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University of Minnesota, Morris Scholastic Committee
Minutes #5, November 18, 2009

The Scholastic Committee met at 4:00 p.m. on November 18, 2009 in the Prairie Lounge.
Members present: K.Baker, C.Cole, A.Earl, J.Goodnough, M.Govada, S.Haugen, D.Magner,
B.McQuarrie (Chair), J.Nellis, Matt Privratsky, A.Raymond. Guest: J. Ratliff-Crain

The Minutes of November 11 were approved.

For Information

- The meeting scheduled for November 25 has been CANCELED.
- The Executive Staff administratively approved two requests to add a one-credit second-semester class after the essential deadline due to institutional responsibility, as directed by the committee last week.
- The chair forwarded to the Dean the recommendation for the admin XO representative, but no response has been received as yet.
- Please forward your spring class schedule to the Executive Staff.
- SCEP has completed the review of University Senate policies; the Registrar has been asked to review UMM policies. A group has been formed to begin that process, with the intent to bring a preliminary report to the committee for reaction next semester.

Jenn Goodnough presented the Fall 2008-Spring 2009 summary of Academic Alert/Midterm Alert and a brief history of the alert systems.

- Academic Alert was developed as a pilot by UMM Scholastic Committee in 2004, and has been in place since. Academic Alerts can be submitted during the entire term, can be submitted multiple times, can come from faculty or advisors, and allow advice and intervention. Academic Alert staff notify the student via email, with a copy of the notification to the advisor. Triage was initiated to address more serious problems and to make it possible for the advisor (not always the person with whom the student has forged a link), to turn over the issue to the office or person best able to help the student.
- Midterm Alert is the all-university system that allows an instructor to submit only one alert per student, during a three-week window each term. The student receives an automated notice of low performance.
- The university has been working on combining the best features of Academic Alert and Midterm Alert into one system to provide better tracking.
- The alert systems have built an expectation that they will receive an alert if their performance is low: no alert = no problem. However, not all faculty send alerts—some use other means to communicate low performance. Faculty who do not send alerts are encouraged to state that in their syllabi.
- Processing academic alerts is labor intensive, and at present faculty volunteer as coordinator and triage members. Although the information provided is used by many campus groups, no group is responsible for staffing the program. Consequently, there is little stability.

The committee reviewed the raw data in the summary, and will condense it into a form that can be useful to other offices/agencies. It will be presented to the Assembly and posted on the website.