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Scholastic Committee

Campus Governance

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Scholastic minutes 10/06/2010

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University of Minnesota, Morris Scholastic Committee
Meeting #5, October 6, 2010

The Scholastic Committee met at 9:15 on Wednesday, October 6, in Behmler 130.

Present: J Goodnough (Chair), C Braegelmann, C Cole, E Christensen, C Cole, C Dingley, S Gross, S Haugen, H Ladner, J Ratliff-Crain, J Richards, C Stemper, D Stewart; M Page, guest

1. The Minutes of 9/28/2010 were approved with the insertion of a statement before the petition: “confidential information has been deleted.”
2. Report from the chair
 - The chair explained that the underlined portions of the petition in last week’s minutes would be deleted before publication, to ensure confidentiality. The committee requested that the statement “confidential information deleted” be inserted in all minutes reflecting action on petitions.
 - Two informational meetings on the UMM proposed constitution and vote are scheduled today: 12:00-12:45 and 4:30-5:15. The charge of the Scholastic Committee is basically unchanged, but the make-up of the committee is different. Currently the membership is 16:
 - 8 FAC/PA positions
 - 4 students
 - 4 ex officio (nonvoting): Dean’s designate, Commission on Women Coordinator, Registrar, USA representative.
 - Proposed membership:
 - 6 Faculty (one is the UMM representative to SCEP)
 - 2 PA (one from athletics)
 - 4 students
 - 1 USA (with vote)
 - 2 ex officio: Dean’s designate and Registrar

Another change is that the Functions and Awards Committee will report to the Assembly, not to Scholastic.

3. Catalog. The registrar, the chair, and the SCEP representative have been participating in university policy review, and recently met with division chairs to share an update. The Registrar consulted the committee about how the policy information should be displayed in the 2011-13 catalog. The introductory sections in past catalogs have contained brief condensed versions of numerous policies that were easier to understand than policy-speak of the official policies. In order to provide a single source of truth, the committee recommended that the 2011-13 catalog includes a brief statement of the reasons for each policy (not a rephrasing of it), followed by a link to the actual policy. If the policy changes, the reasons will still apply and the link will still connect to accurate information.

Parts of the catalog such as the list of disciplines and course descriptions are helpful in printed form, but because a printed catalog is static, changes to policy are not reflected there. Students report that they consult the printed catalog before they come to UMM, but they tend to use electronic technology once they have registered. The University policy library search feature is quite effective, and the policies include any exceptions adopted by UMM.

Concerns:

- In the electronic world, old policies disappear after they have been updated.
 - Policy histories are included at the bottom of the U policy.
 - Catalogs are archived, so old degree requirements are available.
- Students straddling catalogs may be disadvantaged.
 - Punitive rules will not be enforced retroactively, but students will be held accountable to current policies. Policies have effective dates.

4. General Education category awards

Motion: To allow course information from international transcripts to serve as evidence that a student has met the spirit of a general education requirement. Courses designated as ARTH(FA), ARTS(ArtP), BIOL(Sci), CHEM(Sci), CSCI(MSR), MATH(MSR), STAT(MSR) will result in a waiver of the general education requirement. This will be administratively handled by the transfer specialist. Students retain the right to petition to have other general education categories waived but would be expected to provide additional information.

The motion was approved, and will be sent to the Executive Committee for information to the Campus Assembly.

5. Reports

The grid below shows administration action authorized by the committee:

Report of Administrative Approvals - Scholastic Committee

Term/Year	Add/Withdraw with System error	Cancel/Add section or sequence change	ArtP	Th 1060-1070	FL-IP Waivers	Reg'n activity InstRespblty
Fall 2007					7	
Spring 2008				15	5	
Fall 2008	4			18	10	
Spring 2009	7			14	9	1
Fall 2009	1			16	6	
Spring 2010	2			29	2	3
Fall 2010	4	1			68	5
	(through 9-16-10)					

Scholastic Committee has developed a process to track various data. The data will be presented in consistent formats every year. The two charts below track probation and suspension from 1999 – 2010, comparing freshman numbers to total enrollment. Freshman status is determined by

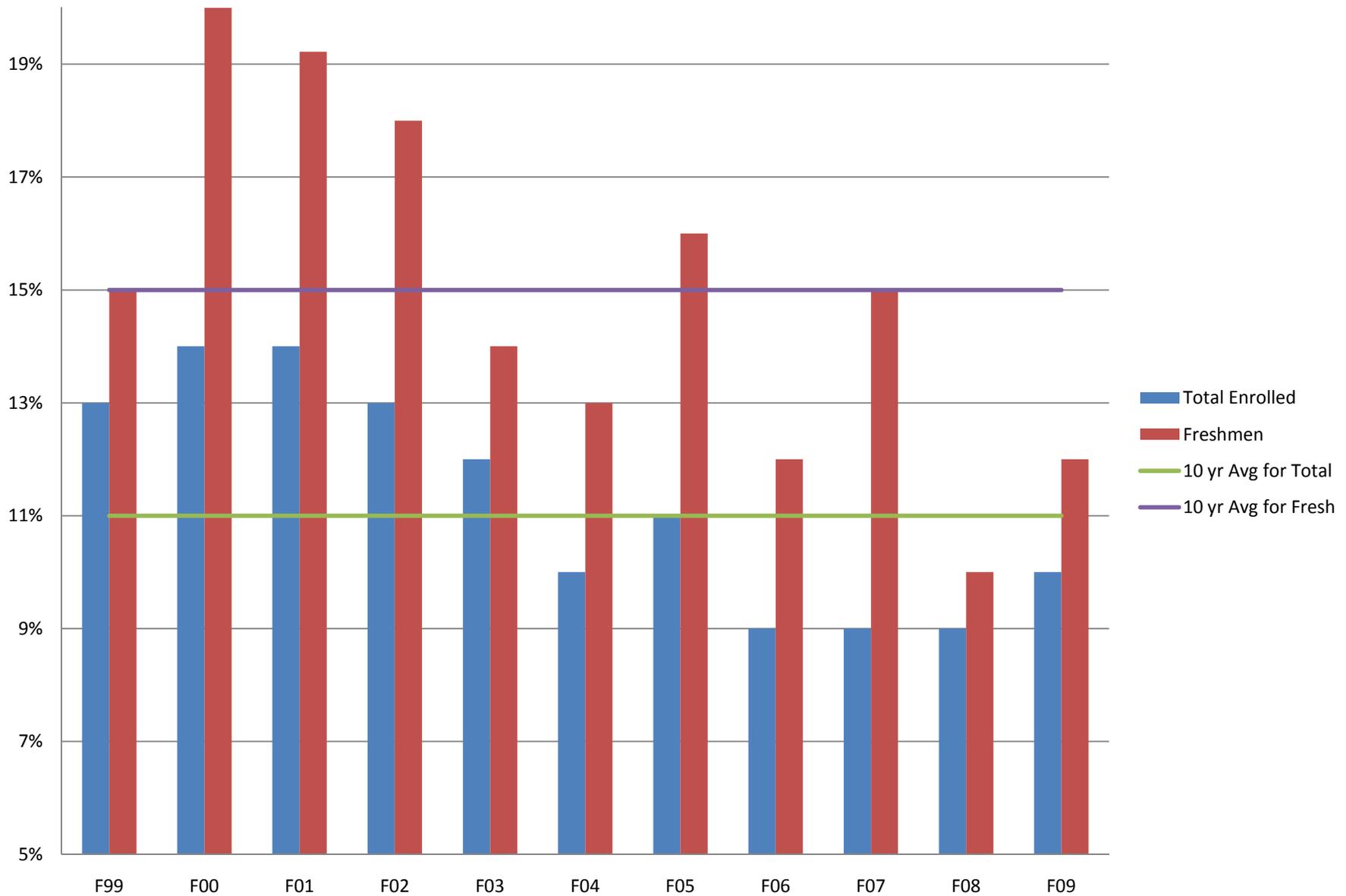
credit, not by first term of enrollment. Until 2002 the criteria for probation included a cumulative completion ratio; beginning in fall 2002 the criteria changed to GPA only. Raw data for these reports is available on the Scholastic website (<http://www.morris.umn.edu/Scholastic/>), under the cumulative reports left navigation link.

Scholastic also wishes to compare probation/suspension data with student data at the point of admission. A significant percentage of new students are admitted as conditional. In 2008-09 the committee requested a description from Admissions of what conditional admit (COND) means; the answer was “there is no description.” The assistant dean noted that conditional is a flag only, indicating some level of risk and the need for close advising. He cited examples of criteria for COND-- time needed to recover from a death in the family, or psychological/emotional issues during the last year of high school—and stated that the student group COND does not imply anything less than an admitted student.

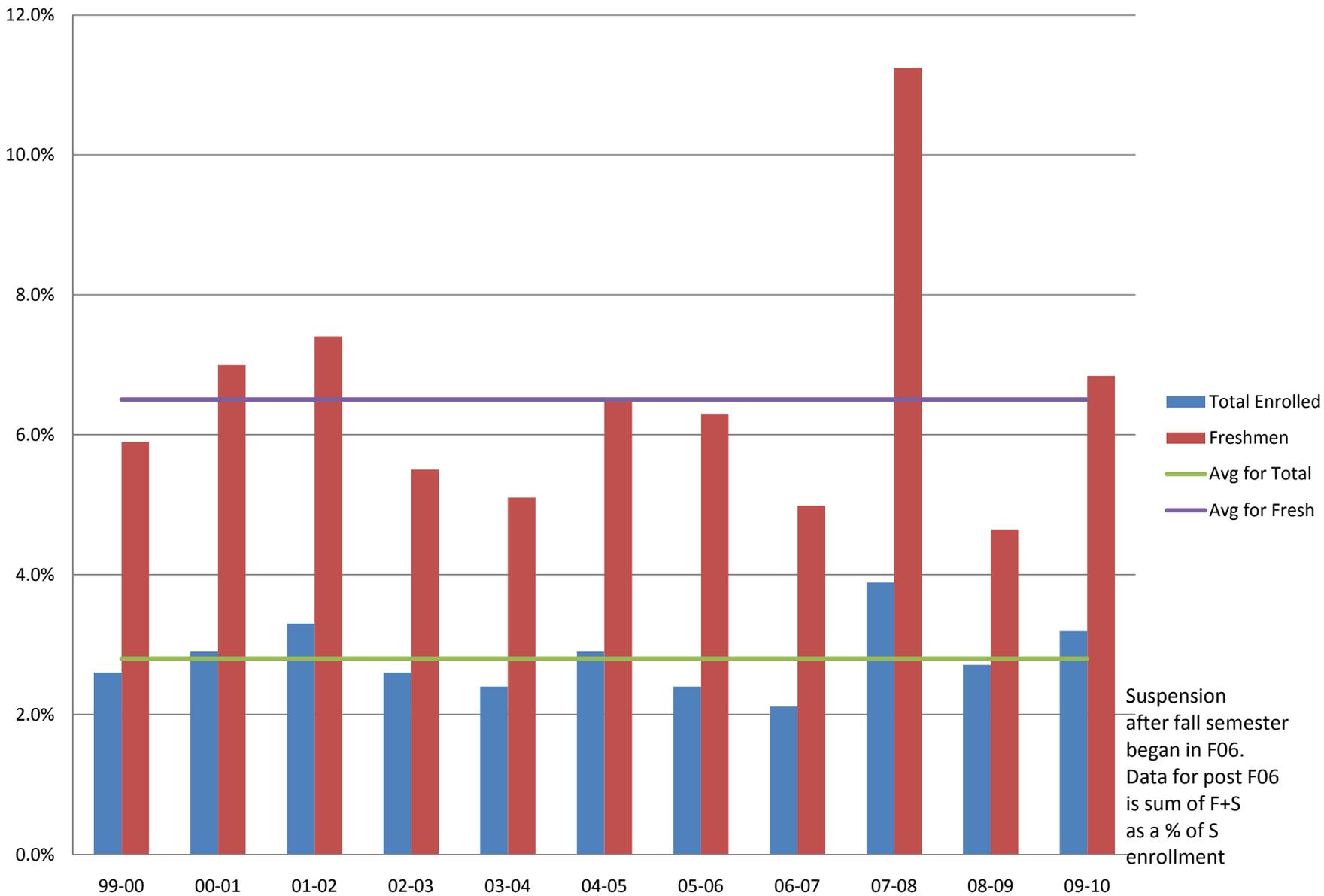
Issues:

- Conditional students are often given a credit maximum (12-16 credits the first semester). Taking a number of credits lower than 15 can result in financial aid problems because 30 credits are required at the end of the first year.
- Eligibility for some financial aid programs requires 15 credits each semester; students who would benefit from a 12- or 13-credit registration may forfeit needed financial support.
- Admitting so many students on conditions has resulted in registration problems, when more students need courses such as basic algebra and fundamentals of writing but there are no faculty available to teach additional sections.
- Advisors noted ACT scores that were very low.
- If the campus perception of conditional admit is inaccurate, a new student group can be created for students who are admitted with low ACT scores or high school rank, low GPA, missing preparation requirements, etc.

Probation at the End of Fall Term by %



Suspension at the End of Spring Term by %



Suspension after fall semester began in F06. Data for post F06 is sum of F+S as a % of S enrollment

Homework

The handout of catalog changes is not the latest version. An updated version will be sent via email. Questions to consider:

- How much language does the committee want?
- How much link to policy does the committee want?

Submitted by Dorothy De Jager