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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate

Agenda for Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 6th

Meeting began at 3:35p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

1a. December 4th approval of minutes and sign-in roster – *Kathy Sanders moved to accept the minutes. Steven Duvall seconded the motion. The faculty senate unanimously voted to approve them.*

2. Announcements and Information Items (no action required):

2a. Systems Council of Chief Academic Officers – *Have been discussing E-transcript and Docufide; NSSE presentation was given by Chris Crawford.*

2b. Council of Chief Academic Officers – *Also they have been discussing E-transcript and Docufide, as well as qualified admissions. They will be discussing the qualified admissions in more earnest and will update the faculty senate in this regard. Also, the faculty senate was made aware or updated of the following:*

- *CORE initiative discussion: This pertains to setting a standard for certain classes for which all institutions would adhere. This is still under review. The focus is reportedly on outcomes rather than curriculum. It doesn't just apply to general education, but is not necessarily going to be applied in all educational areas. Discussion followed regarding concerns about how we would do this if we would be doing it, what structure it would have, etc.*
- *Faculty recruitment survey: This was completed. There will be some results shared with Faculty Senate at the next meeting, and reasons why people leave or don't continue stay with FHSU will also be shared with the Board of Regents.*
- *Breakfast with the Regents: the Faculty Senate President, Rich Lisichenko, will be attending this.*

2c. Kansas Board of Regents – *Things look pretty good for FHSU regarding the governor's budget recommendations. Deferred maintenance was also discussed: There is a proposal to give money to universities as needed for maintenance, but if passed, this proposal would effectively penalize FHSU because we are/have been taking care of our own improvements without help from the State.*

2d. Presidents Cabinet – *Faculty Senate were update on the following activity:*

- *Revised Key System (2nd reading): President's Cabinet is contemplating adopting a new key policy to provide more structure and security.*
- *2006 Comprehensive Assessment Report and Strategic Plan: is available on their website.*
- *Policy regarding the Assignment of Faculty-Authorized Textbooks and other courses (1st reading): will require two or three other faculty to review to see if a textbook authored and required by an instructor is reasonable.*
- *New State Agency Disclosure Requirements: doesn't apply to FHSU.*
- *Midterm grades are still going to be required this semester.*
- *Free dial-up will be terminated on June 1, 2007. The issue of whether financial assistance should be given to adjunct faculty was discussed. It was brought up that perhaps this is an issue that AAUP should address.*

2e. NSSE Report: *Chris Crawford presented this report. See also item number 2a above.*

3. Reports from Committees

3a. Executive Committee: Rich Lisichenko – *The next Faculty Senate Executive Committee will be on Feb. 16, 2007 at 3:00p.m. in McCartney #109. The following information was reported:*

- *Midterm survey pilot: These will be given out to departments who previously agreed to pilot the survey instrument. They will be piloted this semester and will only be used to see how they work.*
- *Midterm recommendations made by the University Affairs Committee will be reviewed in the next faculty senate meeting. President Hammond will be in attendance. President Hammond reportedly commented that no one will be required to use blackboard; no one will be told what to do on it and that it is ultimately faculty decision.*
- *Committee requests that an Internationalization Team be formed.*

3b. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes – *Nothing to report.*

3c. Student Affairs: Robert Howell – *With regard to SGA funding, only students, not faculty and students, need to be prepared to answer questions about their clubs and funding needs.*

3d. University Affairs: Steven Duvall on behalf of Loretta Dorn – *They met in December and discussed midterm grades and will table this issue until the next faculty senate meeting because they have some other things to take care of first.*

3e. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Win Jordan – *Nothing to report.*

3f. University Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Steven Schleicher – *Nothing to report.*

4. Reports From Special Committees and Other Representatives – None.

5. Old Business

5a. *None.*

6. New Business

6a. Student excused absence/grade impact issue: Phillip Van Horn, SGA Senator – *Mr. Van Horn wanted information on absentee policies for students who must miss a substantial amount of time for medical reasons which affects their grades, and he requested information on how the SGA and Faculty Senate could work together to resolve this issues. Faculty Senate members mentioned the following, among others:*

- *There are no officially “excused” absences and these are at the instructor’s discretion.*
- *Papers from the Student Affairs Office do not count as excused absences.*
- *Students who are aware they have disabilities should contact Carol Solko at the beginning of the semester so instructors can be officially informed of a disability, and so students can get appropriate assistance.*
- *Those with chronic illnesses, such as rheumatoid arthritis or diabetes, should contact the instructor about limitations at the beginning of the semester.*

- *There is a grievance procedure if students don't feel that they have been treated fairly; they can appeal their grade also if the attendance was something that caused their grade to suffer.*

Faculty Senate members were encouraged to email Rich Lisichenko with any comments and he will share them with the SGA committee.

6b. The changes to the tenure committee process was a concern brought up. An email was recently sent out by Richard Huguen on behalf of AAUP concerning this issue and which asked all faculty belonging to the collective bargaining unit for input. The concern was that if we were to give input, we should have an understanding of what was being changed and why. It was brought up that a chief problem concerned the Provost sitting in on deliberations and appeals. Martha Holmes motioned to give the issue to the University Affairs Committee. Win Jordan seconded the motion. One senator opposed the motion; the rest of the Faculty Senate approved the motion.

- 7. Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting** – *Dianna Koerner motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dan Kulmala seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 4:40p.m.*