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Scholastic minutes 03/28/2012

Scholastic Committee

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Minutes
Scholastic Committee 2011–12, Meeting #17
March 28, 2012

Members attending: Michelle Page, chair, Luciana Ranelli, Dennis Stewart, Steve Gross, Jen Zych Herrmann, Peh Ng, Hilda Ladner, Clare Dingley, Erin Christensen, Chad Braegelmann, Holly Gruntner, Tammy Berberi, guest Dean Bart Finzel, Judy Korn, executive staff, Absent: Allison Wolf, Dillon McBrady, Peter Wyckoff

1. March 21, 2012, minutes approved
2. Chair report
Chair sent Intellectual Community (IC) report to Curriculum Committee and Dean Finzel. Will be contacting Mark Fohl, athletic director, and Sandy Olson Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs, in preparation for the discussion on athletic competition during study days.
3. Finalization of nondegree student dismissal policy

Dismissal

Nondegree seeking students, including Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) and College in the Schools (CIS) students, are required to maintain a 2.50 cumulative and term grade point average in their University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) courses. Students who fall below this criterion will be prohibited from taking UMM courses (dismissed) for one semester. However, students may file a written appeal of the dismissal decision with the Scholastic Committee by the specified deadline. Typically, the strongest appeals are those in which students present documentation of extenuating circumstances beyond their control.

Credit Reduction and Drop-Down

Students who receive a grade of “C+” or lower, including a grade of “N”, in one or more courses or do not fulfill the terms of an academic contract, yet remain above the 2.5 GPA criterion, may be advised to decrease their enrollment during the following term at the discretion of the Scholastic Committee or its designees. It is important that students understand that the Scholastic Committee and its designees have the right and responsibility to act in what they believe to be the students’ and the program’s best interests.

Policy Implementation Notes

The Scholastic Committee empowers the coordinator of online learning, the coordinator of advising, and the director of admissions to advise and otherwise assist individual students regarding their status and progress and may be empowered to hear appeals. These designees will report to the Scholastic Committee on a yearly basis, summarizing decisions in which an exception to the above policy has been granted. Each academic year, the Scholastic Committee will appoint or reappoint designated individuals or offices related to this policy. This policy will be fully in effect fall 2012.

Motion made to approve. Second. Yes 8. No 1. Abstain 1. Motion passes.

4. Dean Finzel: writing requirement

The Dean shared background information to begin committee discussion. Last fall 2011, the Curriculum Committee (CC) initiated a discussion on general education requirements, including the writing expectations of the Morris campus. Faculty and student information gathered through forums and the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) survey information suggest the requirement could be more rigorous, and that there is a lack of writing requirements after the first year. CC discussed a variety of ways to improve the writing requirement, including a second course in the discipline or writing across the curriculum. The proposal from the English Discipline, the easiest and most direct path, is to require all students to complete a writing class regardless of prior college courses or AP, etc. Currently, about 300 entering students are required to complete college writing. About 150 or more are exempt from the college writing due to College in the Schools, transfer credits, etc. A significant number test out of college writing. The new policy is designed to shrink the number of students who do not need to take the writing requirement. The proposal, endorsed by CC, will come into effect if approved at all stages. In fall 2012, a new writing course will be in place, Writing in the Liberal Arts, that will include an information literacy component. All

students will be expected to take this course. English faculty will work with the transfer coordinator to determine which transfer courses might, if any, meet the criteria for exemption. The course will be unique to the general education requirement. Fundamentals of Writing 1001 will not change. Eng 1002 has already been discontinued. College Writing will not meet the new writing requirement.

The proposal is to immediately move the ACT exemption from a score of 27 up to a score of 29 as a transitional step. Writing faculty have been tracking the ACT data. During the last five years, students with an ACT greater than 27 number about 147. That number will shrink to 95 if raised to 29 or greater. The long range plan will be no ACT exemption, and all students will take the Writing for the Liberal Arts course.

The Dean noted that first-year students comprise 70 percent of on-campus College Writing students. Advanced students comprise 30 percent. PSEO students usually take the online course. We will try to add capacity to serve UMM students.

There won't be much change for high school students. Writing for the Liberal Arts should meet the high school writing requirement.

It is noted that there should be sections for nonEnglish speaking students, and also that Morris does not have writing courses across the curriculum.

The CC will begin a discussion of writing across the curriculum and/or a second writing course in January 2013.

Motion to support the transitional step of raising the ACT to 29. Second. Yes 10. No 0. Abstain 0.

Technically, exemptions are housed with Scholastic Committee. Should Scholastic Committee endorse a long term shift regarding College Writing? The Registrar notes that while the Writing Committee reviews AP scores and evaluates, the faculty come to the SC to justify the changes. SC oversees AP and IB articulations.

The Chair will communicate with the English faculty that we would like a report.

The committee is encouraged to begin "mulling over" the requests from Athletics and prepare for a discussion beyond this spring's request before the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Korn

