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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #10, January 25, 2005

The Scholastic Committee held its first meeting of spring term in Behmler Conference Room on Tuesday, January 25th, at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting will be on February 8th, at 3:45 in Behmler.

Members attending: S. Aronson, B. Burke, K. Crandall, B. Fisher, J. Goodnough, W. Hunt, J-M Kim, P. Lawrence, N. McPhee (chair), G. Sheagley, K. Strissel, D. De Jager, S. Haugen, K.Klinger (coordinator), L. Meek, R. Thielke

1. The December 15th, 2004 minutes were approved with one change.

2. Petitions
#1141—Waive the Fine Arts requirement based on completion of a Directed Study. **Approved**

This petition generated discussion for much of the hour. Since the initiation of May term, the Scholastic Committee has received an increasing number of petitions to allow a directed study to meet the spirit of a General Education requirement. In order to be eligible for financial aid, May term students must register for at least six credits. Since the May term courses generally carry four credits, students often register for an additional two credits of directed study. The Committee is asked after the student returns to allow the directed study to meet the spirit of a general education requirement.

It was noted that an increasing number of students will be studying abroad, encouraged by the college. There was strong feeling that a process should be in place to approve use of a directed study to meet a particular gen ed requirement before a student undertakes it. The Registrar noted that the directed study form could include a check-off box indicating whether the directed study would be used to meet a criterion, and, if so, which one. This would allow the student and faculty mentor to focus the directed study more clearly on appropriate gen ed criteria.

There was some concern that faculty outside a study area are making determinations about gen ed designations. However, authority to determine where study fits in the gen ed belongs with the faculty and the divisions. Faculty may teach outside their area of training. McPhee will meet with Klinger and De Jager to lay out an agenda item about directed study for further discussion. The Committee expressed interest in exploring the emerging problem with the Curriculum Committee.

#1142-- Allow the student to graduate with 14 credits of D in her degree program. **Denied.**

Petitions generally raise issues of hardship, institutional responsibility, and whether or not an alternative meets the spirit of the requirement. Members of the Committee wanted to know why the student was unable to take a two-credit course. What is the hardship involved? Others noted that, since many of the other grades were high, this seemed to be a case of someone who has difficulty with math/scientific reasoning. If we approve the petition, this student will graduate with a 2.51 GPA and 14 credits of D. Any student with a 2.0 and 12 credits of D would meet the graduation requirements. What are the distinctions? Is there a sense that the D limit is arbitrary? This is another issue needing further discussion.

3 <u>Authority of the Scholastic Committee Coordinator</u>: Now that both D. DeJager and K. Klinger have reviewed the 1994-2005 Scholastic Committee minutes, an extensive list of areas of empowerment will be shared with the Committee.