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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, December 4, 2017

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate
Monday, December 4, 2017



Ballroom, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting called by: Denise Orth, Faculty Senate President 3:35

Please read/review prior to the meeting: *Located in Blackboard course FS000_01: Faculty Senate*

November 7, 2017 Faculty Senate Minutes

Academic Affairs Committee report and course/program approval documents

Faculty Morale Survey

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes- Moved by Sen. Miles; Seconded by Sen. Andrews. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

2. Announcements and Information Items:

Welcome – Denise Orth welcomed the group to the final meeting for the fall 2017 semester.

Jeff Briggs –

- 120 credit hour Bachelor Degree programs – Several conversations have occurred between Deans, Chairs, FS Presidents, and KBoR about this move. Dr. Briggs wants everyone to understand the task before us. ALL of the KBoR institutions will submit a report to KBoR in March and any degree program that exceeds 120 hours will have to be granted an exception or submit a plan for coming in to line with the new requirement. They want to promote a 4-yr completion for an undergraduate degree.
- Units do not have to make those changes by March 1, but we will have to have a plan in place. It is fortunate that we are currently going through Gen Ed Review because it will likely become very evident how we can easily convert to 120-hr requirement w/o impacting major courses.
- When we were originally asked to report we had 8 that are already at 120; 49 at 124; 8 are above 124...most are driven by specialized accreditation. This means we are in good shape.
- KU is ahead of the curve because they revised Gen Ed and at that time they emphasized 4 year completion and revised many of their programs to be 120.
- The KBoR is very serious about this initiative. Recently there was a new degree program proposed at 127 credit hours and they were denied until they brought it back before the board with only 120 hours and was approved. Additionally, PSU was told that they could not bring new programs in front of the board until they changed their existing 124 hour institutional policy to 120 hour.
- A question was posed as to when the Gen Ed curriculum timeline would be done. Sen. Splichal, who is on the committee, says they are in progress towards 2019 but there isn't a specific deadline. We want to do it right, not quickly. The committee meets weekly and is currently working on measurable learning outcomes for the various modes of inquiry.

Report of the Faculty Senate President – Denise Orth

- Board of Regents (Nov. 15, 2017)
- Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and Council of Faculty Senate Presidents (COFSP)
- Meeting with Jeff Briggs
- Other
- Discussion of AP cut scores. They are being revised. Once they do all KBoR institutions need to be in compliance. They are in review right now for Physics courses since one of the institutions recommended a cut score of 3.
- Also talked about auditing courses since they are not allowed for virtual courses.

- They will be looking ahead to the next iteration for Foresight 2020 and hope to include measurable outcomes (which they do not currently have). They expect this conversation to be confidential which means Denise will have to exit the room until they make it more public at a future date. She will keep us posted.
- Also discussed the Math requirement for the UG programs. Dr. Flanders will be providing a charge to FS Presidents at the Dec meeting. It is hoped that they will discuss alternative ways to meet Math requirements.
- Looked at Gen Ed at other institutions
 - PSU- 47
 - KSU-12-24
 - KU-no specific number
 - FHSU- 55
 - WSU-45
- KBoR requested that WSU, KSU and KU report on retention. The common theme was tremendous growth across different programs but that the hiring of faculty has not kept pace with enrollment growth.
- She met with Dr Briggs about the use of NTT and how they cannot promote past Assistant Professor. She will be reaching out to the other KBoR institutions to see how they handle this.
- They discussed the site visit for the China programs. It went well. We expect a report by the end of the year.
- China individuals are asking for more inclusion in meetings. It has been identified that there are communication problems between China and here so they are seeking solutions
- Syllabus template: For virtual classes there is a required template, Dr. Breit reported that her department was not required to use the virtual syllabus template for newly developed classes. For on-campus, the template is optional. Dr. Briggs was supportive of that but would not be requiring faculty to use the template.

3. Reports from Committees –

Academic Affairs—Kenny Rigler and Helen Miles

- See report in blackboard
- New Course: ART 488 Visual Culture-unanimously approved in committee. No discussion. Unanimously approved.
- There are 2 new courses from the ART program related to Gen Ed so the applications have been sent to Gen Ed committee. Will the committee continue to review course changes or not? Will report back on answer to a possible change in the process since we are revising the Gen Ed program.

Partnerships and Technology—Jason Harper

- HLC Visit seemed very positive at SIAS. Jason also looked at the partnership and technology aspect. Technology is a challenge there. The two universities are looking to update technology but its slow going.
- We need 14 additional faculty for the Fall 2018 semester. There is a projected enrollment of 1400 students at SIAS and 500 at SNU. There are also students online in Cambodia. Currently there aren't enough student to get faculty on the ground, but it looks promising.
- He agrees that faculty want more inclusion. Sharing with the University Relations. He will share with LDRS and BUS faculty to encourage the same.
- Faculty Development funds should be available equally to all faculty teaching abroad. We do that, but they need to be more aware of the process and we can reach out.
- Air quality is still an issue but it is a reality that needs to be tolerated.
- All of the ENG classes have been converted to OER.

Strategic Planning and Improvements—Tony Gabel

- No report at this time

Student Affairs—Amanda Fields and Jana Zeller

- Preparing for Workday students.
- Foundation talked about year-end donations.
- Met with Dennis King and discussed the server and including course syllabi. Talked about what should be included, like course descriptions or outcomes. More info to come. Denise asked us to go back to our faculty to see if they are posting syllabi to the server. Sen. Miller asked if the students are using it. The answer was that they are, but since it is inconsistently used by faculty it is causing confusion. Sen. Bartlett says there should be updated communication to faculty regarding website and reminders to post to server as well as a timeline/reminders for posting. Why are we posting? What is most helpful? What do the students want? Is there a way to pull all the syllabi from Bb and then post to the server?
- Dead week policy still comes up with SGA. Sen. Fields asked for more info to see how serious it is. Again, what is the student perception? What is it that they really want? Sen Fields answered that there are still faculty that are scheduling new projects and tests during that week. It was discussed that this came before the Senate last year. We are seeking actual data before we take this up again. How often is this happening? Is this merely anecdotal in a few places? Is it widespread? We already have some university policies that address some of these issues. The SGA is now in the process of actually collecting data to bring before the body once we receive the results. Sen. Fields and Sen. Zeller will report back with details when they are available.
- Student Virtual Senate says there is little interaction with faculty who teach virtual courses and are looking at strategies related to that.
- Approved minutes will be exchanged with SGA and SGA minutes will be made available to Faculty Senate.

University Affairs—Amy Schmierbach

- Course Evaluations: met with Sanki Min, who had great suggestions and lots of experience in this area and is supportive of the overhaul.
- Faculty Workload report that was discussed at our last meeting has also been discussed. The committee talked about how we could use that report. They want to have a discussion about it but only after we discuss it with the departments. Senators are to make the report available to their faculty for discussion about how to move forward with recommending the use of the Workforce report. Is it realistic to reduce teaching load? Are the recommendations the Task Force put forth worth exploring? They want to know how the report, if implemented, would impact each department.
- Faculty Morale Survey- Will be voted on today and implemented in Spring 2018.

4. Unfinished Business

Faculty Morale Survey

- A lengthy discussion regarding 26F and identification of gender. Dr. McRay moved to amend the survey with changes to 26F, sending it back to the committee for revision. Seconded by Dr. Gabel. Motion passed unanimously.
- A question was proposed about the process for going through IRB. Once the survey is approved, the Docking Institute will put the survey through the IRB.
- Vote to approve the amended survey. Unanimously passed.

Bi-monthly meetings

- The idea is that we can more significantly delve into issues, with committees alternating the reports.

- The rationale for bimonthly meetings is that when Denise goes to KBoR meetings and sees what is happening at other institutions, there is a sense that they are more involved and are more instrumental in moving on timely decisions and timely discussions. If we want to have a stronger voice in shared governance, we might accomplish that by having more frequent meetings.
- One Senator brought up the point that more meetings doesn't necessarily mean greater shared governance. It was countered that it would allow us at least to more timely response to information. Dr. McRay prosed waiting to discuss this until the Strategic Planning Committee gathers its information about the role of Faculty Senate moving forward and whether or not we want to exert more power in shared governance.

Virtual college distribution of funds to departments

- Most departments conduct online courses. They have increased, but we don't seem to be getting the revenue back to the department. HOW are virtual dollars distributed? According to Mike Barnett, \$1 per credit hour goes to department, \$1 goes to the Dean of the College. \$.50 goes to the library.
- Regarding OOE, it has not been increased. Currently, for the past few years there has been a \$1million surplus and Mike Barnett will not consider increasing OOE until the surplus is significantly reduced. This is a place where we should get more involved in shared governance and how we could approach something like this.
- We need to go back to our department chairs about how this works and to seek further clarification from Mike Barnett.
- Also, how does revenue from China get distributed? Who is making those decisions?

5. New Business

- A card was given to Dr. Tompkins, which he appreciated. A card has been sent around for Dr. Mason as well.
- Two resolutions have been drafted, one to thank Dr. Tompkins for his service, and one to welcome Dr. Mason. Both passed unanimously after moved and seconded motions. Thanks to Carl Miller for well-crafted resolutions.
- Teaching evaluations are now open until the last day of finals. Since this is a change in procedure from previous semesters, does this concern anyone else? Denise said that Sangi Min had actually changed it back to Dec 8. This was evidently an oversight and will not happen again.
- A faculty member is requesting that a survey for Assistant Deans be sent out to faculty.

6. Adjournment 5:00