FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Minutes

December 3, 2025, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM CST

Albertson Hall 169

I. **Call to Order** -President Matthew Clay called the meeting to order in due form. Quorum was established by visual inspection.

II. **Attendance** – recorded by sign-in sheets.

III. **Approval of Agenda** – Skip Ward made a motion to approve the agenda; Phillip Olt seconded. Motion carried.

IV. **Approval of Previous Minutes** – Skip Ward made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting; Kent Rohleder seconded. Motion carried.

V. **Informational Reports**

A. Guest Reports

1. University, Jill Arensdorf, Provost
   - Dates for Engagement Series this Spring are on the calendar; topics have not been solidified.
   - KBOR draft policies on tenure, post-tenure review and faculty workload are taking more time than anticipated. Hopefully they will be finalized in December or January.
   - Draft policy for reduced credit hour bachelor's degree received today, but has not had a chance to review it
   - BA in Religious Education and Community Engagement is expected to be on the next KBOR Consent Agenda.
   - BS in Financial Forensics and Fraud Investigation will have first reading at the Council of Chief Academic Officers in December.
   - Updated policy on inclement weather had first reading at Cabinet. Policy gives faculty the option to hold classes remotely when campus is closed. Please send any suggestions or concerns to Matt.
   - Magnetic safety strips are back on in Rarick. The security team is looking at deploying these across campus.
   - Fall Commencement is next Friday. There have been modifications to the planned Recessional. Updates will be emailed later this week.
2. SGA, Jackson Sinsel, SGA President
   - SGA has begun working on Allocations and fees. Please make sure student groups you work with are aware and attend a workshop. Amount of funding this year has increased, but not due to an increase in fees.
3. OSGA, Eileen Moore, OSGA President
   - No formal report. Upcoming social event for online students and work continues on the January newsletter
4. Staff Senate, Nikki Houchen, Staff Senate President – no report

5. AAUP, Gene Rice, AAUP President – no report
6. Strategic Plan Goal 1 Chairs Jeff Briggs and Brad Will
    - Faculty Senate Goal 1 Presentation
    - Three main strategies:
        - Increase faculty participation in professional development. Difficulty with adjunct and cross-border faculty participation and how to capture all professional development faculty are engaging in.
        - Ensure each program has concrete and measurable PLOs
        - Building a robust program review framework – rolling into KBOR process

A. **Faculty Senate Reports**

1. Faculty Senate President
    a) KBOR Workload policy – Council of Faculty Senate Presidents will present a letter expressing concerns that 1) *adequate cause* definition needs clarification; and 2) variability between departments, positions, types of courses, etc. need to be considered in policies. Overall, KBOR draft policies look similar to our MOA.
    b) KBOR November meeting – focus appears to be on improving student experiences and reducing costs for students (OERs).
    c) Soft opening for library on January 20th. Spaces should be available, but not all collections will be accessible at that time.
    d) Ben Schears – VP of Academic Workforce Development is proactively developing industry partnerships and open to ideas. Please reach out if you have any ideas.
    e) Large increase in number of freshman housing contracts for Fall 2026 as well as an increase in Spring SCH indicating a positive trend.
    f) Discussed concerns regarding new Turning Point student organization with SGA. Will include OSGA in future conversations/updates.
2. Standing Committees
    a) Academic Affairs, Anita Walters – Consent Agenda and discussing clarification or policy on review of minors (when these changes need to be reviewed, should they have PLOs and/or assessed).
    b) Partnerships and Technology, Tami Radohl – no formal meeting but continuing to collaborate with Strategic Planning and Improvement, providing feedback on draft survey.
    c) Student Affairs, Tara Rohn – continuing work on timely grading policy. Looking for student feedback on expectations and use of AI in grading and providing feedback.
    d) University Affairs, Chris Olds – discussion regarding adjunct faculty (appointment, compensation, professional development) and gathering input from various stakeholders.
    e) Strategic Planning and Improvement, Michael Gruenstaeudl – working with Technology and Partnerships exchanging drafts of survey and anticipate having draft to share at next meeting.
3. Committee/Task Force Reports

a) Reduced Credit Bachelor's degree, Seth Kastle
   (1) Informal group of faculty with programs interested in exploring this option (CRJ, THM, HHP, TECS, LDRS). Others are welcome to join.
   (2) Wants to understand the "pulse" of faculty around this issue

VI. **Consent Agenda**

A. MDI 435 – Skip Ward moved to approve; Lexey Bartlett seconded. Motion carried.

VII. **Unfinished Business –**

A. Resolution on PCE Branding – Second Read.

- Motion to approve Scott Gregory; Skip Ward seconded – discussion opened. Numerous favorable comments.
- Jessica Heronemus-Claiborn called the question; Phillip Olt seconded. Motion carried.
- Resolution passed by senators.

VIII. **New Business / Discussions**

1. Resolution on Campus Safety – First Read. Please take time to review this and share with departments. Special meeting called January 22, 2026, to review this resolution.
2. Thanks to Skip Ward and Dan McClure for their service.

IX. **Adjournment** – Meeting was closed by Matthew Clay

Respectfully Submitted by: Jessica Heronemus-Claiborn, Secretary