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### Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, May 6, 1969

FHSU Faculty Senate

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Discussion: REPORT ON BACCALAUREATE. Report which surveyed faculty indicates majority wish to discontinue Baccalaureate Services. (Copy of report attached.) *Sent to Pres.' Office 5-13-69*

RECOMMENDATION: It was moved by Dr. Sackett that the Faculty Senate request the new President, John Gustad, to discontinue the Baccalaureate services as a part of graduation at Fort Hays State. Motion seconded by Dr. Thomas. Motion carried.

Discussion: LETTER REGARDING STUDENT DEMANDS. Dr. Witten reported on a letter from Dr. Jordan Miller, (KSU), President of Council of State College and University Senates, regarding campus violence and student demands. (Copy of letter attached.)

RECOMMENDATION: It was moved by Dr. Sackett that all the members of the Faculty Senate poll their Divisions as to whether the Faculty Senate should resolve that the State Council of Senates recommend to the Presidents and Regents that no student demand of any sort will even be considered under any form of threat, however violent, on any State college or university campus. Motion seconded by Mr. Schroder. Motion carried.

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate, May 6, 1969, at 3:30 p. m., in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.

Members Present: Mr. Schroder, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Lojka, Dr. Sackett, Miss Christopher, Dr. Miller, Mrs. Theis, Dr. Witten, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Steve Rayl and Dr. Garwood, Chairman.

Members Absent: Mr. Ginther and Dr. Oliva.

Also Present: Mr. Kellerman.

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

REPORT ON BACCALAUREATE. Dr. Miller distributed copies of his Committee report which surveyed faculty regarding the continuation of Baccalaureate Services. The report included comments of each of the three philosophies involved. Only one out of five wished to continue having Baccalaureate; 30% had no strong feelings on the matter; 48.7% wished to discontinue Baccalaureate. Some checked the box that they did not wish to continue Baccalaureate services and then commented that it would be acceptable to continue on a non-mandatory basis. About 250 ballots were sent out, 185 responded.

It was asked if seniors should be polled. The report is only a recommendation to the new president. A copy of the report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION: It was moved by Dr. Sackett that the Faculty Senate request the new President, John Gustad, to discontinue the Baccalaureate services as a part of graduation at Fort Hays State. Motion seconded by Dr. Thomas.

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Motion carried.

LETTER REGARDING STUDENT DEMANDS. Dr. Witten reported on a letter he had received from Dr. Jordan Miller of Kansas State University. Dr. Miller would like the response of our Senate on this matter. Dr. Miller is President of the Council of State College and University Senates. The Council met on the Fort Hays campus May 2. They discussed the subject of campus violence and student demands. A copy of the letter is attached.

The Cornell experience was discussed briefly. Were the blacks justified in the use of weapons? Had there been racial discrimination on the Cornell campus?

It seems likely that K-State and KU would have more trouble than other state schools as they attract more students.

Should all state institutions band together on a policy? Our students have exercised restraint thus far. Do we want to get involved in a policy which would reflect upon their behavior? Dr. Miller apparently wants us to support a joint decision on the part of the Council of Faculty Senates and refuse to accede to any action under threat of violence. Experience indicates that where there has been trouble inadequate plans were made in advance. Students didn't know how far they could push, and were surprised when they were permitted to push so far.

What is college policy? Do we need to know in advance what our course of action would be? Dr. Miller's letter doesn't call for any specific action

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just an organized front as a deterrent. If violence occurs elsewhere in the state, this might establish a precedent for us. The Council attempts to lend some support as a spokesman of the faculties of the state. The Council is recommending to the Presidents of the institutions of higher learning. There is a need for a unified voice of the faculties of the state of Kansas. There had been no Council prior to December, 1968.

Copies of the letter will be distributed to the members for their consideration before the next meeting. Dr. Miller wants a resolution from the Council that no demands of any sort will be considered under any threat of violence on any campus in the state. At the present time at Fort Hays any student on the campus can see the President, Dean or any faculty member. Their offices are open to him. Students who want to go to school can be helped by faculty. A few students can disrupt a whole campus.

RECOMMENDATION: It was moved by Dr. Sackett that all the members of the Faculty Senate poll their Divisions as to whether the Faculty Senate should resolve that the State Council of Senates recommend to the Presidents and Regents that no student demand of any sort will even be considered under any form of threat, however violent, on any State college or university campus.

Motion seconded by Mr. Schroder. Motion carried.

Dr. Witten pointed out that the State Council of Senates were able to get the pay date for State employees moved back to the first of the month. This indicates that this group has been effective as a pressure group.

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The results of the poll by the Senate members will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

John D. Garwood, Chairman

Pam Deardorff, Recorder

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**REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO SURVEY FACULTY REGARDING BACCALAUREATE SERVICE**

Results of Survey

	<u>Replies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Wish to continue baccalaureate service	38	20.5
Do not wish to continue baccalaureate service	90	48.7
Have no strong feelings about the matter	<u>57</u>	<u>30.8</u>
Total Replies	185	100

Comments of Those Who Wish to Continue Baccalaureate Service:

It needn't be mandatory to be a meaningful part of the final contacts between students and the school. Those parents and students who place graduation in a religious context should not be discouraged from doing so. Faculty and townspeople should be allowed to attend if they so choose, also.

I believe that students and faculty who wish to attend a baccalaureate service should be allowed to do so but I do not believe that it should be a required type of attendance. Those who wish to go probably obtain something of value from it; however, those who attend simply because it is a requirement probably derive no real benefit from their being there. Therefore, in essence, retain the service but make attendance an optional thing and do the same for commencement.

The baccalaureate is a very impressive part of the culmination of a college degree. Therefore, I feel it should be continued.

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Do not require faculty attendance.

Optional attendance.

Include all commencement activities in one day.

If we drop this, let's go to the next step and delete all references to all religions in our history courses, music courses, etc.

Good God, why not?

Comments of Those Who Do Not Wish to Continue Baccalaureate Service:

It would seem contrary to the notion of separation of church and state to continue it.

For the most part it is a pointless ritual reflecting institutional anxiety about its role and mission. Most of the baccalaureate services have struck me as exercises in radiant vacuity. Better no light at all than an ignis fatuus.

I feel very strongly about this matter and, of course, feel very strongly that the baccalaureate service should be discontinued as a function of a state college. I have never attended a baccalaureate service as a student or as a faculty member at FHS, and I do not intend to attend a future one.

I believe the entire commencement schedule is too archaic, meaningless, etc.

Current Supreme Court decisions touching the relationship of church and state in public educational institutions encourage the teaching about religion but prohibit inculcating religion with public monies. I think this interpretation preserves the spirit of the constitutional provision involved, and I agree with the principle which it embodies: freedom of and from religion.

I do not wish to continue commencement either.

I believe the baccalaureate service is out of place at a state institution in 1969. I doubt very much that it can be required.

Perhaps churches could hold services for their own people.

This service should be rendered by individual churches of Hays.

Who really likes this event? Who benefits?

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Comments of Those Who Have No Strong Feelings:

Encourage the churches to honor the graduates in a special way.

The idea of the churches having the service is good.

Make it available to those interested, but do not require attendance.

What do the seniors feel about the service?

Why not poll the seniors and graduate students affected?

Attendance should not be required.

Recommendation of Committee

As a result of the responses to the survey (and because of the constitutional issue involved), the committee recommends to the Faculty Senate that it pass a resolution requesting the new president, John Gustad, to discontinue the baccalaureate service as a part of the graduation activities at Fort Hays State.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Miller, chairman

Leo E. Oliva

Mike Finnin, student representative

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April 29, 1969

Professor Maurice Witten  
Fort Hays State College  
Hays, Kansas 67601

Dear Maurice:

Please excuse the form letter. It seemed the best way to save time and to get my thoughts off to each of you as quickly as possible.

The Executive Committee of the Regent's Committee--President Vissar of KSTC, Clifton Conrad of KU, and myself--met in Topeka on the 21st and we

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had a very cordial evening working out such details as the permanent membership and frequency of meetings of the permanent committee. We will present our suggestions for formal vote at Hays on May 2. We avoided setting down the specific areas in which the committee will operate, leaving them open for discussion at Hays, but one thing I plan to mention myself is the pay situation as reflected in the enclosed letter from Senator Rogers, sent in reply to my inquiry on behalf of the Council.

Right now, while the subject is very much on my mind, I would like to present some of my thoughts on a twofold subject which I hope to bring up on May 2-- campus violence and militant demands.

I was stunned at the action taken by the Cornell University faculty in backing down from their original stand against the threats of the black militants. I know that my feeling is widely shared, evidenced not only in personal contacts but in articles such as the one enclosed by Max Lerner. The entire course of events at Cornell has seemed to me to be a kind of outer limit, an ultimate beyond which we cannot permit any further step. I quite agree with Eric Sevareid's statement on CBS News last week that the sight of militants bearing arms out of the Cornell Union was a last straw, demonstrating once and for all the absolutely intolerable situation into which we in the profession of college teaching have allowed ourselves to be driven. Surely the faculties of major institutions throughout this country can hear the death knell of traditional education in the United States, if they can be so adversely affected by such demonstrations of ugly defiance and brute force. Occupations of buildings, evictions of deans and presidents, and assertions by those persons carrying out these atrocities that they must protect their very lives with firearms are scenes from a nightmare world.

Although we have yet to see what the long term results at Cornell will be, I was appalled and horrified to witness on the television screen the utter subjection not only of the faculty but of the president of that institution to this totally unreasonable and arrogant display of plain ordinary blackmail, announcing publicly that giving in to these demands was a forward step in the progress of a great university. Somewhere along the line faculties and administrators are surely going to have to say "This far and no further" and they are going to have to mean it.

Someone, somewhere, is going to have to call the bluff of the militants. Would Cornell actually have been destroyed had the faculty stood up to the threat that their university had but three hours to live? When a faculty knuckles under and then is loudly told that a new day has arrived in which faculties and administrations no longer carry authority and that the students have taken over, what, precisely, has been saved? When will faculties face up to the fact that the

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blackmailer is never satisfied, that once his threat is believed, his victim is forever lost? When will faculties stop grovelling before the student and tell him, plainly, that he is not an equal, so long as higher education retains any meaning at all?

I am firmly of the opinion that something must be done positively and quickly, and I am convinced that our State Council has a tremendous opportunity to exert a powerful influence. The courts of the United States have made it perfectly clear that administrations and faculties of individual colleges and universities have the authority without the normal "due process" of regular legal procedures, to remove from campus those who threaten, coerce, and disrupt. If we as a six school group would take a clear stand that no demand of any sort will even be considered under any form of threat, however violent, on any state campus, I think that it can be made clear not only to the students within the state but to the nation as a whole that here are six faculties who have had enough, who are prepared to take a stand to preserve the integrity of their profession even at the risk of danger to themselves and to their campuses. Once the blackmailer is defied, then it is up to the blackmailer himself to carry out the threat. If the threat is not carried out, and it has been proven empty, there is nothing to fear. If it is carried out, then we have called the enemy's hand, and we should be prepared to meet him on our grounds, not his. That is, he will be clearly informed that he will be resisted, and that resistance can and probably will mean his permanent removal from the campus, forcibly if necessary. Otherwise, I wonder just what our professional future is.

It does seem that we have an opportunity to take a major step of national importance. I believe that the faculties of the state institutions of Kansas, taking this kind of stand with the full backing of their administrations, would be applauded throughout the nation. It will arouse the wrath of the SDS and of others determined to bring us down, but if we do not stand together in some manner we most certainly will hang separately. One by one the major colleges and universities of this nation are being attacked. And one by one, lacking any show of resistance, they will succumb. I firmly believe we are being pushed toward a desperate situation which must be countered if we are not to be completely submerged in a situation from which we cannot possibly become extricated. We cannot allow ourselves to be backed into a corner where we must cringe and give out whimpering "assertions" of a new day. Let us assert, instead, our professional dignity.

I will be eager to hear your reactions either on paper or at a subsequent meeting. Somehow all other matters we have discussed pale in front of these threats to the very existence of the profession as we practice it and the institutions we serve. If I sound overemotional, let me point to the emotion displayed on the other side.

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My own reaction, quite frankly, has been one of intense fury that we have been driven by frightened or misguided faculties elsewhere to the necessity of asserting ourselves this way in the first place, but I cannot see how we can do otherwise and still hold ourselves worthy of the professionalism we aspire to.

Very truly yours,

Jordan Y. Miller

President, Council of State College and University Senates

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