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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, June 6, 1994

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Minutes of the Fort Hays State University
Faculty Senate
June 6, 1994

A. President Dianna Koerner called the meeting of the Faculty Senate to order in the Pioneer Lounge Room of the Memorial Union on June 6, 1994 at 3:36 p.m.

B. Senators present were Robert Stephenson (for Garry Brower), Martha Holmes, Fred Britten, Joan Rumpel, Sandra Rupp, Max Rumpel, Lloyd Freer (for Stephen Shapiro), John Durham, Ralph Gamble, Richard Leeson, Richard Zakrzewski (for Gary Millhollen), Mike Miller (for Michael Madden), Allen Busch (for Norman Caulfield), Wayne Pricer (for Anita Gordon-Gilmore), Charles Vetaw, Mohammad Riazi, John Huber (for Lewis Miller), Martin Shapiro, Richard Hughes, Martha Sanders (for Michelle Hull-Knowles), Richard Heli, and Michael Rettig.

Senators absent were Bill Daley, Warren Shaffer, Dale McKemey, Michael Jilg, Lance Lipsett, Donna Ortiz, Albert Geritz, Jean Salien, Helen Miles, John Zody, Merlene Lyman, Eileen Deges Curl, Maurice Witten, Robert Markley, Marc Pratrelli, Gerry Cox, and Herb Zook.

The Guest of the Senate was a photographer from the Leader.

C. The minutes of the May 3, 1994 meeting were approved.

D. Announcements

1. See agenda for written announcements.

2. The average ACT of high school students completing the Board of Regents core collegiate curriculum was 21 compared to 18 for those students who did not complete the core.

3. The average student's tuition in KS covers only 35% of the cost of their education.

4. Budget proposals for 1996 will go to the Board of Regents in September.

5. When the President-elect of Faculty Senate can not attend the Board of Regents meeting, President Koerner will be asking another member of the Executive Committee to attend. This will give them an opportunity to see what goes on at a Board of Regents meeting.

6. When Regent Heibert visited campus he agreed that perhaps too much weight is placed on student evaluations when it comes to tenure and promotion. However, student evaluations are often the only thing included in the file. Perhaps peer evaluations could also be used.

E. Standing Committees

1. Academic Affairs -- Senator Martha Holmes

a. Motion 1: The Faculty Senate recommends approval of the following courses (results of the committee voting follow the course title):

   SocW 311 Human Behavior and Social Environment II (8-0-0)
   SocW 567 Social Work and Professional Seminar (8-0-0)
   SocW 568 Field Practicum (8-0-0)

   The course descriptions were printed in the agenda.

   SocW 568 should be 12 credits and not 3 credits as printed in the agenda.

   Motion passed.

b. Motion 2: The Faculty Senate recommends approval of the following course (results of the committee voting follow the course title):

   Econ 470 Estate Planning (8-0-0)

   The course description was printed in the agenda.

   Motion passed with one abstention by Senator John Durham.

c. Motion 3: The Faculty Senate recommends approval of the following course (results of the committee voting follow the course title):

   Agri 305 Agronomic Crop Insects (8-0-0)

   The course description was printed in the agenda.

   Motion passed.

d. Motion 4: The Faculty Senate recommends approval of the following course for inclusion in the General Education Program (results of the committee voting follow the course title):

   MUS 391 Jazz (8-0-0)

   The course description was printed in the agenda.

   Motion passed.

e. Motion 5: The Faculty Senate recommends approval of the following course for inclusion in the General Education Program - Integrative Courses (results of the committee voting follow the course title):

   INTS 400 Bioethics (7-1-2)

   The course description was printed in the agenda as Phil 400 but should be INTS 400.

   Motion passed with one abstention by Senator Fred D. E. D.
f. Motion 6: The Academic Affairs Committee supports the Pass/NC policy presently published in the University Catalog.

Senator Richard Hughen asked what that policy was. Senator Holmes read the policy from the University Catalog. Nursing had asked for a change to the policy because their practicums are currently being graded this way (permission was granted by the Registrar), even though the current policy does not allow courses in the major to be graded Pass/NC. President Koerner stated that Nursing currently has 24 credits in their program that are graded Pass/NC but would rather have them Pass/Fail. A grade of no credit does not truly reflect the student’s performance as does a grade of Fail.

Senator John Durham suggested that Nursing should come forward with a proposal that more clearly defines the circumstances needed for Pass/Fail grading.

Senator Fred Britten, a member of Academic Affairs, felt that the current policy permitted Nursing to do what they want since Nursing establishes what is a Pass and what is a NC.

Senator Richard Heil added that perhaps a statement be included in the catalog indicating that exceptions to this policy may be made by the Registrar.

Motion passed (9 for, 7 against and 4 abstentions).

g. Motion 7: The Academic Affairs approves the following recommendation from the General Education Committee: The first course in the major and minor programs in BIOL, CHEM, PHYS, and GSCI can, after appropriate consideration by the General Education Committee, satisfy distribution requirements in the Mathematics and Natural Sciences area of the Distribution Component.

Senator Holmes mentioned that these departments have used cognates from the other sciences for over 30 years. Usually the cognates required are at a higher level and greater depth than the general education courses covering similar material. Many students in these departments are coming out of high school with the equivalent of what is in the general education courses.

Senator John Durham objected to the policy because it singles out four departments and he would rather have a more global policy.

Senator Martin Shapiro thought that general education courses were to be outside of one’s discipline and were not to include courses within a major.

Senator Richard Zakrzewski pointed out that because students have to have higher level courses for their majors the taking of general education courses of similar content was needless duplication.

Senator John Durham believes that this problem could occur in other departments besides the four named and would prefer that the policy be broad enough to cover that eventuality.

Senator Max Rumpel pointed out that these courses would only be accepted after the General Education Committee, Academic Affairs and Faculty Senate had approved them.

Senator Richard Heil moved to table the motion. Senator Martin Shapiro seconded the motion.

Motion passed. The motion will return to Academic Affairs for further clarification.

2. By-laws and Standing Rules -- Senator Charles Votaw

a. Senator Richard Hughen agreed to serve as parliamentarian for next year.

3. External Affairs and Faculty Salary -- President Dianna Koerner

a. The letter inviting the Board of Regents to campus in the fall has been sent. Several have already responded.

b. Recommendation 47 on developing a University Equity Policy was not approved by the Provost or the President. They would like to wait until the study on salary equity is completed.

4. Student Affairs -- President Dianna Koerner

a. Recommendation 44 on changing the last day to withdraw from classes to the 21st day was not approved by the Provost or the President. The President will be sending to the Faculty Senate for consideration a proposal that works with the standard refund policy that follows federal guidelines.

b. Recommendation 45 recommending the elimination of mid­semester grades was not approved by the Provost and the President. A reason included the need for improving the retention of students. SGA President Nate Halverson indicated that students wanted mid­semester grades but would agree to grades handed out only if a student requested them.

c. Recommendation 46 dealing with academic probation and suspension was not approved by the Provost or President. President Hammond did not indicate why he disapproved of the policy. Students really didn’t object to the policy but would like some situations grandfathered in.

5. University Affairs -- President Dianna Koerner

a. Senators should look at the Policy and Procedures for Program Discontinuance (Attachment C to the agenda). Discussion and voting will occur at the July 5th meeting.

F. Old Business

a. No new information on the merger of FHSU and BCCC.

b. Still waiting for a response from the Vice-Provost on the Course Approval Process.
c. An official response as drafted by the Executive Committee to the President about the Value Statement was included with the agenda (Attachment D).

Senator Ralph Gamble suggested removing the quotes around the words statements and mission statement in the first paragraph under the comments heading.

Senator Richard Leeson pointed that we already have a Mission Statement and felt that a Value Statement was unnecessary.

Senator John Durham suspects that this Value Statement might show up in the catalog and the faculty needs to have an input. This statement is better than the statement originally sent by the President.

Senator Richard Leeson suggested that the original document as well as this draft be sent to the appropriate committee of the Faculty Senate. The committee could develop a Value Statement that the entire Faculty Senate could agree upon.

Senator Charles Votaw would also like some rationale for the need of a Value Statement.

Senator Martha Holmes moved to send this to University Affairs along with the comments. Senator Fred Britten seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

d. No official response has been received from the Vice-Provost about Recommendations 37-39 concerning the general education courses from Modern Languages.

e. Any comments about commencement should be sent to President Dianna Koerner or Jim Kellerman, Chair of Commencement Committee.

G. New Business

a. The Provost would like only full-professors to serve on the University Promotion Committee. The Provost feels that to adequately evaluate someone moving from associate to full-professor they should be at the professor level. However, President Koerner pointed out the number of faculty (not including chairs) that are full-professors is too small to require the committee to be all full-professors (Attachment E in the agenda). The Faculty Senate Executive Committee recommends that at least three of the five members be full-professors until the pool of full-professors is large enough to require all the members to be full-professors.

Senator John Durham did not believe that a person has to be a full-professor to make this judgment and such a practice could potentially lead to discrimination.

President Koerner pointed out that if the Faculty Senate agrees with the recommendation from the Executive Committee that Chapter 3 must be changed.

Senator Ralph Gamble suggested also adding to Chapter 3 that anyone individual with a colleague going up for promotion be excused from the Promotion Committee.

Senator Richard Hughen moved to send this matter to University Affairs. Senator Ralph Gamble seconded the motion.

b. Committee appointments for next year have been made (Attachment F in the agenda). If you have any questions, contact President Koerner.

H. Reports from Liaisons

1. Classified Senate -- Senator Sandra Rupp
   The annual Classified Senate meeting was May 10.

2. Computer Advisory Committee -- Senator Max Rumpel
   A summary of the committee’s activities was handed out (attachment A).

3. Instructional Media Committee -- No report

4. Library Committee -- President Dianna Koerner
   The committee is still working on the five-year plan.

5. Student Government Association -- No report

6. General Education Committee -- Senator Martha Holmes
   A recommendation will be coming forward in the future.

7. Faculty & Staff Development -- No report

I. The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean A. Gleichsner
Secretary