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Scholastic Committee, "Scholastic minutes 03/08/2005" (2005). *Scholastic Committee*. 252.
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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #13, March 8, 2005

The Scholastic Committee met on March 8 at 3:45 p.m. in the Behmler Conference Room. The next meeting will be March 22 in the same location. Nic McPhee (chair) asked the members to be prepared to meet weekly until the end of the term.

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

The minutes for February 22 were approved.

Petitions: McPhee talked with Roland Guyotte, campus parliamentarian and former Scholastic Committee chair, about whether a petition that has been rejected can be reconsidered. Guyotte suggested that each petition be presented for approval; the membership would either approve or reject it. We will follow this practice from now on.

#1146--Reconsideration of Request: To change the grade base from A/F to S/N after the two- week deadline. **Approved**

#1147--Waive the Humanities requirement of the GER based on completion of a two credit Philosophy directed study. **Approved**

#1148--Waive the Human Diversity requirement of the GER on the basis of completing substantial undesignated work in human diversity. **Approved.**

Quality of work (an issue emerging from the discussion of the D):

The standard practice for determining graduation eligibility found on the Senate Policy Web site states that *the cumulative GPA required for graduation shall be 2.00, and shall include all, and only, University course work* <<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/usen/policies.html>>. For many years, UMM has based its calculations for graduation on slightly different wording: *A student must earn at least a C (2.00) average in all course work that is applied to the B.A. degree and in the major or area of concentration* (catalog, p. 61). *All work* has been interpreted as including transfer work. The committee reviewed the Senate position together with our practice. Thielke explained the components of the “quality of work GPA” and how and when it is used. The “quality of work GPA” has been based at UMM on UM and transfer course work and includes up to 12 credits of D. The Committee voted to discontinue the practice of including transfer credits in the calculations for graduation. We will send the clarification of the practice to the Executive Committee to forward to the Campus Assembly for information.

We recommend that UMM come into compliance with the University policy: *the cumulative GPA required for graduation shall be 2.0 and shall include all, and only, University course work*. This will become effective for new students enrolling at UMM for the first time in Fall 2005.

We will also submit changes in wording for immediate inclusion in the on-line catalog. We also will ask that the catalog section discussing majors and areas of concentration state that a student must have a GPA of 2.0 or higher (as indicated by the discipline) in order for the student to graduate.

Continuation of discussion to limit the number of D's:

The Scholastic Committee is considering whether to recommend to the Assembly that we remove the limit on the number of credits of D applicable to the degree. With the change in the grading system and consequent changes in academic progress requirements, many more requirements have been placed on students' performance. Since the 2002, satisfactory academic progress for probation and suspension has

been based on a 2.0 term and cumulative GPA. Students whose grades fall far below a 2.0 are unable to remain at UMM. Other colleges of the University have dropped their D limits. It was noted that most UMM majors have their own D limits, and some, like Education, have a 2.5 GPA requirement. On the other hand, concern was expressed that, given the limited use of D's in the major, lifting the cap on D's would allow students to graduate with a very unsatisfactory record in the General Education Requirements. Students often struggle with GER courses more than with courses in the major. Explanatory materials were distributed as an attachment to the March 8 agenda. Illustrative GPA materials were prepared by the Registrar and distributed for review before the March 8 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.