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Scholastic minutes 09/08/2008

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #1

The Scholastic Committee met on September 8, 2008 in IH 202. Members present:
D. DeJager, B. McQuarrie (Chr), L. Meek (Secy), D. Magner, J. Nellis, J. Pelletier, A. Raymond, J. Schryver, C. Strand

Guest: J. Goodnough

1. Introductions.

2. J. Goodnough, the Coordinator of Academic Alert, asked the committee for input on the question of whether, under the new upgrade to the all–University alert system, advisors at UMM still need to be notified that an alert had been generated for their advisee. She and the Registrar (Strand) are meeting with the IT people in charge of this upgrade next week, and needed to present compelling reasons why this feature is necessary for UMM (otherwise it will not be included in the upgrade). Committee members presented a number of reasons, all of which were combined into a memo by the Secretary and sent to the Registrar. These reasons consisted of:

- Advisors will want it since this is the most timely and efficient use of their time; few advisors, even good ones, are likely to consistently check on line for alerts sent to their advisees.

-Advisors are an integral part of the ‘safety net’ used at UMM to monitor students’ mental, physical and academic health. Losing their input to the Alert system, and the alert systems’ input back to advisors would leave a large gap in this monitoring system.

-Advisors are at the forefront of our retention efforts, and Academic Alert is our major retention tool. Advisor input to the alert system and information back to advisors from the alert system is of paramount importance for retention of students who are experiencing any kind of difficulty.

-Communication with advisors can become part of the paper trail that indicates to parents/guardians and others the efforts the University has made to help a student.

3. The Chair shared some of the history and culture of the committee, including who makes it up and the roles the Executive Assistant, Secretary, Chair and committee members play. The oversight of the committee was reviewed (academic policy, general education and graduation, academic alert, deadlines, admissions, transfer credit, functions and awards, advising, granting exceptions to policy, suspension and probation).

4. Forming the Academic Integrity Subcommittee was deferred, since no students were present and two new members of the committee remain to be appointed.

5. The focus of new business for the coming year will be on Admissions. The Chair and the Secretary have collaborated on data acquisition and a compilation of questions to ask Admissions about practices, procedures and this year’s incoming NHS, NAS and International students. This data will be presented to the committee and priorities about questions determined by the committee.

6. The Registrar, Strand, requested that the committee review new commencement policy she will be proposing and that the committee take it to Assembly once it is approved.

7. A suggestion was made that UMM's representative to SCEP should be added to the committee's list serve.

The committee was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at noon in IH 202.