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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 1, 1953

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Thursday, October 1, 1953, in the Dean's Office at 3:30 p.m.

Members present:
E. R. McCartney, Chairman
S. V. Dalton, Secretary
Ralph V. Coder, Dean, Graduate School
Katherine Bogart
Calvin Harbin
Joel Moss

Katharine Nutt
Emmet C. Stopher
L. W. Thompson
Gerald Tomanek
Margaret van Ackeren

Member absent:
Ivan Richardson

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, E. R. McCartney.

Absence of students from classes because they go on a trip in connection with another class.

A letter from a faculty member was read in which he asked about students who are absent from classes on a day when they make a trip in connection with another class. He suggested that some plan might be arranged by which these students would have additional time for the classes missed either before or after the trip.

It was estimated that students will miss four or five times during a semester for trips of regularly-scheduled activities away from the campus. It was suggested that the instructor who plans to take a class on a trip should do so on days when the least number of classes will be missed. The trips are worthwhile and should not be curtailed. The students should make up the work ahead of the absence but it would not be possible to make up the actual class time missed. It was felt that the instructor should take the responsibility of telling the students that the work should be made up and that it is not sufficient to announce this and then forget about it but rather that the students should be reminded that work has not been made up.

It was the concensus of the Senate that a specific regulation would not be advisable but that it was more of an individual matter and not a class affair unless it is flagrant. The statements (G and F) in the Faculty Handbook on Pages 18 and 19 cover this problem.

Length of time over which a student may carry credit toward the undergraduate degree.

At the last meeting of the Senate the question regarding the length of time over which credit may be carried toward a degree was discussed. Credit toward a bachelor's degree is never outlawed. A student who began her work
in 1926 and completed 37 hours has now asked what requirements must be met for a degree. Since that time the college requirements have been changed twice. It was suggested that the general courses may not have to be re-taken but it might be that some of the major-field courses might have to be reviewed.

It is likely that each case would have to be reviewed separately and that it would not be possible to establish a rule which would be equitable for all such enrollees. The student should be given the opportunity to finish under the catalogue in which he began a continuous program. It was decided that possibly the best plan would be to use either the beginning or the finishing catalogue whichever is more favorable to the student. State certificate requirements have changed and some of the difficulty arises from that.

Last summer there were students who said that the requirements were changed since they first enrolled. Many of these complaints were probably caused by the fact that Modern Civilization was required in many cases which was necessary because they had had no reasonable equivalent. Students who do much of their work during the summer sessions have difficulty following the regular sequence of courses and so take electives. Then it is necessary for them to complete these deficiencies. It was suggested that a statement in the catalogue would be of help so that the faculty and students would understand there was no discrimination in any particular case.

Elect Mr. Moss to the Executive Committee.

Last year Dr. Richardson was elected to serve with the chairman and secretary of the Senate on the Executive Committee.

Mr. Moss was nominated and elected to serve on the Executive Committee for the present year.

Discussion: A general education course for the senior students such as the course, "Great Issues" instituted at Dartmouth in 1947, (Copies of a report of this course were given to the Senate members at a previous meeting,) was discussed.

The present general education courses were also discussed. It was suggested that faculty members should know more about what is actually being done in the courses. The students' viewpoint was discussed and it was suggested that their reactions were of value. This will be discussed more fully later.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

E. R. McCartney, Chairman

Standlee V. Dalton, Secretary