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11-4-2009

### Scholastic minutes 11/04/2009

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University of Minnesota, Morris Scholastic Committee  
Minutes #3, November 4, 2009

The Scholastic Committee met at 4:00 p.m. on November 4, 2009 in the Prairie Lounge.

Members present: Baker, Cole, Earl, Deane, Govada, J. Goodnough, Haugen, McQuarrie (Chair), Nellis, Pelletier, Privratsky, Schryver, Strand . Guests: Peh Ng, Bryan Herrmann

The Minutes of October 28 were approved.

High School Preparation Requirements

Peh Ng, the UMM representative to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) was asked to gauge UMM's response to the proposed increase in preparation requirements from three math courses to four math courses. She is seeking reaction to and, if possible, endorsement of the proposal. Minnesota Association of School Administrators voted in favor of raising the requirement, but are challenged to deliver. McMaster has stated that the University needs to offer ways to meet it.

Questions

1. Is it likely that UMTC will adopt the new requirement? Two or three colleges already do—IT, CBS, CSOM; it is likely to be approved campus-wide
2. What about MNSCU? It is being considered here, also, but only at 4-year institutions. MNSCU usually follows the University concerning these kinds of policies, but there is usually a lag of some years
3. Why? Four years of math in high school is a strong indicator of college success.
4. How many UMM new high school students (NHS) have four years of math? Self-reported data was provided from the ACT report.

Fall 2004	153/348 = 43%
Fall 2005	132/314 = 42%
Fall 2006	128/346 = 36%
Fall 2007	108/300 = 36%
5. How reliable is that data? Courses are not named; sequence of courses is different at different schools; content is combined differently. Not all students who take the ACT complete the questionnaire . However, the drop from 43% in 2004 to 36% in 2007 would have the same caveats, so there is a pattern of decreasing numbers of students taking 4 years of math.

Point of clarification: the University cannot “require” preparation from high school, the Admissions Officers can waive it. We currently admit students who do not have all requirements. We are required by federal regulations to check Rigorous High School preparation requirements.

While the current requirement is three years, exception is made for students with only two years. If the requirement moves to four years, exception will be made for students with only three years. Already students who do not have the equivalent of basic algebra cannot enroll in Chem 1101, and are one year behind for some degrees in the sciences.

Can we inform advisors that students with fewer than four years of math are less likely to graduate in four years, and flag the records of those students?

There may not be an obvious direct correlation; rather, the benefits of practiced reasoning skills may be more indirectly revealed in other disciplines.

The benefit is not having mastered the math concepts; rather, it is an indicator of having followed a college prep track all through high school.

If possible, UMM should follow University Senate guidelines. If our standard is lower, there is the appearance that UMM is less rigorous. If UMM decides to opt out of raising the number, that exception to the Senate policy needs to be stated in the policy.

Implementation would occur in 2013 or 2014, to allow high school students to prepare. There was discussion that prospective students would/would not be scared away by the requirement.

Motion (Cole/Goodnough) To endorse the proposal to raise to four the number of math courses for high school preparation requirements. Motion passed. The chair will communicate to Peh Ng, to the Chancellor, and to the Dean.

### Petitions

In the past, the Secretary of the Scholastic Committee met with international students during their orientation and outlined policies that were germane, including the administrative waiver of International Perspectives and Foreign Language if from a non-English speaking country (found on p. 56 of the *UMM Catalog*). That part of orientation no longer occurs.

#1190—Waive the Historical Perspectives requirement of the GER. Approved based on institutional responsibility.

**Motion** (Goodnough/Schryver): The Scholastic Committee authorized the Executive Staff to administratively approve petitions that meet the following conditions:

- the petitioner was a new high school student from China asking to waive the Historical Perspectives requirement of the GER
- The student took Hist 1501 in fall 2009 before the waiver of the International Perspectives requirement was processed.

Motion passed.

The Registrar stated that she has a plan to prevent this from recurring.

The Committee will meet on November 11 at 4:00 in the Prairie Lounge.