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### Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, July 11, 1967

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Discussion: Final decision regarding English Proficiency Test will be made by the Pres.  
RECOMMENDATION: Pass/Fail System. (Literature distributed to Senate Members attached.)  
It was recommended that we invite a representative of Student Council to discuss the Pass/Fail System. The motion was seconded and carried. The next Faculty Senate Meeting will be Tuesday, July 25.  
Discussion: Shall the FHKSC Budget be placed in the Library for public viewing? Faculty Senate deals with academic problems only - not faculty budgeting problems.

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Tuesday, July 11, 1967, at 3:30 p.m. in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.

Members present: Miss Cotham, Mr. S. Johnson, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Dalton, Dr. Youmans, Mr. Schroder, Dr. Smith, Miss Veed, Mr. McGinnis, Dr. Wilkins and Dr. Garwood, Chairman.

Members absent: Mr. Crites and Miss Gangwer.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Garwood, Chairman.

Dr. Garwood stated that the English Proficiency Test was discussed at the meeting of the Division Chairmen in the President's Office yesterday, Monday, July 10, but that he was unable to attend since he was out of town. Dr. Garwood stated that some Division representatives preferred "D" for a passing grade but that the final decision will be up to the President.

Pass/Fail System. Literature pertaining to the Pass/Fail Program at Kansas State University which appeared in the May, 1967, edition of the Wichita Eagle and information from the April 17, 1967, edition of the Collegiate Press Bulletin had been mailed to the Faculty Senate members prior to today's meeting. A copy of this literature is attached. This system permits a student who wants to go into an area foreign to him to go into this area and not be subjected to a "D" or "U" on his transcript. He either passes or fails.

It was noted that the system at K-State is on an experimental basis. One member of the Senate stated the Division should set guide lines. The question was raised if this Pass/Fail could be applied to the entire curriculum and to our grade system? As an example, would you give Pass/Fail in Speech and not worry about A's?

Dr. Garwood stated that possibly 15 or 20 hours in the program could be taken as Pass/Fail; that some courses are Pass/Fail, others are not, and possibly in the

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majors there could be no Pass/Fail or it could be handled in whatever manner desired. The student must state his option. Possibly if it were a pre-law, pre-engineering or pre-med student, he would not want a Pass-Fail grade but rather a definite grade.

One member asked if we were attacking the grading system indirectly or the validity of A, B, C, D and U grades. Would this method induce a student to take a certain course? Was it a method to measure your achievement ("C" level) and not the validity of grades? In general, one member alleged, we are putting our foot in the door to devise a method of discriminating against grades. It was noted that Pass/Fail does not make enough discrimination in quality of work.

Another member suggested a student might take a course where he has little background but the course is one which he wants to take. There are students who won't take a certain course unless they know they can get an "A" or a "B" in it.

The Registrar indicated such a system could prove a nightmare for his office. He felt the machines could handle the Pass/Fail system but his office could not be the escape valve for someone who got a "U" then perhaps a "D" then decided on the Pass/Fail. There are many educational values to such a system as well as many difficulties. Pass/Fail would have to be marked on the class card. It would show on the roster and class slips just as grades for other courses are shown.

Electives would be taken for Pass/Fail. If students change their majors they would have still to have 30 hours of class in which grades were indicated. It was indicated some students would take all non-grade courses possible. Perhaps students would take all easy courses for grades and the difficult courses for Pass/Fail. How many Physics majors would take Physics for grades - would they take it for Pass/Fail because it is difficult? Some students like a course but find it is difficult and want to drop out. Pass/Fail would permit them to take it. Others

do not feel confident enough to take courses they like for fear of failing, such as music and art.

Another member indicated we are looking at the rules more than the basis of Pass/Fail. Someone likes a course, does very well in it and wonders why he can't have a "B" in it but now it is only Pass/Fail. If a student enrolls Pass/Fail it would have to remain in that category.

If a student takes 3 hours Pass/Fail and 4 hours of graded courses and is getting ready for final exams, which course will he choose?

It was noted some schools have one final examination at the end of the year and you either pass or fail. Whether or not you attended class did not matter. It was entirely up to the individual but only one examination was given and you either passed or failed. Columbia University had Pass/Fail; when you transferred, you were given the grade of "B".

The question was raised if a student were writing a term paper on Pass/Fail - would he just do enough to get by or do well because he was interested?

Teacher reaction to a Pass/Fail student was uncertain. On the grade system, if it were a borderline case, instructors may give a "D".

Those who favored the system felt it should be possible for good students to explore areas in which they are interested. Much depends on the objectives of the student. Many who "cram" remember very little of the course later on.

It was believed that the Pass/Fail system was student-motivated. The suggestion was made to have a representative of the Student Council meet with the Faculty Senate at their next meeting, Tuesday, July 25.

RECOMMENDATION: It was recommended that we invite a representative of Student Council to discuss the Pass/Fail System. The motion was seconded and carried. The next Faculty Senate Meeting will be Tuesday, July 25.

Attention was called to "Background Information" of the Pass/Fail system - point 5 of the literature distributed..."Among students who pass university requirements, there is little, if any, association between grades and "success" afterwards." One asked why haven't the cream of the academic crop been more productive? Are they making distinction between "D" and "U" or "A" and "B"? It was noted Phi Beta Kappa people as well as others have not done so badly after they left school. On the other hand, perhaps some of our future millionaires might be among those frequenting local "night spots" right now.

The Pass/Fail system will be discussed at our next meeting.

Fort Hays Kansas State College Budget. One member asked if the other members had received literature in the mail similar to that distributed by his division requesting a "Yes" or "No" answer as to whether or not a complete copy of Fort Hays' Budget be placed in the library where everyone could see it? This member asked why the Senate was not asked to discuss this program. It was explained that we handle academic problems only, not faculty budgeting problems.

It was also mentioned that proposals for new courses will be discussed next Fall along with the numbering of these courses.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 25.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

Lucille Drees, Recorder