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Scholastic Committee

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Scholastic Committee
2012-13 Academic Year
April 2, 2013
Meeting Nineteen Minutes Approved

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

Not in attendance: Melissa Hernandez, Zach Kroells, Clare Dingley, Kent Blansett

1. Minutes for Review

March 26, 2013 minutes approved. The committee briefly discussed and clarified the study day rules for course participation versus extracurricular events.

2. Chair's Report

AP will be updating physics and history courses and exams. Information will be sent to discipline coordinators.

An email was received from David Swenson, assembly parliamentarian, regarding amending the calendar on the floor regarding study day policy. Swenson suggests that the definition of study day be clarified before the 2016 calendar begins. The chair suggested the next step would be to ask SCEP for advice on how to proceed. SCEP holds the power re: exemptions. Swenson copied Chancellor Johnson, Dean Finzel, and Steering Committee Chair Ratliff-Crain on the email addressing Saturday and Sunday as Study days.

Scholastic Committee will continue receiving updates regarding the new Writing for the Liberal Arts (WLA) general education requirement. The first new student registration is scheduled for April 18. Korn has been in contact with the English faculty. Tisha Turk, discipline writing coordinator, is on sabbatical. All courses that fulfilled the CW general education requirement will receive credit, but no courses, including the former CW substitutions, have been evaluated with respect to meeting the WLA requirement or substitution for ENGL 1061. The Chair notes that institutional responsibility petitions need to be kept in mind.

Korn received \$550. funding for a Morris Student Administrative Fellow (MSAF). Students with SC experience or interest would be especially welcome.

Members are encouraged contact the membership committee regarding interest in serving as 'vice-chair'. The Chair is open to discussing the position she holds, including the time commitment, if anyone is interested in serving as SC chair or vice chair.

3. SCEP Report

At their last meeting, SCEP discussed MOOCs and elearning as the group prepared for a panel discussion. Topics included University of Minnesota, Twin Cities credit by examination at \$50 per credit. A three-credit exam post MOOC would appeal to students but would not be financially appealing for the University. Four MOOC courses will soon be offered. The instructors will receive no compensation. The SC had several questions regarding compensation and exam fees that Nic will ask at a future SCEP meeting. At Morris, exam fees are directed to the discipline.

SCEP will take the grades documentation item to senate this week. Two companies, My EDU and Koofers (<https://www.koofers.com/grade-distribution>) Company, help students find "easy" courses at their institutions in order to earn high grades. The Freedom of Information Act allows access to grade distribution. UMM Reports provides access to this data, which could be made available to students and is already available to faculty and staff at the discipline level. Course information can be extrapolated.

SCEP also discussed graduate learning assessment, in particular, studio and music assessment in regard to traditional research oriented language.

Goodnough will attend the upcoming Senate meeting.

4. Petition # 1214

Petition was approved, eight members approve and two abstentions, based on meeting the spirit of the requirement. Student may fulfill the Fine Arts (FA) general education requirement by combining three, four-credit music courses with different designators.

Discussion: SC has been reluctant to change gen ed as established for a course by faculty. Curriculum Committee makes the decision, the division reviews, and SC polices.

The Assessment Committee has asked each division to pick one gen ed and review courses, but that committee does not have the authority to suggest changes. The removal of gen eds for 4000-level courses may open the door for petitions for various gen eds for the same course.

5. Transcript and Grading Policy review

(<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html>)

Please review carefully before our next meeting. The Chair pointed out that the definition of D and N are not consistent throughout the policy D/D+=N. The inconsistency comes from a D being “achievement that is worthy of credit” and an N “achievement that is not worthy of credit”. No more than 25 percent of courses can be S/N to graduate. Also noted, grading is the purview of the faculty but faculty cannot change a student’s grade basis. Some faculty choose to not use + or -. An actual alternative grading system would be forwarded to SCEP for review.

6. Academic Integrity Grid tabled