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### Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, December 4, 1967

FHSU Faculty Senate

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*Sent to Pres. Office 12-6-67*

Discussion: Dr. Garwood reported his conversation with Dean Tomkins regarding Pass/Fail plan at Pittsburg.

RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Heil moved that a cumulative grade point average of 1.00 or above be sufficient for eligibility for Pass/Fail. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion: See Minutes (Dec. 4) regarding P/F rules of Eligibility, Conditions and Recommendations.

**Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Monday, December 4, 1967, at 4:00 p.m. in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.**

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

**Members Absent:** Miss Gangwer.

**Also Present:** Mr. Kellerman.

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

PASS/FAIL PROPOSAL.

The Academic Dean of Pittsburg was contacted regarding the operation of the Pass/Fail plan at Pittsburg. Dean Tomkins noted that there seemed to be no problem regarding students taking the Pass/Fail courses in terms of taking courses just to "get by." Dean Tomkins noted that he thought there were six students in the plan. Dean Tomkins reported that there was no problem regarding the courses included for Pass/Fail and he noted that all department chairmen cooperated completely with the proposal. The instructors are notified that a student is taking a course for Pass/Fail at the time of enrollment. As far as Dean Tomkins knew, there were no particular problems involved with their program.

The discussion continued regarding the Pass/Fail proposal.

Is the Pass/Fail system designed for students who have better than average grades or should the system be made available to any student who is enrolled on

on the campus? Thus, is Pass/Fail an academic right or an academic privilege? Would students with below average grades be apt to take advantage of the system?

It was pointed out that many students with below average grades are occupied with retaking courses to build up their grade point averages.

RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Heil moved that a cumulative grade point average of 1.00 or above be sufficient for eligibility for Pass/Fail. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

As initially stated, the Pass/Fail proposal proposed that students at FHKSC meeting requirements for eligibility may elect to take certain courses with only P or U grade being recorded on their transcript. The rationale for this is that students should take courses for the joy of learning rather than for the sake of making a grade in a particular course. It was thought that utilizing the Pass/Fail plan would encourage students to take courses they might not otherwise attempt if they were to be graded for such a course.

The points of the proposal are as follows:

1. Eligibility

A student who decides to elect the Pass/Fail option of grading must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. The student must have completed 26 semester hours or above.

The Senate agreed to leave this statement as it stands.

2. He must have a cumulative grade point average of 1.00 or above.

The Senate agreed to leave this statement as it stands.

3. The student will be limited to one course per semester under the Pass/Fail option with a maximum of 6 courses not to exceed a total of 18 semester hours.

The Senate agreed to leave this statement as it stands.

4. If a student has previously attempted the course for a grade, he may not take the same course at a later time under this option.

The Senate agreed to leave this statement as it stands.

## II. Conditions

In order that the Pass/Fail option be a workable system of grading the sub-committee suggests that the following conditions be established:

1. Basic Studies courses, courses in the student's major or minor field, and supporting courses required by the major department will not apply.

Discussion ensued regarding what was meant by "supporting courses."

Dr. Hamilton moved that "and supporting courses required by the major department" be omitted from the statement. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

2. Each department shall determine which courses offered by them may be taken by a student for a Pass/Fail grade and these courses shall be so indicated in the printed schedule of classes.

In view of the fact that No. 1 above has been changed, it was noted that No. 2 would not be pertinent in the program.

3. Under Pass/Fail a grade of Pass shall not be used in computation of the student's GPA, even though the student would receive hours of credit toward graduation. A grade of Fail will, however, carry the same number of minus grade points as the conventional Unsatisfactory grade report.

Dr. Thomas moved that this statement be accepted by the Senate. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

4. After a student has enrolled in a course under the Pass/Fail option he may not subsequently change to a graded basis in that course.

Discussion ensued as to why a student should not be permitted to enroll in Pass/Fail and subsequently change to a graded basis in the course. It was moved by Dr. Hamilton that this point be tabled for further discussion. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

5. If a course is on the list of approved courses that may be taken on the Pass/Fail option, as explained in condition (2), the student does not need the additional permission of the instructor to take the course on a Pass/Fail basis.

In view of the changes made in points No. 1 and No. 2, it was believed that No. 5 would not have an application.

6. The student must fill out a card for each course taken for Pass/Fail credit at the time of enrollment.

Dr. Hamilton moved that this statement be accepted. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

7. It shall remain the prerogative of the instructor to determine what constitutes a particular letter grade. The instructor will report a letter grade on the grade roster for the student at the end of the semester. Data Processing will convert the letter grade to a Pass or a Fail. A grade of D or above will be converted to a grade of Pass. Only the Pass/Fail grade will be recorded on the student's transcript.

Dr. Witten moved this statement be accepted. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

8. The student and his adviser are responsible for determining whether the student is eligible for the Pass/Fail option.

Dr. Thomas moved this statement be accepted. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

**III. Recommendation**

The Faculty Senate subcommittee recommends that the Pass/Fail grading system be thoroughly review by the Faculty Senate after a two year trial period.

Mr. Bachkora moved that this statement be accepted. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p. m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman.

Lucille Drees, Recorder.