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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, October 8, 1968

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Discussion: Who's Who Among Students. Committee appointed -

Sent to Pres. Office 10-14-68

Dr. Miller, Mr. Ginther and Mrs. Theis - to tabulate votes.

" Faculty Senate Minutes - KSU suggests that 6 state schools exchange Fac.Sen.Minutes.
" Proposal from the Div. of Lang. Lit. & Speech - Each division, regardless of size, has one vote in Senate. (Copy of Proposal attached.)

Recommendation: A motion was made by Dr. Sackett that a committee be appointed to make a study of what other institutions are doing in this area. The motion was seconded by Dr. Oliva. Motion carried.

Discussion: Committee appointed - Dr. Sackett, Dr. Hamilton and Mrs. Popp -to make study.
Dr. Hamilton asked to be relieved; Dr. Witten appointed in his place.

" ← New Course Proposals - Deadline is Oct. 15.

" Student-Faculty Review Committee - Discussion to be continued at next Senate meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, Tuesday, October 8, 1968, at 3:30 p.m. in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.

Members Present: Mr. Ginther, Mr. Schroder, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Hamilton, Mrs. Popp, Dr. Sackett, Miss Christopher, Dr. Miller, Mrs. Theis, Dr. Witten, Dr. Oliva, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Finnin, and Dr. Garwood, Chairman.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Kellerman.

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

WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS. The members of the Faculty Senate submitted the names of the students from their Division, who were recommended for consideration in Who's Who. The names of the students, accumulative grade point and activities will be tabulated. Each faculty member will receive a list of these students and be asked to vote on not more than 34 of them. A Who's Who Committee was appointed to tabulate and recommend the students to the Senate. The members of the committee are Dr. Lewis Miller, Chairman, Mr. Ginther and Mrs. Theis. A booklet indicating how various colleges recommend their candidates for Who's Who was passed around among the members of the Senate. The booklet was placed in the hands of the Who's Who Committee for their use in recommending to the Senate how selections might be made in the future.

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES. Dr. Jordan Miller of Kansas State University contacted the Office of the Dean of the Faculty suggesting that the six State schools

Faculty Senate Minutes
- Page 2 -
October 8, 1968

might exchange their Faculty Senate Minutes. Dr. Miller's letter of September 24 was read to the Senate members. A copy of the Minutes of Fort Hays Kansas State College will be sent to Kansas State University. Thus far we have not received any Minutes from Kansas State University.

PROPOSAL FROM THE DIVISION OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND SPEECH. A copy of the proposal is attached to the Minutes. Dr. Sackett pointed out that the Division of Language, Literature and Speech, which is the largest division in terms of faculty members, has the same representation on the Faculty Senate as the smallest division which is Nurse Education. From this point of view, the Faculty Senate is comparable to the United States Senate and not the House of Representatives.

Dr. Sackett was asked if the divisions with the largest number of faculty members were being discriminated against in the decision making by the Faculty Senate in the past. It appears that discrimination has not taken place in the past. Do the divisions constitute arbitrary lines in the voting procedure? Why shouldn't divisions with larger numbers of staff members have more votes if the decision making is to be truly representative of the total faculty? Such a change would enlarge the Senate by a sizable number of members.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Dr. Sackett that a committee be appointed to make a study of what other institutions are doing in this area. The motion was seconded by Dr. Oliva. Motion carried.

A committee consisting of Dr. Sackett, Chairman, Dr. Hamilton and Mrs. Popp was set up to make a study of the Faculty Senate organizations at other institutions. Dr. Hamilton requested that he be relieved of his duties on this committee and Dr. Witten was appointed in his place.

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS. New course proposals are to be submitted to the Dean's Office by October 15. The committee for screening of the proposals will meet with the representatives of the various divisions.

STUDENT-FACULTY REVIEW COMMITTEE. The formation of a Student-Faculty-Review Committee had been discussed in the previous Senate meeting of September 24. The proposal had been made by Mr. Mike Finnin of the Student Council.

Mr. Finnin suggested that the procedure on a question regarding a grade would be from the teacher to the Division Chairman to the Dean of the Faculty to the Student-Faculty Review Committee and, if necessary, to the President. Examples were cited where a faculty member had given a student a lower final grade than his tests and daily work would indicate that he deserved. In such a situation as this, the student would have recourse to the Student-Faculty Review Committee. It was pointed out that Division Chairmen are very reluctant to change an instructor's grade once it has been made. Where an arithmetical error has been made in computing the grade, it would seem there would be no question that the Division Chairman in conjunction with the instructor could revise the grade.

If the instructor has assigned a grade to a student and feels that this is the

Faculty Senate Minutes

- Page 4 -

October 8, 1968

grade which the student deserves or at least the one he wishes to give him, does a Division Chairman have the right to change the particular grade? One of the Senate members expressed the point of view that if a Division Chairman changed a grade he assigned in good faith he would submit his resignation immediately. Other Senate members did not feel so strongly about the matter.

Mr. Dalton observed that the grades in the Registrar's Office were not open for anyone's scrutiny. If an error has been made, the instructor should change the grade. Mr. Dalton said he would not permit someone to come in and change a grade indiscriminately. He noted that occasionally an instructor liked to look at a student's transcript in order to obtain an idea as to how he should grade that student. He pointed out that transcripts were not available for this purpose.

Mr. Finnin said that a student is placed in a compromising position as far as the grade is concerned. He said that there were occasions when the student was not given the grade he deserved and he was reluctant to press the Division Chairman for a change. Some Division Chairmen, it was said, will not alter the grade an instructor gives. It was his feeling that the existence of a Review Board would give the student a feeling of more security and possibly influence the faculty members in assigning the correct grade.

One Senate member expressed the view that if the student visited with the instructor, the Division Chairman and the Dean, that this should be sufficient recourse as far as the grade is concerned. Would such a court intimidate the instructor? Would fraternities organize and gang up on a teacher in terms of

use of grades? Dr. Dobbs of the Faculty Association was appointed chairman of the committee last year to draw up a proposal dealing with professional ethics.

One Senate member expressed the view that a faculty member should be judged by his peers and students on such a Review Board did not constitute his peers. It was pointed out that students also have their peers and the student's interest is at stake and he would like to be judged by his peers.

If a case were to go to the Review Board, would the Review Board have the authority to change a grade? The answer was "yes." If the Review Board were to change the grade of a faculty member, would they be in a position to know more about the case than the faculty member? Would faculty members resent such action? Faculty members are not infallible. It is conceivable that they make mistakes in judgment and if a Review Board felt that a mistake had been made, should not the mistake be rectified?

Would the Review Board constitute too many steps in getting a hearing on the grade? Why would it not be possible for the student and faculty member to meet with the Dean and the Registrar and come to a correct decision? One Senate member said that he feels confident in his field but he does not have as much confidence in his competence at arriving at his grades. Should the Review Board be made up of equal numbers of students and faculty members?

Mr. Finnin was asked whether the Student-Faculty Review Board had been discussed with the President as it appears there is such a Board listed among our committees. Mr. Finnin explained this had been discussed with the President and

Faculty Senate Minutes

- Page 6 -

October 8, 1968

a Board of this nature has been set up. Mr. Finnin said that he would like to have the discussion in the Senate continued and if the Senate voted to not establish such a Committee, he would request that the President not activate the Committee. The discussion will continue at the next Senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

Lucille Drees, Recorder