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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, September 4, 2001

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Fort Hays State University
Faculty Senate

Minutes for Regular Meeting
of
Tuesday, September 4, 2001

(3:30pm, Memorial Union, Pioneer Lounge)
Called to order by President Paul Adams at 3:32 p.m.

1. Announcements and Information Items (no action required)

- 1a. University Steering Committee action to include AQIP Goals in University Objectives
The AQIP goals (including AQIP Goal #5) have been incorporated into the University objectives. This should facilitate the inclusion of AQIP Goal #5 (research) projects in the Action Planning process.
- 1b. Faculty Senate Meeting Dates AY 2001-02 (see Attachment A)
A list of meeting dates was provided. This information, along with other pertinent information about Faculty Senate, will be posted on the Faculty Senate web page soon. This page was last updated in October 1999; the problem with updating it has been that the person who had the password to the web site left the university.
- 1c. Committee Memberships (see Attachment B, C)
A list of committee assignments for Faculty Senators was examined. Senators were asked to provide any needed corrections to existing list. President Adams announced that Senate liaisons are needed for Classified Senate, the Library Committee & the Faculty Staff Development Committee. A current list of senators and alternates for each department was provided, along with dates when each senator's term ends. Senators were asked to examine the list and make sure the information is correct.

2. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

- 2a. June, 2001 minutes (see Attachment D)
Martin Shapiro motioned that the minutes be accepted without changes, Gavin Buffington seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- 2b. July, 2002 minutes (see Attachment E)
Gavin Buffington motioned that the minutes be accepted without changes, Stephen Schleicher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. Reports from Committees

- 3a. Academic Affairs = (see Attachment F, G)
MUS 289 – Course was approved unanimously.
JUS 720 - President Adams read a comment from a faculty member; that person's concern was that a statistics course was not listed as a prerequisite for the class. No one from the Justice Studies department was available at the meeting to address this concern. Ray Johnson motioned to table the matter and refer it back to the Academic Affairs committee, Steven Trout ~~seconded the motion~~, and it passed unanimously.
- 3b. By-Laws and Standing Rules = no report
- 3c. University Affairs = no report
- 3d. Student Affairs = no report
- 3e. External Affairs and Faculty Salaries = no report
- 3f. Executive Committee = no report
- 3g. AQIP 5th Goal Committee =
Steven Trout reported that the committee met last week, with the major issue of discussion being how to define the terms research, scholarship, and creative activity. It was decided that no single, general definition would suffice, given the variations from discipline to discipline in what

constitutes scholarship. However, because it is necessary to provide quantitative data about progress toward stretch target goals, the committee agreed to gather data about six varieties of scholarly work that most everyone would agree are important. These six are: refereed publications of all kinds, non-refereed publications of all kinds, grant applications, grants received, conference presentations, and juried artwork, exhibitions and performances. Chairs will be asked at merit time to supply numbers in these six areas.

Trout also emphasized that the most important part of AQIP Goal #5 is making changes in the campus environment that promote scholarly endeavors and anyone who has ideas about how to do this should e-mail Trout. In particular, ideas about utilizing action plan monies to promote scholarship are of interest. Two ideas that have been discussed by the committee are a fund to help faculty with publication costs and a new award for scholarly excellence, perhaps to be titled Scholar of the Year. Although the President's Distinguished Scholar Award is available, it generally recognizes long term, career achievement in scholarship. This Scholar of the Year award would acknowledge a single special accomplishment, with an award amount hopefully similar to that of the current Teacher /Innovator award. The committee also discussed trying to find funding to make up for the state's 25% cut in out-of-state travel for faculty, but found it was unnecessary. Bruce Shubert, FHSU's Vice President of Administration and Finance, has told Trout that the university will find a way to cover that 25% so faculty will not experience a cut in out-of-state travel funds.

4. Old Business

None.

5. New Business

Report by Provost on University Initiatives

Provost Larry Gould announced a series of task forces being established to promote institutional change, indicating that faculty volunteers for these task forces are being sought. The task forces are:

*Facilitation of teaching and learning communities – There are a number of informal/ad hoc roundtables currently in existence on campus to share information, particularly about the use of technology in teaching. Gould would like to see these groups “attached” in some way to CTELT, to facilitate the provision of resources for the groups’ endeavors. The goal of the roundtables would be for faculty to share ideas with the goal of improving on-campus and virtual college teaching skills.

*Good practices task force – This task force’s goal is to develop information about “good practices” in five areas: course design, instructional delivery skills, course management, content expertise, and the application of technology to traditional and virtual learning experiences.

*Assessment steering committee – The strategic plan for the university will be finalized this year.

*Part time/adjunct faculty orientation and development task force – The intention of this committee is to provide support to part time and adjunct faculty in order to improve their abilities to deliver a quality learning experience to students.

*International Studies Programming task force – A group of people have already begun work on the internationalizing of the curriculum during the last year and work in this area will continue this year.

*Task force for orientation of chairs/deans – This task force will address the issue of providing a better and more targeted orientation for new chairs, veteran chairs, new deans and veteran deans, focusing on what support is needed for those with varying levels of experience in their positions.

The Provost will be sending out a newsletter three times a year, beginning in October, addressing new trends and issues in higher education. It will attempt to give short, useful chunks of information that faculty may not encounter in the readings related to their individual disciplines. Information about AQIP will be provided as well.

6. Reports From Liaisons

6a. Classified Senate = a new liaison is needed.

6b. Student Government = Howard Peters

The Student Government Committee will work jointly with SGA on three issues: credit card issues for students, a recommended policy for the concurrent credit issue and its impact on students, and parking issues.

6c. General Education = Martha Holmes; no report.

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

6e. Virtual College Advisory Committee = Ray Johnson

The committee met last week. There was discussion about MBS and a conference call with MBS was conducted. A survey about the pitfalls of MBS and concerns about it will be sent out soon.

6f. Library Committee = a new liaison needed.

Steven Trout volunteered to serve as liaison; no report.

6g. Faculty and Staff Development Committee = a new liaison is needed.

6f. Report from AAUP liaison = Doug Drabkin

The following statement was presented:

“AAUP will be holding a chapter meeting this Thursday, September 6th at 4:00p.m. in the Trails Room. At the meeting there will be discussion of four points: (1) discussion of the progress of contract negotiations, (2) discussion of changes to the dues structure to comply with payroll deduction guidelines, (3) discussion of complaints that have been filed with the state’s Public Employee Relations Board against the Fort Hays State University administration, and (4) discussion of upcoming faculty forums. On this last point, you may recall that Faculty Senate and AAUP jointly sponsored a faculty forum last year concerning courses that are taught through what is sometimes called “the Virtual College”. This year, AAUP is interested in organizing a forum on the topic of Research at FHSU. The lively discussion of the 5th AQIP goal last year suggests that this is a timely and important topic.”

President Paul Adams suggested that perhaps Faculty Senate could co-sponsor a forum on research with AAUP.

7. Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting

A motion was made by Gavin Buffington to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by David Goodlett, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

8. Committee Breakout Session

Each committee set group meeting times and examined a list of tasks for the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol L Patrick