

Fort Hays State University

FHSU Scholars Repository

Faculty Senate

4-1-1954

Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, April 1, 1954

FHSU Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholars.fhsu.edu/sen_all

Recommended Citation

FHSU Faculty Senate, "Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, April 1, 1954" (1954). *Faculty Senate*. 227.

https://scholars.fhsu.edu/sen_all/227

This Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by FHSU Scholars Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate by an authorized administrator of FHSU Scholars Repository.

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Thursday, April 1, 1954, at 3:30 p.m. in the Dean's Office.

Members present:

E. R. McCartney
Standlee V. Dalton
Ralph V. Coder
Katherine Bogart
Joel Moss
Katharine Nutt
Ivan Richardson
Emmet C. Stopher
L. W. Thompson
Gerald Tomanek
Margaret van Ackeren

Members absent:

Calvin Harbin

Others present:

Robert Marple
Charles Onion
R. L. Welty

The meeting was opened by the chairman who asked the History Department Staff for the report on the general education course, Modern Civilization.

Dr. Welty, Head of the History Dept. said that Mr. Onion would present the report on Modern Civilization. Mr. Onion has taught this course for the past six years and the History Dept. thought he should bring the report since he has taught the course over this long period of time.

Report on Modern Civilization by Mr. Onion:

The following outline was handed to the Senate members as a supplement to the syllabus which had been sent to the Senate members earlier in the week:

Modern Civilization

- I. Background as a General Education offering.
 - A. Elective 5 and 3 hour courses in History.
 - B. Followed by "European History" course.
 - C. Followed by European History course in a Social-Science sequence, sponsored by the Education Department (for teachers). Not required.
 - D. Since the War a General Education requirement called "Modern Civilization."
- II. Present Condition
 - A. Average number of students--120-150 per semester.
 - B. Present enrollment--127
 1. Sections--5 in fall; 4 in spring
 2. Teachers and sections

Nutt	1-33 students
Marple	2-37 students
	25 students
Onion	1-32 students

Faculty Senate Minutes
April 1, 1954
Page 2

- III. Explanation of Syllabus and Folder.
- IV. Student Criticisms
 - A. Chronological area too large.
 - B. Too many details--names, dates, genealogy, etc.
 - C. Why European rather than the more familiar American field?
 - D. Why study History at all?
- V. Present Problems
 - A. Scheduling
 - 1. Problem of quality (Question--Should there be sectioning?)
 - 2. Problem of size.
 - 3. Problem of afternoon classes.
- VI. Experimental Basis of course.
 - A. Fields of past experimentation:
 - 1. Pre-testing
 - 2. Order of content
 - 3. Current affairs
 - 4. Visual education
 - 5. Types of tests
 - 6. Use of library
 - 7. Forms of reports
 - 8. Control of outside reading
 - 9. Departmental records.

Mr. Onion explained the outline. He said that dates, names, etc., are not stressed and the students are told not to memorize anything which he cannot use. Many plans have been tried in this course and at present the individual instructor presents the course as he thinks best. There is no attempt to keep the sections together. The contents and use of materials in the folder were explained. The map drills are a great help and improve the students' knowledge of geography. Mr. Marple has been most helpful in the preparation of maps.

The basic idea of the course is to teach an understanding of some of the great trends or sweeps of history. The present textbook gives this picture better than others which have been examined.

The "Student Criticisms" in the outline were discussed. It was suggested that the course is very valuable to the students but that they seldom realize this until they have advanced in their college study to the junior and senior years. Frequently, the students start with a defeatist attitude.

It was asked if the course should be changed from a five-credit-hour course to two three-credit hour courses. The History Staff believes that this would be a much better plan as there would be a longer period of time over which students could assimilate the material. The present plan requires steady daily reading and study. It was also suggested that the course might be divided into a three- and a two- credit-hour course. However, it was pointed out that the three-credit-hour course should be taken first; and

Faculty Senate Minutes
April 1, 1954
Page 3

that much might be lost by the students if the second semester course is not taken immediately following the first course. From a learning point of view, the two three-credit hour courses would be better.

The Senate commended Mr. Onion and the History Department for the very fine report on the Modern Civilization course.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

E. R. McCartney, Chairman

Standlee V. Dalton, Secretary