Faculty Senate Archives

Volume XII

Agenda and Minutes
of the Meeting of November 23, 1998

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WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

AGENDA

MEETING NOTICE:  Monday, November 23, 1998
Room 107 CH 3:30 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

I. Call of the Meeting to Order

II. Informal Statements and Proposals

III. Approval of the Minutes

IV. President's Report

V. Committee Reports

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business
A. Report from the Rules Committee regarding the Recommended Changes in Composition, Selection & Charge of the General Education Committee (pumpkin attachment)

VIII. As May Arise

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elmer Hoyer  President  6314  Box 44
JoLynne Campbell  Vice President  5663  Box 43
Nan Myers  Secretary  5138  Box 68
A. J. Mandt  President Elect  3375  Box 102
William Terrell  Past President  3220  Box 78

ELECTED BY THE SENATE
Deborah Baxter  3103  Box 53
Dwight Murphey  3219  Box 77

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT
Barbara Hodson  3240  Box 75
WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Rules Committee
A. J. Mandt, Chair

November 18, 1998

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Rules Committee
SUBJECT: Recommended Changes in Composition, Selection, and Charge of Committee on General Education

The General Education Committee has offered, and the Rules Committee, as committee on committees, has concurred in two recommendations relating to the composition and selection of the Committee on General Education. A third recommendation relating to the committee's charge has substantial implications. The Rules Committee saw great merit in the proposal and voted unanimously to forward it to the Senate for consideration without prejudice.

All of these changes reflect discussion at the recent General Education Retreat.

RECOMMENDATION I: Committee Composition

Remove all ex officio Non-Voting Members from the committee, except the Coordinator of General Education, and constitute them as a standing advisory committee.

RECOMMENDATION II: Committee Selection

Delete current text that specifies that voting members are ineligible for reappointment, substituting "standard" selection.

JUSTIFICATION

A 16-member committee is unwieldy. More important, the voting members of the committee report feeling somewhat
overshadowed by the non-voting members. This feeling reflects the fact that non-voting members generally continue in their positions for years, while voting members of the committee serve a maximum of three years under current rules.

The non-voting members serve by virtue of their responsibility for components of the "basic skills" section of the General Education Requirements. These requirements are well-established and non-controversial. The issues facing the committee are in other areas of policy where the directors of basic skills will generally not have a special expertise, but simply the interests that other faculty concerned about general education have. In these circumstances, ex officio committee membership is not justified when it results in such a large committee.

There are occasions when the committee needs to address issues relating to the "basic skills" section of the curriculum or when discussion of other issues has clear implications for basic skills. At those times, the committee has a responsibility to consult the basic skills directors and avail itself of their expertise. Hence the recommendation to create a standing advisory committee.

The original design of the general education committee provided that members could be reappointed only after a 3-year hiatus. This arrangement did not adequately take into account the need for continuity, or reflect the reality that large policy issues tend to evolve towards decision over several years. It is virtually impossible for committee members to exercise substantive leadership under present arrangements.

The Rules Committee sees no reason for special selection procedures for this committee. "Standard" selection permits reappointment of committee members at the Senate's discretion. The matter should be discretionary.

RECOMMENDATION III:

Amend the Charge to the General Education Committee, adding a section 2,c as follows:

c. Develop guidelines for selection of Further Studies courses, subject to Senate approval, and approve courses for Further Studies credit.

EXPLANATION AND JUSTIFICATION
Adoption of this recommendation would repeal the following language in the October 1992 report approved by the Faculty:

"All courses in the core disciplines that are not on the Core Introductory List or the Issues and Perspectives List may be taken for Further Disciplinary Study credit subject to department approval."

The general education curriculum presupposes that Core Introductory Courses and Further Studies Courses will be linked to produce an element of "in-depth" study in the program. The committee has some authority over the Core Introductory Courses, but, under the cited provision, none over the related Further Studies component.

The result in several instances has been Introductory Courses without connecting Further Studies courses, and vice versa. Further Studies Courses have proliferated, despite the faculty's desire for a more focused curriculum. Recently, a cooperative education course with substantial vocational elements has been introduced in one college, in apparent contradiction to the whole purpose of general education.

It will be impossible to correct problems unless the committee has authority to act. It will also be impossible to achieve any focus in the curriculum so long as some 20 departments have independent discretion to introduce courses into what is supposed to be a common curriculum.

The Faculty needs to decide whether it wishes to work towards a common curriculum for general education or whether department interests will dominate general education, even to the extent of undermining stated curricular objectives and introducing incoherencies into the program.

The Rules Committee believes this recommendation merits full consideration. It also views the issue as "major" within the meaning of the report that created the program, so that this recommendation, or any amended version, requires approval of the General Faculty.

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Attachment: Composition and Charge of the General Education Committee.
GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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<td>Melva Owens</td>
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<td>Fine Arts</td>
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<td>Richard Comfort</td>
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<td>Liz Gawlik</td>
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NON-VOTING ADVISORS (through Spring 1994)

Bob Rozzelle 3700 6 Univ. College
Marilyn Schad 3591 68 Library
Steve Brady 3966 33 Mathematic
Diane Quantie 3130 14 English
Keith Williamson 3185 31 Communications
Peter Sutterlin 3140 33 General Education
Paul Ackerman 3720 34 Ad Hoc Comm.
Martha Shawver 3295 124 AVPAA

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

a. Composition: 10 members
6 non-voting ex officio members
Voting Members: Representatives of Barton School of Business, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Fine Arts, College of Health Professions, LAS Divisions of Humanities, Math/Nat. Sci., & Social Science and 2 Students

Non-Voting Members: Director of English Basic Skills, Director of Mathematics Basic Skills, Director of Communications Basic Skills, Representative of Library, Representative of University College and General Education Coordinator.

b. Selection:
VOTING FACULTY MEMBERS: Nominated by Rules Committee, approved by Senate, for staggered three-year terms. May not be reappointed until after a three-year waiting period.

STUDENTS: Student representatives will be selected by SGA/

BASIC SKILLS, LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES:
Departments which teach Basic Skills courses shall appoint a Director (or equivalent) who will serve as a non-voting representative to the committee. The Library and University College will each appoint a representative.

COORDINATOR OF GENERAL EDUCATION: Subsequent to the present coordinator's term, the
Coordinator of General Education will be appointed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs for a three-year term, and may serve no more than six consecutive years. The VPAA will select the Coordinator from a list of three nominees recommended by the General Education Committee. The search process for the Coordinator of General Education will be directed by the VPAA in consultation with the General Education Committee.

c. **Charge:** The Committee shall:

1. Oversee the operation of the General Education Program as adopted by the faculty*, advise the General Education Coordinator, and participate in the annual evaluation of the General Education Coordinator;

2. Enforce the provisions of the General Education Program approved by the faculty*, including:
   a. Determining the number of core courses offered by departments;
   b. Regarding Issues and Perspectives course:
      i. Refine and develop the concept of Issues and Perspectives courses according to the guidelines approved by the faculty,
      ii. Develop guidelines and actively solicit proposals for Issues and Perspectives courses;
      iii. Approve proposed Issues and Perspectives courses;

3. Develop and implement, in concert with the Coordinator of General Education, the assessment process for basic skills, core, Issues and Perspectives courses;

4. Develop, implement, and assess, in concert with the Coordinator of General Education, the across the curriculum component of the General Education Program;

5. Recommend changes to the program when necessary. Proposed changes will be considered by the Faculty Senate; major changes shall automatically be sent to the General Faculty for approval;

6. Develop and coordinate the General Education advising process;

7. **Work with the Coordinator to develop the annual report on the assessment of General Education;**

8. Report at least annually to the faculty through the Faculty Senate regarding:
   a. The current core course offerings, including lists of courses and enrollments;
   b. The current Issues and Perspectives course offerings, including lists of courses and enrollments;
   c. Any changes in the list of core courses and Issues and Perspectives courses;
   d. Results of assessment of general education courses;
   e. The extent of implementation of Issues and Perspectives courses;
   f. Any problems or difficulties regarding the program, with recommendations for improvement.

*refers to the full "Ad Hoc General Education Committee Proposal" as amended and approved by the WSU faculty, October 20, 1992, and any subsequent amendments.
MEMBERS PRESENT: Alagic, Bahr, Bair, Bajaj, Baxter, Born, Brooks, Byrum, Campbell, Carroll, Cavarozzi, Celestin, Cheraghi, Chopra, DeLillo, DeSilva, Gythiel, Hawley, Hodson, Hoyer, Huntley, Kelly, Klunder, Kuchment, Kuhn, Lancaster, Mandt, Miller, Murphey, Myers, Paarmann, Pfannestiel, Quantic, Robarchek, Rokosz, Rosenthal, Schommer, Steinke, Terrell, Wine, York, Zettle

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bennett, Chandler, Jackson, Kraft, Larson, Lescoe-Long, Papanicolaou, Rogers, Sharp, Stevenson, Trechak, Toops

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Burns

Ex-Officio Members Present:

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

1. Accepted Recommendations 1 & 2 from the Rules Committee regarding the changes in composition, Selection and Charge of the General Education

4. The Plus/Minus Grade Issue was referred to the Academic Affairs Committee for review.

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. INFORMAL STATEMENTS AND PROPOSALS: None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: November 9, 1998, minutes were approved as presented.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

A. Inaugural Celebration: Vice President King's office has suggested several potential times for incoming President Beggs' inaugural celebration. Suggestions are 1. Thursday, May 13 in the early afternoon. 2. Friday, May 14, which is also commencement. Times would be either in the early afternoon with a break before commencement in the evening or in the late afternoon followed by hors d'oeuvres, then progressing to the stadium for commencement. Faculty are asked to consult with their colleagues and let Hoyer know their preferences ASAP by e-mail or by calling the senate office.

B. Dismissal for Cause Policy: As result of discussions held at the last Senate meeting on the Dismissal for Cause Policy, President Hoyer sent a memo to faculty outlining the problem and the senate's response.

C. Kansas Board of Regents: President Hoyer attended the meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents last Wednesday/Thursday (December 9/10), at Seward County Community College
in Liberal. This was the first time in at least 25 years (possibly the entire 70-year history of the BOR) that their meeting was held at a community college. Dr. Clay Blair of Overland Park was introduced as a new Regent, replacing Phyllis Nolan. The BOR gave approval to the WSU parking bond issue. The COFSP also met. Their mission statement is being developed and will take a proactive stance in dealing with the BOR. COCOA had the academic calendars for the year 2000, on their agenda. Many universities have a standing committee of the faculty senate to look at calendar issues, i.e. fall breaks, intercession times, etc. In addition, the study day we have traditionally had on our campus, is not scheduled for spring 1999. We will go directly from the regular semester into finals. This is a one semester occurrence, because the BOR just decided to put a study day back in for the next two years. They are also looking at a uniform mediated course fee - whether they should be uniform between campuses or left to each individual campus. There does not appear to be a uniform view on this at present. (Definition of "Mediated Course": put on the web, electronic in some way.)

F. Plus/minus Grade Issue: A faculty member requested that this be put on our agenda. Will ask for a straw vote at end of meeting to see if it should be sent to Academic Affairs.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ad Hoc Parking Committee (Diane Huntley/Will Klunder): Their first meeting was last Friday. They now have copies of the comprehensive parking study and had a positive feeling from the meeting. Students do not want the playing fields torn up. Roger Lowe listened. March 1, 1999, is the target date for changes submitted. The use of a shuttle bus was discussed, as was the concerns from the Heskett Center that parking will cost more than their users fees. Other topics discussed were to create more 30-minute spots for those coming on campus for short periods of time, question of the extra 50 cents for every ticket sold for an event, proposal to widen perimeter road, creating parking spots and not doing away with the playing fields, address the historic structure in the way of the parking plan - the bicentennial bridge. Work is already underway at Metro Center. This committee should have been formed at the beginning. They can't tell what will happen when push comes to shove.

B. Rules Committee: Math & Natural Sciences Departments need to caucus and elect a Senator.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report from the Rules Committee on the Recommended Changes in Composition, Selection and Charge of the General Education Committee:

Recommendation I: Composition of Committee - Remove all ex officio Non-Voting members from the committee, except the coordinator of General Education, and constitute them as a
standing advisory committee. This came from the Rules Committee as a result of the General Education Retreat. The thinking is that non-voting members have special expertise, and could exist as a sub-committee which would meet with the main committee regularly twice a year, in fall and spring. They would not be required to attend meetings for discussions which would not pertain to their role. However, they would have option to attend. In addition, the Rules Committee made a request to change wording: use "reconstitute" instead of "constitute." Gen Ed Committee did not request their Chair to be a voting committee. DeSilva moved (2nd by Baxter) to accept this recommendation from the Rules Committee

Passed unanimously.

Recommendation II: Delete current text that specifies that voting members are ineligible for reappointment, substituting "standard" selection. The Rules Committee felt selection to this committee should be the same as for other Senate committees and reappointment should be at the discretion of the Senate. Passed unanimously.

Recommendation III: Amend the Charge to the General Education Committee, adding a section 2c: Develop guidelines for selection of Further Studies courses, subject to Senate approval, and approve courses for Further Studies credit. Mandt moved (2nd by Celestin) that the Senate go into a committee of the whole for purposes of discussing this recommendation, anticipating no action today. Passed and discussion was chaired by Mandt. Currently, the committee has authority over how many introductory courses can exist (50). Departments have power to determine what those courses are. Discussion focused on the need to eliminate confusion for students and their advisors, as presently, there are numerous Further Studies courses with no introductory courses, and vice versa, there are some

introductory courses with no FS courses available. Mandt reminded us that the NCA mandated that WSU tighten this up. There was a motion to rise and report, which was passed. A vote on this recommendation will be taken at the 12/14/98 meeting of the Senate.

VIII. AS MAY ARISE: The straw vote of the Senate recommended that the Plus/Minus Grade Issue be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee for further study.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Myers, Secretary