

10-1-2007

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 1, 2007

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

FHSU Faculty Senate, "Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 1, 2007" (2007). *Faculty Senate*. 104.
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FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
Minutes for Regular Meeting on Monday, October 1, 2007

The meeting was called to order in the Memorial Union Black and Gold Room at 3:35 p.m. by President Dan Kulmala.

1. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting(s)

- a. The September 4, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved as amended (a sentence in the seventh bullet point under item 2d should read “Committees should report with recommendations to the faculty senate by the October and November meetings.” There were no changes to the meeting’s sign-in roster.
- b. New Faculty Senate Secretary
 - One nominee—Rita Hauck was approved unanimously

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

- a. Board of Regents meeting
 - Five proposed initiatives still under consideration. The Regents seem to be emphasizing two initiatives, one that there is fluidity between K-12 and university education in order that when students graduate from high school, they are qualified for higher education. The other initiative involves learner outcomes, assessing whether or not we are doing what we say we are doing – more information to come; Dan Kulmala will send an attachment of the five proposed initiatives.
 - New, revised mission statement – As soon as approved, it will be sent.
- b. COFSP meeting
 - Grievance procedures—especially at KSU, WSU, and KU, grievance procedures are of great concern so they are being revised at those institutions
 - Teaching evaluations – Every other Regent institution is looking at revising the teaching evaluations. We will try to have something to pilot by end of year.
- c. President’s Cabinet
 - Discussed plans and proposals coming out of the Committee to Review and Rethink the Structure of the University
 - Items saved for Executive Committee
- d. New Scholarship Definition: Gene Rice and John Heinrichs presented two proposals from the FHSU Research Environment Committee (REC), for consideration and discussion at the University Affairs committee meeting, next Monday, Forsyth Library, Room 15 at 3:30 p.m.
 - Introduce rationale for new definition of scholarship – Gene is Chair of REC this year. John Heinrichs chaired a committee to look at the literature at peer institutions and further study the subject of scholarship. Gene read the two proposals on the handout for today’s regular faculty senate meeting. Any change to the mission statement would have to be approved by the Board of Regents.
 - Refer to new definition of scholarship to University Affairs – Gene Rice noted that the Boyer citation would be part of the definition.
 - After the presentation, there was some discussion. One concern was that “to address the needs of a diverse society” was no longer part of the mission statement. There was further discussion about the definition of scholarship wording regarding “peers both within and beyond the FHSU campus.” In response to another concern, John Heinrichs explained that

although the word “interdisciplinary” is not there, the definition is driven by “interdisciplinary” because of the “integration” type of scholarship. There was a concern that sometimes research is validated on campus but not off-campus. John Heinrichs explained that it is still up to the Department. It was recommended that it should be brought before the bargaining unit before going much further. John noted there will be multiple constituencies on campus to approve it. This is a beginning step in the process. President Kulmala assigned further discussion to the University Affairs meeting.

3. Reports from Committees Two design elements (Design Elements 3 and 6) were given to the Faculty Senate by President Hammond, along with a reminder that these are just some ideas that are out there. What are our responses? President Kulmala suggested that we make our recommendations based on what we have been given. He noted that he is open to other suggestions by which to address these proposals. The other design elements have been distributed by Dr. Hammond to other groups on campus. Dr. Kulmala explained we will be looking at the others by distributing them among the committees to get finished by the December meeting. It was suggested during the discussion that there should be a flowchart of how the changes would affect the existing administrative hierarchical structure of the University. Does such a flowchart exist? No. Provost Gould noted there were 23 proposals reviewed by the committee. Dr. Kulmala recommended first looking at and weighing the pros and cons from each proposal. The provost said they will “give it a shot” to put the proposals in context of possible administrative hierarchy changes. Any recommendations will be accepted until “the doors close” in the middle of December.

a. Executive Committee: Dan Kulmala

- Distribution of proposals from the Committee to Review and Rethink the Structure of the University to various committees. President Kulmala noted that in talking with Jeff Burnett, they decided that proposals 16 through 23 could go to the Student Affairs committee. He noted that the rest could be “divvied up” today or President Kulmala could meet with the Chairs of the other committees and send out a proposed due date for getting recommendations to the Executive Affairs committee. He will let senators know when and where committees will meet to discuss the various initiatives. They will again have a voice in the November and December meetings when we vote on whether we accept the initiatives or not. The “design elements” are from President Hammond’s speech. A copy of the speech is on the website. The proposals from the Committee are being “divvied up” among the faculty senate committees.
- Clarify tasks and objectives

b. Academic Affairs: Martha Holmes

- BIOL 697L Wildlife Management Techniques. Martha Holmes provided a handout and noted that the word “Techniques” had been changed to “Laboratories.” The new course had been unanimously approved by the Academic Affairs committee and Dr. Elmer Fink was present to answer any questions. The new course was approved unanimously by the faculty senate.

c. Student Affairs: Jeff Burnett noted that he had been unanimously elected Chair.

d. University Affairs: Jerry Wilson noted that he had been unanimously elected Chair.

e. By-Laws and Standing Rules: Win Jordan – No report

f. University Marketing and Strategic Academic Partnerships: Dosse Toulaboe – Dr. Squires reported that the committee has not met.

4. Reports from Special Committees and Other Representatives

- a. No reports

5. Old Business

- a. Course/teaching evaluation instrument – Send any recommended evaluation instruments to Dan Kulmala. There was a question about why we are looking at this again. President Kulmala explained that once the committee decided it wanted a scaled-down version, nothing happened. He noted that Carol Patrick informed him that the committee itself said there were other evaluation instruments out there that they thought were better. Another committee would have to collect normative data. We could purchase another instrument. Individual departments could construct their own questions; therefore we are looking for something more appealing for our purposes. Dan Kulmala noted that Richard Lisichenko went to KSU to study their instrument and concluded it would not work for our purposes. President Kulmala will present some possibilities to the Executive Committee. There was a suggestion to invite some of the members of the past committee to take a look at the new instruments to be proposed.
 - President Kulmala plans to introduce two instruments to the Executive Committee at the October 19, 2007 meeting
 - Dan noted that he will be on a panel led by Robert Luehrs on “Evaluation of Evaluations” on November 1. He invited everyone to send him concerns and ideas and he will bring them out during the panel discussion. He will also send a document from the Regents to be mindful that student evaluations are only a part of evaluating the effectiveness of teaching.

6. New Business

7. **Adjournment of Regular Faculty Senate Meeting** A motion was approved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.