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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, November 13, 1967

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Application for new course approved for:

Economics and Business: 3. Introduction to Data Processing, 2 cr. hrs.
(Data Proc. Course 4. Electro-Mechanical Machines reduced from 5 to 3 cr. hrs.)
(" " " 3. Basic Computing Machines, 2 cr. hrs., dropped)
(" " " 6. Basic Programming Systems, 3 cr. hrs. dropped)

Discussion: Cost of Text Books.

Pass/Fail System: Recommendations of Subcommittee attached to Minutes.

Sent to Pres. Office 11-17-67

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Monday, November 13, 1967,
at 3:30 p.m. in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.

Members Present: Mr. Schroder, Dr. Thomas, Mrs. Popp, Mrs. McFarland,
Mr. Smith, Dr. Wilkins, Miss Gangwer, Dr. Witten, Mr.
Heil, Mr. Dalton and Dr. Garwood, Chairman.

Members Absent: Mr. Bachkora and Dr. Hamilton

Also Present: Mr. J. B. Walden and Mr. Keith Faulkner

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

Dr. Garwood stated that a new course proposal had been received and would
be considered at today's meeting. A copy of the proposal was sent to Senate
members before the Senate meeting.

New Course. Economics and Business. The following course was explained
by Mr. Walden and Mr. Faulkner to the Senate:

3. Introduction to Data Processing, 2 cr. hrs. This course includes
a study of the background of data processing, a survey of unit re-
cord equipment, with emphasis on the punched card and keypunching.
The second half of the course is an introduction to flowcharting and
computers, with study of internal storage, the stored program con-
cept, and basic programming in the symbolic or assembly language.

Mr. Walden stated that the hours in Electro-Mechanical Machines 4 will be
cut from 5 to 3 hours. He stated that Basic Computing Machines 3, a 2-hour course,
will be dropped. Basic Programming Systems 6, 3 cr. hours, will also be dropped
as it has been combined with two other courses. This leaves 24 hours of Data
Processing courses. It was noted several courses could be added but that the staff
is not ready to take on the additional load. A net of five hours are being dropped

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from the program in data processing.

This proposed course would be offered in the fall, 1968. No prerequisite is required. This course would be the initial course in Data Processing. It would be very helpful for freshmen even if they did not wish to go into Data Processing. It provides a general knowledge of the field.

RECOMMENDATION: It was moved by Mrs. Popp that course 3 Introduction to Data Processing, 2 cr. hrs., as described above, be approved. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Cost of Text Books. Dr. Garwood then asked the Senate whether there need be a limit to the amount of money a student should be asked to spend for books. He stated he had received a request (in the 100 series) for several texts in one course where the cost of the books amounted about \$17.00.

A number of members stated the costs of books in their various fields ranged from \$7.00 to \$34.00. It was the consensus of the Senate members that students do not mind paying so much for a book when this book is in their major field and the book will be kept.

Pass/Fail System. Recommendations for establishing a Pass/Fail system at Fort Hays Kansas State College were presented by a Subcommittee of the Faculty Senate composed of Dr. Witten, Chairman; Mrs. McFarland, Mr. Heil and Mr. Dalton, ex officio member. Dr. Witten distributed Pass/Fail literature to

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the Senate members, a copy of which is attached to the Minutes. Dr. Witten stated the Committee met and discussed the features which Pass/Fail should include. Their findings were divided into two sections. The first section deals with eligibility for the program and the second with the program itself.

The question was raised as to the purpose of recording a grade as well as "Pass" or "Fail." If a letter grade is recorded, it protects the student and the institution. If a letter is not shown, it would be difficult to determine the grade. On the other hand would not such a procedure tend to negate the purpose of the program? Class cards could be marked and sorted so instructors would not know if a student were taking a course for Pass/Fail. The enrollment card would indicate Pass/Fail; the roster would not. If an instructor knows that a course is being taken Pass/Fail, would he take less interest in the student's class activities?

The question was raised as to how Pass/Fail would affect scholarships and the honors program. Should only the student and the Registrar know the grades? Does Pass/Fail tend to reduce prestige of a course in the eyes of the students?

It was noted that a student could not have more than 18 semester hours in Pass/Fail. Most members felt that 18 hours permitted a student to explore various areas of interest and would not jeopardize the honors program, scholarships or graduating with distinction. They felt that most students would not enroll in 18 hours for Pass/Fail. It was noted the average grade index of the entire student

body runs about 1.4+. The proposal would about exclude 50% of all students where 1.5 is needed to get into the program.

The Registrar does not feel there are enough spaces on the student grade card as 79 out of 80 spaces are filled at the present time. It would be a safeguard for instructors to put in the grade as well as Pass or Fail so the record has meaning 20 years from now. The Registrar said there was no way of putting this information on a permanent record, unless the instructor gave this information. When grades are turned in, the work in the Registrar's Office is done by machines, not manually.

It was noted if a transcript were sent to another school for a fellowship or scholarship, if the grade were C-, the transcript would read "Pass" only. What happens when a student on Pass/Fail applies for graduate school? It was stated the program was new and the Committee on Pass/Fail does not have this information.

Is there a possibility part-time students could take courses on Pass/Fail? If part-time students were allowed to take Pass/Fail courses it is conceivable we might have more people in courses than we could handle.

Would the teacher-student relationship be affected if it is known the student is taking a course for Pass/Fail? The consensus was that the instructors would prefer not to know which students were on Pass/Fail so all students would be

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treated alike. It would be "Pass" or "Fail" for those who take Pass/Fail courses rather than a letter grade. This should be restricted information between the College and the student.

It was decided to invite Keith Faulkner to the next Senate meeting, Monday, November 20, to discuss Data Processing machinery and Pass/Fail recording of grades.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p. m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

Lucille Drees, Recorder