Faculty were encouraged to participate. No questions were brought forth by the faculty senators.

1b. Chris Crawford is the new senator for Leadership Studies.

2. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

2a. January, 2001 minutes (see Attachment-A) Approval of the minutes was moved and seconded (by Martin Shapiro and Bob Stephenson, respectively) and approved by faculty with some editorial changes:

- Doug Drabkin is spelled with a b instead of a p)
- Correction of name spellings, Britten, Duane Renfrow
- Use VC instead of Vcollege in minutes
- 5b add Fred Britten to this section
- Ervin Elitze reported for himself instead of Howard Peters.
- 1.b note "as such" instead of "as much".
- 2a university correct spelling
- add this as part of minutes

3. Reports from Committees

3a. Academic Affairs-no report

3b. By-Laws and Standing Rules-no report

3c. University Affairs = proposed changes to three recently announced policies

(see Attachment-B): Martin Shapiro spoke to faculty senate and referred to the discussion in minutes from the last faculty senate meeting. These all came through administration and had not gone through Faculty Senate. These policies were considered by the University Affairs Committee. The recommended changes (which are brief) have been included and are on the last page of the agenda for today, February 5th.

- (i) Policy for Provision and Use of Faculty Office Space-University Affairs recommended revisions. These were approved unanimously.
- (ii) Faculty Approval Policy and Process-University Affairs recommends that A and B under roman numeral V be reversed. This was approved unanimously.
- (iii) Institutional Policy Guidelines for the Establishment of Endowed and Named Faculty Appointments- University Affairs recommended that the title of faculty approval be modified to read "faculty appointment policy and process" Provost Gould stated that he is in favor of this change in title, but will double check with the University Attorney and will then make changes.

3d. Student Affairs –no report

3e. External Affairs and Faculty Salaries-no report

3f. Executive Committee-no report

4. Old Business

No old business

5. New Business

Senator Steve Trout raised issues pertaining to VC. He is very concerned about regular campus students taking VC classes. Distance education is for distance learners. There are things that can be done in real time that cannot be done online. He outlined 3 points:

- we are overly eager to put things online that are not best that way-highly interactive and very labor intensive to put many chats out there
- quality issue-many students feel that VC courses are easy credit. This is by no means the case, but there is the perception.
- we have created a surrealistic experience. It is cheaper to take VC courses at a distance, rather than to come to campus and pay out of state fees.

It is a controversial issue, Steve Trout stated that about 40% of students taking credit through VC are here in this community.

A discussion followed which is summarized here:

- The issue of possible discrimination against certain students if we prevent students from enrolling in VC courses when they are on-campus students was raised by Chris Crawford. Will we need a separate admissions policy? Maybe we should have a more clear cut definition of what VC does.
- Martin Shapiro, Donna Northam and Liane Connelly all stated that sometimes on-campus courses are offered through VC only, and that resources do not allow for separate courses. Steve Trout stated that students are concerned about this as well, when they are on campus and the class is only offered through the VC. In some cases they would take the class on campus, but cannot.
- Bob Stephenson stated that his department has only one online course, and that only one student was off campus.
- President Art Morin asked the faculty senators if there was a concern with quality and VC courses. Steve Trout stated that when he met with the degree analysts, he was dismayed to see that VC class does not show up and that there is no way to know if a course is online or not. James Heian advanced the idea that we also do not distinguish professors although we all know that some professors are better than others. Paul Adams stated that departments are required to have checks and balances to determine if a class is one that is conducive to being online. Departments decide appropriateness of specific courses for distance learning. James Heian agreed that departments have the authority to make this decision. Steve Trout reported that there are some classes that do not translate well into online courses. Provost Gould agreed that quality is important. We will lose in the long run if we do not have good quality and some of the same problems with quality are seen with both on and off campus courses. He considers advising to be an important aspect of quality. Faculty Senate established a VC advisory committee, but this committee has not been very active. The committee was supposed to look at procedure, more than content. He suggested that we may need good practice standards, and that perhaps a new committee should be developed for this purpose. The Provost said he will work with Faculty Senate if desired. The idea of sending people to conferences or developing quality round tables may be desirable.
- Doug Drabkin stated that there is an issue about taking classes on overtime for students, and faculty teaching classes on overtime.
- President Art Morin asked the faculty senate if the department procedures for approving VC courses are working, and if it is being used. He suggested these are the appropriate questions and that we should consider VC issues from a systemic level in the effort of quality of courses.
- Steve Trout reported that there is a sense of urgency to get things online, and that he feels we may be making shortcuts.
- Paul Faber stated that some universities make a requirement to take at least one VC class to help them learn how get the best out of this type of experience. There may be some benefit to be gained from this as well.
- James Heian stated that one issue is the role of the advisor. Are students allowed to pick and

choose courses, or is the advisor-student relationship a contractual one in which faculty dictate the curriculum?

- Tom Jackson stated that the use of language "VC courses" is a problem, that these are really departmental courses that are offered through the VC, not VC courses.
- Bob Stephenson summarized by stating that he felt there were 2 issues; quality and those students on-campus who are taking classes through the VC for no apparent reason.
- President Art Morin summarized by stating that there was a potential issue with VC courses. No action was taken at this time.

6. Reports From Liaisons

6a. Classified Senate = John Durham-no report

6b. Student Government = Ervin Eltze, chair, introduced Darin Jameson from student government.

One issue that is current is discussed in the Leader relates to the personal wellness course. One proposal being discussed is the possibility that students have a choice of courses, rather than being required to take Personal Wellness. Feb 14th is state education student government day. They plan to meet with legislatures to try and get the technology fee back.

6c. General Education = Martha Holmes-no report

6d. Instructional Technology Policy Advisory Committee = Loretta Dorn-no report

6e. Virtual College Advisory Committee = Donna Northam-no report

6f. Library Committee = Duane Renfrow-no report

6g. Faculty and Staff Development Committee = Chris Crawford-short report. This committee has met 3-4 times and is allocating faculty and staff funds.

6h. Report from AAUP liaison = Doug Drabkin-a written report was read and submitted for minutes summarizing the activities of AAUP. To summarize, work continues on negotiations, which remain collegial. Many issues have been raised in regard to VC teaching, such as intellectual property, and control over materials produced through the virtual college.

7. Adjournment at 4:30 PM

Submitted by

Liane Connelly