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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, May 17, 1966

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Recommended Citation

FHSU Faculty Senate, "Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, May 17, 1966" (1966). *Faculty Senate*. 506.

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"Dead week" Members of the Student Council met with the Senate to present the request for a "dead day" in lieu of the dead week which has been abandoned. This was discussed.
RECOMMENDATION: That the status quo be maintained as established earlier by the Senate. Seconded and carried.

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Tuesday, May 17, 1966 at 3:30 p.m. in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.

Members present: Mrs. Cobb, Dr. Edwards, Mr. Evans, Miss Felten, Dr. Fleharty, Mrs. Hoffman, Dr. Hollister, Dr. Proctor, Mr. Osborne, Dr. Rice, Mr. Schmidt, and Dr. Garwood Chairman.

Also present: Mr. Aday, Miss Murphy, and Miss Thalheim.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Dr. Garwood. He said that some members of the Student Council asked to meet with the Senate today to present their views of the change in the "dead week" regulations.

"Dead week." The students presented their views regarding the value of "dead week," saying that it was very worthwhile and the student body thought it should not have been abolished. Considerable pressure has been brought to the Student Council regarding this action. The students said that since the "dead week" was abandoned, they wished to present a request for a "dead day" to take its place. This would permit the needed break in regular class schedule for students to prepare for the semester examinations. When classes close one day and the examinations start the next day it was alleged that there is not sufficient time to prepare for the examinations. The majority of students felt that the "dead week" was very worthwhile--students could feel secure that there would not be any tests given during this time and so could prepare for the final examinations.

Dr. Garwood asked the Senate members if they had any questions or comments. The following covered the discussion.

1. The idea of a "dead day" was discussed. Do any students like the action to abandon "dead week?"
2. One of the reasons for abandoning the "dead week" was that some students did not attend classes during this week. It was reported that in some classes the absenteeism was 60%.
3. Would students really stay at home and study if given a "dead day?" Perhaps students would abuse this privilege. The students present indicated that some students probably would abuse this but that they believed the majority would take advantage of this opportunity. The Senate members questioned the advisability of dismissing school for a day.

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4. The students were asked if it would not be much better to have the weekend intervene between the end of classes and the beginning of examinations. This would do away with the possibility of a student having classes one day and then have an examination the first period the next day. The students said that for those who work, this would not be satisfactory.
5. It was asked how much time is really necessary. How much salvation is there in one day? How much can be done in this one day to save the grade? It was suggested that students were expected to be doing their daily assignments and getting the material day by day. It should not be a case of learning all the semester's work in one day just before the examination.
6. It was reported that attendance in classes dropped sharply during "dead week." Students seemed to think that there is nothing worthwhile and so no reason to attend classes. This means that the students lost the value of the classwork. Frequently a unit of work is being completed and the students miss the class and do not get the complete unit being presented. The work during "dead week" was as important as any other week. The purpose of the "dead week" was not intended as a time to be absent from classes but that no tests would be given during this time for which students would need to prepare.
7. It was asked if the problem isn't more that the students were alarmed that something had ended, that there was to be a change, that perhaps something is going to collapse. Is there a foreboding that there will be a rash of examinations during this week?
8. The decisions made by the Faculty Senate are made in order to make a strong academic program.

The students thanked the Senate for permitting them to present their views and that of the student body.

After the students left the Senate members discussed the question. It was suggested that it is not too clear what the students wanted. It was suggested that this question was one of the political issues and since they have presented the question, they have fulfilled that commitment. It was

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noted that they seemed unwilling to consider having the weekend between classes and semester exams. If the exam schedule is set up to begin on Monday, there will be problems regarding the time needed to get out the grades before the next enrollment, etc. These would need to be given careful consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that the status quo be maintained as established earlier by the Senate. Seconded and carried.

It was suggested that further study of the problem might be advisable.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p. m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

Standlee V. Dalton, Secretary

Florence Bodmer, Recorder