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Scholastic minutes 02/17/2010

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris Scholastic Committee
Minutes #11, February 17, 2010

The Scholastic Committee met at 9:15:00 a.m. on February 17, 2010 in the Behmler Conference Room. Members present: C.Cole, J.Deane, A.Earl, J.Goodnough, S. Haugen, B. Mcquarrie (Chair), J.Nellis, J.Pelletier, J.Ratliff-Crain, A.Raymond, J. Schryver.

1. The Minutes of February 11 were approved.

2. Announcements:

- The chair has invited volunteers for a small group to review and present data from Academic Alert. Ideally, the subgroup would include Jenn Goodnough and Jess Larson (as Academic Alert coordinators last year) plus one student and one faculty from Scholastic.

3. University Senate policy discussion: Credit and Grade Point Requirements for an Undergraduate Degree (6. copied below). *Committee comments are printed in italics.*

6. Limits on use of S/N grades (see the Grading and Transcripts Policy for definitions of S and N).

a) The maximum number of S/N credits allowed to a student is 25% of University of Minnesota credits counted toward the degree (from any campus). *UMM is in compliance.*

b) [Twin Cities and Morris only] No unit will allow S/N grading in major course work unless the S/N grading system is preset by the unit for specific courses. *Examples of preset grading systems in various UMM majors were cited (primarily internships). Scholastic Committee affirms compliance, since it does not restrict current discipline practice. This will result in no bracketed exception for any campuses, since Crookston accepted the updated policies in December 2009.*

c) [Twin Cities and Morris only] For a student who completes only the minimum number of 30 credits at the University, no more than 8 of the 30 credits may be taken S/N. *UMM is in compliance. This will result in no bracketed exception for any campuses, since Crookston accepted the updated policies in December 2009.*

d) [Twin cities and Morris only] Subject to the overall University policy contained in (a), above, colleges, campuses, and programs may specify what courses or proportion of courses taken by its students or its prospective students must be on the A-F or S-N grading system. *Scholastic Committee affirms compliance. This will result in no bracketed exception for any campuses, since Crookston accepted the updated policies in December 2009.*

4. Credit limitation for students on Probation

Discussion of probation enrollment limits had been postponed in order to collect data based on the number of credits in the probationary term. . Interpretation of the collected data has been affected by some constraints:

1. Limited enrollment does not occur in the term immediately following PB
2. Data does not reveal a one-time performance lag based on specific events versus a pattern of low performance
3. 3-4 years are needed to track patterns
4. Effectiveness of restrictions based on probationary status comes back to advising.

The draft proposal below was discussed. It applies best to students who are on their second semester of probation, since the enrollment maximum can be enforced.

1. 12-16 credit range
2. To exceed the maximum range, student completes a form for approval by Scholastic Committee
3. The form requires the student to list the courses that fall within the range, then to list the course that is proposed to exceed the range
4. The form requires the student to state the reason(s) for exceeding the range
5. The deadline for submitting the form is the last day of class during the term before the classes are to be taken.

Questions/Issues

1. Who is the appropriate gatekeeper? Currently the faculty advisor approved exceeding the maximum enrollment, because advisors are probably the best judge of the students capabilities.
2. Faculty know the student appropriate loads of courses in their disciplines, but not necessarily across disciplines.
3. It is important for the student to go through the process of determining a “good” enrollment.
4. It is the responsibility of the advisor to give the best information they have, but not to say “no.”
5. Who is responsible for a “bad” enrollment?
6. Timing is an issue; if the committee hears petitions to exceed the maximum, the decision may be too late to adjust the student’s schedule. If the request arrives between terms, the committee is not in session.
7. The advisor must remain in the process.
8. Would requiring contracts from students placed on probation each term address the issues?
9. Perhaps Scholastic Committee representatives could meet with faculty during a division meeting to inform faculty of some of the issues.