

Fall 10-9-2012

Scholastic minutes 10/09/2012

Scholastic Committee

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Scholastic Committee
2012-13 Academic Year
October 9, 2012
Meeting Five Minutes Approved

In attendance: Jennifer Goodnough (chair), Steve Gross, Pete Wyckoff, Nic McPhee, Hilda Ladner, Judy Korn, Clare Dingley, Brenda Boever, Jess Larson, Ellery Wealot, Chad Braegelmann, Luciana Ranelli, Kent Blansett, Jen Zych Herrmann

Not in attendance: Zac Kroells, Melissa Hernandez

1. September 26, 2012 Minutes Approved

2. Chair's Report

New students attending Morris may have more International Baccalaureate (IB) credits than in the past. High schools, especially in the Twin Cities, have received grants to improve and expand this program. The Scholastic Committee (SC) may need to examine IB, a program that hasn't been reviewed for many years.

Two articles regarding probation will be sent to members after today's meeting. The articles provide good information and confirm a number of topics that the SC discussed after reviewing Morris suspension and probation data. For example, one article confirms that, nationwide, there are statistically more men than women on probation. One of the articles reviews the results of a randomized study that investigated probation students' responses to incentives versus services.

Could MOOCs lead to special examinations for credit? SCEP will continue discussing MOOCs, and the topic of special exams has been added to the SCEP agenda. This question was also asked to a panel at a Universitywide Senate meeting. The follow up included information about University of Maryland offering special exam.

An article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* this week notes that MOOCs are often used by self-motivated students seeking a particular technical skill. Computing skills are a good example, new technologies introduced since students graduated from college. Often MOOC courses are provided by educational institutions or companies whose profit stream is from another area. The advertising component as well, as high school students may wish to attend the colleges from which they have completed MOOCs. The "self-motivation" factor was emphasized during the discussion, noting that 160,000 students registered for a MOOC discussed by the Senate meeting panel, and only five percent completed the course. The SC will need to "think forward" in and perhaps educate disciplines and advisers about MOOCs and possible ways to earn credit.

3. SCEP Report

SCEP will investigate grade inflation and compression. Departments will probably be asked to define grades. The percentage of As and Bs has substantially gone up. Morris could ask the Assessment Committee to discuss grading for their next requested report.

Discussing changes on evaluations to facilitate the use of gathered information and specifically student release questions. General Counsel states that rephrasing questions shifting from professor evaluation to course evaluation may allow the information to be released. SCEP and the Student Senate could change the question allowing more information to be public. Nic was encouraged to share feedback that the question regarding what students do to improve their learning is not effective.

4. Repeat Course Discussion

The committee reviewed policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS, noting the following section.

From Policy: 6. Repeating courses.

- a. An undergraduate student may repeat a course only once (except as noted in section 6(c)). The college offering the course may grant an exception to this provision. [Morris only] Students who receive a grade of S or C or higher may repeat a course only if space permits.
- b. When a student repeats a course before receiving his/her degree, (a) both grades for the course will appear on the official transcript, (b) the course credits may not be counted more than once toward degree and program requirements, and (c) only the last enrollment for the course will count in the student's grade point average.
- c. Provisions 6 (a) and (b) of this policy will not apply to courses (1) using the same number but where students study different content each term of enrollment and (2) to courses designated as "repetition allowed."

The committee was asked to consider the following comments/questions prior to the discussion in order to provide feedback before the new system allows enforcement of the policy and the need for SC to perhaps offer exceptions.

"Currently, nothing actually prevents a student from registering for a course for a third time. They are warned when registering for a second, third etc time. If a student completes a third enrollment, the third grade would count in a GPA since policy states in part c "only the last enrollment for the course will count in the student's grade point average" despite having violated part a. *This may be improved soon so that third registrations would be prevented.*"

"Last enrollment for the course will count" is treated more as "last grade for the course will count" in the situation where a student withdraws from the second enrollment; their first enrollment grade counts. In this case the second enrollment does not count as the repeat and the student may register for the course again."

When should a student be allowed to take a course for a third time? Would it ever be okay for a fourth enrollment?

Students who take a course for a third time are risking a timely graduation and increased debt load. Repeating a course is not usually a good use of time and resources, but external factors such as parents, grad school GPA requirements, etc., contribute to these requests, as well as students who believe they have not satisfactorily mastered the content.

What would be the circumstance for "overriding" the new registration system?

First enforced would be space. If the student received an S or grade C or higher, and space was not available, the student would not be permitted to repeat the course for a third time.

Second could be a request that the student must converse with his/her adviser. Suggested topics of discussion are the cost of the repeated course, timely graduation, and the actual effect on the GPA using the estimator.

A discussion regarding the student's major may be warranted. It would be a disservice to the student to allow him/her to continue in a major in which he/she could not be successful, and in addition, delay graduation and increase debt. If in agreement with the student's plan to repeat a course for the third time, the adviser would note his/her endorsement of the plan.

The Registrar would be empowered to make a decision on behalf of the SC to deny or accept a request to take a course for a third time. If denied by the Registrar, the student may petition the SC. This will provide a "safety net" for those students who don't fit the usual guidelines as listed above.

The student could seek the support of the course instructor to make his/her case for taking the course three times.

Students requests to repeat a course for the sake of learning and mastering material would be considered but with a high bar. An example might be a course that is routinely taught by many different faculty members who offer different readings and different perspectives on the course material. This petition would likely involve consultation beyond the adviser.

The question of how special exams stored in PeopleSoft, such as the SUFE courses, will be subject to the restrictions in the registration system was asked, and the Registrar will investigate. Transfer courses and other exams (AP, CLEP, etc.) cannot be checked by the registration system because they are stored outside of PeopleSoft.

It was noted that allowing students to take a course for a third time will require manual enforcement.

The Registrar communicated the SC's discussion to the Tina Falkner on the TC campus. See Addendum.

5. Suspension Contract Review presented by Chair

2012 (JK) 6 suspended students readmitted

3 suspended students eligible to return for fall 2012

Three students enrolled for fall 2012

3 suspended students eligible to return for spring 2013 NA

2011 (JK) 11 suspended students readmitted

8 of 11 eligible to return for fall 2011

One student graduated

One student did not return for fall 2011

One student did not return after fall 2011(CUME GPA 2.952)

Two students met requirements for fall 2011 and spring 2012, enrolled fall 2012 (CUME GPAs 2.248, 2.28)

Three students resuspended after fall 2011

3 of 11 eligible to return for spring 2012

Two students met requirements for spring 2012, enrolled fall 2012 (CUME GPAs 1.7, 1.946)

One student resuspended after spring 2012

2010 (DDJ/JK) 11 suspended students readmitted

Fall 10, 5 contracts

1 rescinded (returning student suspended in the 90's under cc ratio, no longer applies)

1 met contract, graduated 5/12 (CUME GPA 2.527)

3 failed to meet contract, re-suspended after Fall 2010

Spring 2011, 6 contracts

1 met contract, returned to good standing after Spring 2011 – enrolled Fall 2012 (CUME GPA 2.379)

1 did not return

3 met contract – 1 graduated 5/12 (CUME GPA 2.33), Fall 2012 one enrolled UMM (CUME GPA 2.385) and one multi-I (CUME GPA 2.1)

1 failed to meet contract, returned to P3

From Annual Reports on SC website

2008 -- 9 approved, 3 denied

2007 -- 1 approved 3 denied, one who came back was resuspended

2006 -- 10 approved 5 denied, 7 came back and 3 met conditions

2005 -- nine approved, 4 met conditions

From March 2007 ACT study by Leslie Meek and Bryan Herrmann (on SC website)

Year	Approved	Met Conditions
99-00	28	15
00-01	26	9
01-02	21	15
02-03	19	7
03-04	21	4

6. Probation Letter review tabled for next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Korn
Scholastic Committee Executive Staff

Addendum

From: **Clare Dingley** <stranded@morris.umn.edu>

Date: Tue, Oct 9, 2012 at 10:50 AM

Subject: conversation about repeating a third time

To: Tina Falkner <rovic001@umn.edu>

Cc: Jennifer Goodnough <jennng@morris.umn.edu>, Judy Korn <kornjr@morris.umn.edu>

Tina, the Scholastic Committee discuss circumstances surrounding allowing students to repeat a class a third time.

One important question came up that is very technical. Will the registration system recognize a Special Exam, test credit in Psoft, as the first course taken?

First, we will enforce our part of the policy that states if a student receives a grade of C, S, or better they can only repeat on a space available basis.

Second, we will require endorsement from the student's adviser - this will ensure conversations about whether or not they should change their major, need the course for graduation and are a senior, etc.

Third, students will be expected to use UMM's GPA estimator to determine whether or not GPA will be improved in the way they expect. Here is the URL, you might want to share this with others, it works differently than the One Stop GPA calculator.

<http://www.morris.umn.edu/registrar/gpa/>

Fourth, students will be allowed to bring their petition to the full committee if it is denied by the Registrar (acting on their behalf).

One scenario where repeats might be allowed is a student who did not do well, went away and “grew up” and is returning and serious about school. Another was some situations where a specific GPA, maybe in a unique group of courses, is needed to get into a special program.

I have copied the chair and exec staff so that they can add anything if they want to.

Thanks for letting us in on this conversation, Clare.

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Clare Dingley, Registrar
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