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Scholastic minutes 10/01/2002

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
October 1, 2002

The Scholastic Committee met on October 1 at 3:00 o'clock in Moccasin Flower Room. The next meeting will be October 29th in the same location.

Members present: W. Cox, C. Gonzalez, K. Sharp, M. Fohl, S. Gashaw, R. Heyman, K. Klinger (coordinator), L. Meek (chair), R. Richards, N. McPhee, B. McQuarrie, J. Mullin, C. Specketer, R. Thielke, M. Uttke

1. Minutes: The September 17 Minutes were approved as corrected.

2. Petitions:

#1083--Meet the Fine Arts requirement of the GER based on completion of a Theatre directed study.

Approved

#1084 Allow a study abroad experience to satisfy the International Perspectives requirement of the GER.

Approved

3. Annual report: Klinger related the activities of the 2001-2002 Scholastic Committee to the formal powers of the committee. One of those powers, granting exceptions to academic policy, is exercised through the review of petitions. The number of petitions last year, 20, was the lowest it has been from some years, perhaps reflecting that much of the work of transition from quarters to semesters has been completed. The Committee is also in charge of Academic Progress. The summary of suspensions in spring 2002 is based on the old academic progress criteria, which now have been replaced by criteria proposed by the Scholastic Committee and approved by the Campus Assembly in spring, 2002. The new criteria substitute a 2.0 GPA for the sliding GPA scale based on the number of credits a student had earned. The Committee supported the assessment of advising in the major and recommended to the Dean the advising needs of transfers, if UMM decides to increase the number of students transferring to UMM.

A large topic for the year, emerging from a request by Dean Schwaller to consider the use of plagiarism software, was a study of academic integrity. We recommended a series of questions for him to raise during this academic year to clear up the confusion and disagreement that exist on campus about what academic integrity is and to consider whether UMM has a problem with academic dishonesty. These were relayed in a letter to the Dean from the Committee and may lead to campus discussion this year.

Other topics in the report were touched on briefly, especially if action in those topics, such as pre-requisite enforcement, is anticipated. The remaining time was spent in a spirited discussion of admission and retention. Chair Meek has asked for data on student performance related to high school of origin, both in-and out-of-state. Are there high schools that can be identified as not preparing students adequately? Questions were raised about the meaning of High School Rank (HSR) as a predictor of success when the class size is small. Does HSR reflect success? What is the value of the ACT? How do you compare one school with another? We want to improve the profile of the students admitted, but how do we find those students? It is a disservice to bring students here to fail, if methods to help them are not in place. Meek asked the Committee to send her questions to ask Admissions and other items they would like placed on future agendas.

4. Other issues: The remaining agenda items, including 2001-2002 suspension data, changing the credit exemption for First Year Seminar from 15 to 12 credits, and members' suggestions for future agendas will be discussed on October 29th.