

10-1-2001

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 1, 2001

FHSU Faculty Senate

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**Fort Hays State University
Faculty Senate
Minutes for Regular Meeting
of
Monday, October 1, 2001**

(3:30pm, Memorial Union, Pioneer Lounge)
Called to order by President Paul Adams at 3:33 p.m.

1. Announcements and Information Items (no action required)

1a. Information from the Kansas Board of Regents Meeting – Paul Adams

-PPST - Although the Kansas State Department of Education no longer requires the PPST, the Regents institutions have decided to keep using it. The math points required will drop by 3 points in order to better align with other states.

1b. Initiatives by the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents – Paul Adams

Items being discussed by the COFSP:

- Health benefits (deductibles), maternal/paternal leave, and tuition reductions for faculty & their dependents.
- Regulations about graduate short courses that require that they be offered for at least 15 hrs over 3 days. The issue under discussion is the removal of the 3-day requirement, because it can be difficult to apply to on-line courses, etc.

1c. Other – Paul Adams

Items from the President's Cabinet meeting:

-Enrollment for Fall 2001 is down in terms of traditional, on-campus student credit hours, but is up in Virtual College and international student hours. No operating budget will be lost because the increases in the Virtual College have made up for the drop in traditional credit hours. (All of the credit hours of on-campus students are counted as traditional hours, even the Virtual College hours they take.)

-Changes made to the university's mission statement by Faculty Senate last year (regarding diversity) were well received by the Board of Regents and approved in the September meeting.

-Due to the shortage of math and science teachers in Kansas, state "scholarships" are available for college juniors and seniors interested in teaching math and science in areas of the state where the shortage exists. For each year they work in an underserved area of Kansas, they do not have to repay the scholarship. Faculty should send any interested junior or senior to the math/science chair of their area of interest (e.g., biology, physics, mathematics, chemistry, earth&space science) for more information.

-Projected enrollments for community colleges in Fall 2002 are up (as much as 20 percent). We need to consider why we may be losing traditional (on campus) students to community colleges and what we can do about it.

2. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

2a. Sept 01 minutes (see Attachment-A)

2b. Sign-in Roster Sept 01 (see Attachment B)

-Two changes were requested: 1) Item 3a - the matter was referred to committee only and was not also tabled; and 2) Sign-in roster - add Steve Sedbrook. Marty Shapiro made a motion to accept the minutes with changes, William Stark seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. Reports from Committees

3a. Academic Affairs - Martha Holmes

-Nursing 512 (Att C), 531 (Att D), 531L (Att E) - Approved unanimously.

-JUS 720 - Approved with one absention.

-Incomplete policy- The Academic Affairs committee moved to request modifications to the I Policy as recommended by the Council of Deans. Changes recommended: 1) Rather than having an Incomplete remain an Incomplete until the instructor requests a change, as recommended by the Council of Deans, an Incomplete should become an NC (no credit) after a year. This will prevent problems with financial aid (i.e., having too many Incompletes on the record). 2) Rather than having Incompletes be given if the student has satisfactorily completed at least 50% of class assignments, the Academic Affairs committee recommends that an I should be given if the student has shown satisfactory progress on class assignments. Paul Siegrist made a motion to approve these changes, William Stark seconded the motion, and the motion passed with four senators abstaining.

-Discussions on Blackboard regarding course approval - All faculty will be enrolled on the Blackboard system, and will be able to make comments, but not changes.

3b. By-Laws and Standing Rules - Art Morin

-Issues being considered: whether virtual meetings violate the open meetings rule; a comparison of the on-line vs. hard copy Faculty Handbook; and the examination of the logbook that lists changes made to the Faculty Handbook.

3c. University Affairs - Marty Shapiro

-In November the UAC will bring a motion to the floor to change portions of the faculty handbook related to the service component of merit process.

3d. Student Affairs - Howard Peters

-Daron Jamison, president of the Student Senate, was introduced. He indicated that he believes Faculty Senate and Student Senate have a number of the same goals and objectives and it would be beneficial for the two groups to work together as much as possible.

3e. External Affairs and Faculty Salaries - Mahboub Hashem

-The issue of faculty salaries is the main topic of discussion. Of concern are the disproportionate amount of salary enhancement dollars that go to non-instructional, rather than instructional, faculty, and the amount that FHSU salaries lag behind the salaries of faculty at similar institutions. The committee will be meeting with Larry Getty this week to further discuss these issues.

3f. Executive Committee - Paul Adams

-A forum to be held by Faculty Senate and Admissions will address the issue of student recruitment.

-In order to facilitate interdisciplinary research on campus, there are plans to develop a book detailing research interests of each faculty member.

-The evaluation of deans and chairs is being discussed; in particular, how to more systematically evaluate them.

3g. AQIP 5th Goal Committee - Steven Trout (read by Paul Adams)

-A number of possible action plans to be submitted by Faculty Senate related to the AQIP 5th Goal:

*create a Scholar of the Year award; change the name of the Teacher/Innovator/Scholar Award to the Teacher/Innovator Award.

*set aside funds to allow for page costs for journal editors on campus.

*provide a van to run along the I-70 corridor for research purposes.

- Liane Connelly suggested another possibility: an action plan related to interdisciplinary research for the purposes of connecting researchers and seed money to get started.
- Art Morin suggested requesting funding for a faculty satisfaction survey that would allow faculty to describe how the campus environment is or is not supportive of scholarly efforts. Provost Larry Gould indicated that a faculty satisfaction survey was being created related to a number of issues and suggested the possibility of working together.
- Liane Connelly made a motion to conduct an electronic vote of Faculty Senators on the action plans suggested. Gavin Buffington seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

4a. Faculty Senate WWW site: <http://www.fhsu.edu/facultysenate/>

- Senators were asked to examine the web site and provide suggestions and comments.

5. New Business

5a. Faculty Senate Action Plans

- Paul Adams indicated that he would like to submit an action plan for 0.5 FTE classified secretarial staff to aid in the day-to-day operations of Senate. Currently student assistants are being utilized for these tasks. This action plan will be added to the electronic action plan vote.

5b. Discussion: What is the faculty stance on the current requirement for 60 hours of course work from an accredited 4-year institution for a baccalaureate degree?

- Paul Adams provided a statement, on behalf of the Executive Committee, that affirms the 60-hour rule (that 60 hours of a student's total credit hours must be taken at a four-year institution in order for the student to receive a baccalaureate degree). The issue has come up because Washburn University allows 84 credit hours to be transferred in from two-year institutions. Other Regents institutions are in the process of reaffirming the 60-hour rule. Liane Connelly moved to accept the statement, with appropriate grammatical changes. Paul Siegrist seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5c. Duane Hinton – Concurrent high school enrollment courses

- Questions about the quality of instruction in these courses have been raised. Of particular concern is the lack of preparation these courses seem to provide for students as they take later courses. This is an issue the faculty should consider.

6. Reports From Liaisons

6a. Classified Senate - new liaison needed.

6b. Student Government -Robert Howell; no report

6c. General Education - Martha Holmes

- The first meeting of the committee will be Thursday, Oct 4th.

6d. Instructional Technology Policy Advisory Committee - Loretta Dorn

- The computing center will convert labs to Samba; first it will be piloted in one lab to see how it works. The issue of long-term directions for student access to servers on campus is being explored. Blackboard is receiving 70,000 hits per day and appears to be working well, especially since it has been upgraded and the speed has improved.

6e. Virtual College Advisory Committee - Ray Johnson

- Progress is continuing on the faculty satisfaction survey and addressing concerns about MBS.

6f. Library Committee - new liaison needed; Doug Drabkin reported.

- John Ross is putting together a report for faculty on library initiatives.

6g. Faculty and Staff Development Committee - new liaison needed

6h. Report from AAUP liaison - Doug Drabkin

- A university faculty forum will be held on Wednesday, October 3rd at 3:30 p.m. in the Trails Room. The topic will be an AQIP 5th goal report by Steve Trout and general discussion about faculty research.

6i. Internationalization of the Campus - John Heinrichs

-Josephine Squires is chairing a task force on this topic. The task force will eventually deliver a series of recommendations on the internationalization of the campus.

Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting

Motion by David Goodlett, second by Gavin Buffington, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Submitted by:

Carol L. Patrick, Faculty Senate Secretary