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Scholastic minutes 11/11/2009

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris Scholastic Committee
Minutes #4, November 11, 2009

The Scholastic Committee met at 4:00 p.m. on November 11, 2009 in the Prairie Lounge.

Members present: K.Baker, C.Cole, A.Earl, J.Deane, J.Goodnough, S.Haugen, D.Magner, B.McQuarrie (Chair), J.Nellis, J.Pelletier, Matt Privratsky, A.Raymond, C. Strand . Guest: Gwen Rudney

The Minutes of November 4 were approved.

Announcements/Reports

Clare Strand reported that international students are placed in a student group when they are admitted. The Executive Staff of Scholastic has been invited to meet with international students during their orientation to inform them of policies governed by the committee, including the foreign language and international perspectives waivers, and the process to receive the waivers. Confirmation of their status will be through the student group INTL.

A. Earl, K. Baker, J. Pelletier, J. Deane, and J. Goodnough (convenor) were appointed to the Academic Integrity subcommittee.

Petition #1191—Waive the Historical Perspectives requirement of the GER. Following the guidelines stated by the committee last week, the petition was administratively approved based on institutional responsibility.

The Executive Staff was authorized to approve two requests to add a one-credit second-semester class after the essential deadline due to institutional responsibility. Incoming freshmen received conflicting messages concerning the recommended number of credits to take their first semester. Advisors were not aware of the change to the Minnesota State Grant (currently named *Achieve*) from an annual 30-credit completion requirement to a 15-credit term requirement. The committee decided that there was sufficient institutional responsibility to warrant approving these requests, providing the student obtains the instructor's signature and processes the registration immediately. The Assistant Dean is aware that further communication to advisors and students about the *Achieve* criteria is necessary. Because it is already the third week of the 7.5-week term, similar requests submitted in the future will be denied. Affected students would still have the option of adding a directed study (that deadline is the last day of instruction).

The committee unanimously endorsed the Chair's draft of the recommendation concerning the admin XO representative. The recommendation (below) will be sent to the Dean.

There are two possible purposes that the admin XO representative on SC could effectively serve:

- Assist with continuity of the SC, in terms of having more depth of understanding of policy and past decisions that the SC has made, and provide that perspective during SC meetings.
- Act as a liaison between the campus administration and SC, especially with offices such as Admissions, Retention, The Chancellor's Office, The Dean, UMM senate reps (the SCEP rep is a member of the committee in the proposed constitution, but other senators such as SAIC (academic integrity) spring to mind). The Chair will of course continue to act as an important liaison, but this would also help manage the workload of the Chair.

In either of the tasks above, the office or person holding this position should serve for a number of years to be most effective. They will need to acquire or already possess a deep understanding of Scholastic

policy. Ideally, they would be aware of initiatives that affect SC arising across campus, and also be aware of what it means for staff to implement policy. The admin XO representative on SC position offers the campus a somewhat unique opportunity for campus members to gain valuable experience in campus governance.

Given the above criteria, the following are the SC recommendations for admin XO position *in ranked order*:

- 1) **Assistant Dean.** Since the Assistant Dean is involved in implementing some of the policies coming from SC, is involved in decisions coming from other offices (such as retention, advising, etc.), this would be a natural choice.
- 2) **Recent Outgoing SC Chair.** Although the outgoing chair would be able to provide additional continuity, logistics may make this choice unfeasible (they may have other commitments in the year(s) following serving as SC Chair). The outgoing chair should be considered, however, since serving as the admin representative could provide valuable experience for (and from!) the Outgoing Chair that would be beneficial to the campus long term.
- 3) **Someone who has just finished a 4 year term on SC and would like more campus governance experience,** but is not going to be SC Chair the following year.
- 4) **A potential future SC Chair,** if they have been a member of SC but are not currently a member of SC.

Gwen Rudney presented the UMM Learning Outcomes draft document, and gathered responses of the committee members. Responses addressed the measurability of the goals, questioned the appropriateness of categories 3 and 4, and the need to rephrase some headings that appeared to be subjective rather than objective. Rudney will share members' responses with the Curriculum Committee subcommittee on learning outcomes.

The Committee will meet on November 18 at 4:00 in the Prairie Lounge.