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Scholastic minutes 11/17/2004

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #7, November 17, 2004

The Scholastic Committee met on November 17th at 4. p.m. in Science 3500. The next meeting will be December 1 at 9 a.m. as previously scheduled.

Members present: S Aronson, B, Burke, K. Crandall, W. Hunt, J. Kim, N. McPhee (chair), L. Meek, J. Ropp, G. Sheagley, K. Strissel, H. Haugen, D. De Jager, K. Klinger (coordinator), R. Thielke

Guest: James Morales, V-C for Enrollment

1. The November 3 Minutes were approved.

2. James Morales, UMM's new Vice-Chancellor for Enrollment, met with us to discuss admissions policy, an area under the jurisdiction of the Scholastic Committee. N. McPhee had asked him to review the current acceptance criteria and admissions process and to identify changes he has made or planned to make. Morales described his view of the admissions review as holistic—not just quantitative. He called our attention particularly to four review factors that provide the primary lens. These include: *successful school performance...*, *rigor of the curriculum and the institution attended...*, *standardized test scores...*, and *the quality and ideas presented in the essay*. Eleven secondary review factors are applied more flexibly as relevant to the student's situation. Among these are *evidence of exceptional achievement...*, *talent or ability*, or *motivation*; *outstanding high school or community or work involvement*, *evidence that enrollment would enhance...the diversity of the student body*; *evidence of having overcome... barriers to educational attainment*. Admission's primary goal is to bring students to UMM who will be successful here.

Morales sees no reason to change the admission process. We have maintained the freshman profile for several years. The average HSR is 78.4%, the average ACT is 25, slightly higher than 24.7 of the previous year. All applications are electronic, though students receive the letters of decision in hard copy. Each file is read by two admissions staff. If there is disagreement, it goes to a third person and then to Morales, who currently also acts as director of Admissions. Faculty are consulted as needed. Of 18 conditional admits last year, two did not enroll, three left with a GPA below 2.0, and two left with a GPA above 2.0. Eleven are still here. Their average GPA is 2.7.

Morales was asked how admissions standards are applied to nontraditional students and to international students. He pointed out that nontraditional students often are far removed from high school and those scores may be less important. More relevant questions concern their motivation and whether/ where they have been working. We are not actively recruiting international students due to the high cost to recruit and to provide appropriate structures for them when they are here. When one member suggested that international students might appreciate the opportunity to attend UMM given cost and quality, Morales replied that it would take an institutional will as a college to move this direction.

In response to a question about whether we plan to recruit nationally, Morales noted that we are exploring Eastern Montana and that we work through alumni in various distant states, such as Texas, whenever possible. We are, instead, ramping up our web presence to recruit at a distance with minimal expense. We charge only the in-state tuition rate. Changes such as advertising areas of concentration could be hugely important.

Morales was asked whether materials students present in their applications are examined and checked for accuracy. He noted that we have relationships with high school counselors throughout MN and it is very

easy to place a call to one of them if the information seems suspicious. An invitation of admission can be rescinded.

Morales was asked about maintaining the quality of our student profile. He responded that most colleges want the same students we do. *Competition for our students is fierce.* He believes that UMM has an excellent product, and students should be beating our doors down to get in. Raising the enrollment of the freshman class while maintaining quality is a long-term process. Marketing and articulation of what we offer will be important. He agrees that our students are our great asset. We should not sacrifice our mission to bring in numbers.

3. Meeting dates: Changing the meeting time from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. will mean that several members will be unable to attend. We will meet at 9 as scheduled.

4. Petition # 1138-- Allow the student to withdraw from a course after the 9 week deadline. The student is a sophomore majoring in Biology. **Approved** pending documentation. [received 11/22/04]