

4-5-2005

Scholastic minutes 04/05/2005

Scholastic Committee

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Scholastic Committee, "Scholastic minutes 04/05/2005" (2005). *Scholastic Committee*. 249.
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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #16, April 5, 2005

The Scholastic Committee met on April 5 at 3:45 in the Behmler Conference Room. The next meeting will be April 12, same time and location.

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

1. The D report prepared by D. De Jager had been presented informally by the Chair at the previous meeting using notes she had jotted down. The number of students tallied as earning D grades should have included all D's earned, including the first 12 credits of D. Her written summary distributed with the April 5 agenda made this clear. Sixty three of 259 graduates had D's on their records. Only eight students had more than 12 credits of D, and only two of the eight had more than 20 credits of D.

2. Petition #1151 Allow the student to change the grade base in Hist 3451, VT: Facing West, from A/F to S/N after the deadline. **Approved.**

3. Support or eliminate the D limit: For several meetings, we have discussed the D grade. At the last meeting, the Chair had taken a straw vote giving the options of keeping the 12 credit limit or eliminating it. He wondered whether some members would have been satisfied with either choice. D. De Jager shared a Gen Ed exercise she had developed in which Gen Ed requirements were met either through exemption or through the allowable 12 credits of D. The inherent question: Why do we need a D limit? R. Thielke explained that the D limit was approved during a transition from a grading system of ABC/ No Record to the introduction of D grades. Members of the faculty were concerned about students digging holes they couldn't get out of. Others held that though the function was not to protect the quality of the D then, it appears to be the function now. The definition of D was read from the catalog. If a D is worthy of credit, why can't more than 12 credits be applied to the degree? The simplest solution, consistent with practice on other campuses, is not to limit D's.

3. Graduation based on one GPA: The committee had reached consensus in previous meetings that graduation should be based on a single GPA. It was moved, seconded and approved that we take to the Campus Assembly a recommendation that we use one GPA to determine graduation. However, as we reviewed the recommendation taken to the April 4th Campus Assembly to eliminate transfer credit from the graduation GPA, we saw that we had stated that *all and only* University of MN coursework would be the basis for graduation. *All* in this case includes D's. We already have established that the cumulative GPA including all D's will be the basis for determining graduation.

4. Action on the D issue: It was moved, seconded and approved to drop the D limit. McPhee, Thielke, Crandall, Strissel and Klinger will bring a draft for the Campus Assembly to the next meeting. K. Strissel requested that policies affecting students' performance be advertised widely. Putting together a joint publication or summary could involve the participation of Student Government, the Scholastic Committee, Financial Aid, the Registrar's Office and the AAC. A motion to this effect was made, seconded and tabled, to be discussed again. Strissel will find out how information is currently distributed and will prepare a proposal for committee review.

The meeting was adjourned.