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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, May 9, 1956

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Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Wednesday, May 9, 1956, at 3:45 p.m. in the Dean's Office.

Members present: E. R. McCartney, Chairman, Mr. Dalton, Sec., Dr. Coder, Dr. Adee, Mr. D. Brooks, Dr. Garwood, Dr. Moss, Dr. Nutt, Mr. Rematore, Mrs. Thomas.

Members absent: Dr. Harbin, Dr. Tomanek.

Other present: Mr. Friesner.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman for the transaction of business.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR THE A.B. DEGREE: This question which was discussed at the last meeting of the Senate was presented again. It was suggested that foreign languages taken in high school should be validated only by examination. The present arrangement of allowing students to substitute two years of a foreign language taken in high school for the nine semester hours of college language does not seem to be a sound educational practice. However, any student who has achieved a level of proficiency equal to that demanded of students at the end of three semesters (9 credit hours) of college work should be permitted to exempt himself from the language requirement by examination.

There was some discussion regarding the interpretation of "years" of high school credit as compared with the college credit hours. It is possible that the high school language is not equal in quality to the college course and should be evaluated on the basis of placement. It was asked when the student would be expected to declare his intention of taking the language examination to determine his placement.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the language requirement for the A.B. degree shall be fulfilled by taking nine hours of one language in college. For those students who have had one year or more of a language in high school, an examination will be given to determine the proficiency. On the basis of the results of the examination the student may be excused from taking additional language courses, or he will be placed in the appropriate courses. Seconded and carried.

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLIOGRAPHY: Mr. Friesner was asked to come to this meeting to explain the proposed library course which was presented to the Senate at the last meeting for approval. Mr. Friesner explained that the students need help in finding material and there is not sufficient staff to help every student. Frequently, the student tells his instructors that the material is not in the library. Students need this type of course to broaden their backgrounds and learning beyond the textbook; and to become reasonably well acquainted with the resources.
of the library and the aids which make these resources available. The course would present the practical significance of the library as a tool.

It was noted that even some of the students who are enrolled in the Honors Program did not know how to handle the library. At present the only guide to the use of the library is taught in the English classes which is brief and is not intended to be a complete library course as the English classes cannot allow that much time from their own course work. It was pointed out also that the presentation in the English classes is too early in the freshman year for good results. It was suggested that this library course might achieve the purpose best if offered in the sophomore year. This course would make an excellent background for those students who enroll in the graduate course, 350 Introduction to Graduate Study.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the course, Introduction to Bibliography 21, Two credit hours, be approved. Seconded and carried.

N.C.A. SUB-COMMITTEE ON GENERAL EDUCATION: Copies of a report from the N.C.A. Sub-Committee on General Education were handed to the Senate members and they were asked to read it and consider how it should be approached. It was suggested that "general education" should be explained to the freshmen. One suggestion was that this might be explained to the freshmen students when they come for advisement and enrollment during the summer.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

E. R. McCartney, Chairman

S. V. Dalton, Secretary