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Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #6, 10/14/2008

The Scholastic Committee met on 10/14/2008, in IH 202. Members present:

C. Cole, J. Deane, D. DeJager, S. Haugen, B. McQuarrie (Chr), L. Meek (Secy), J. Nellis, A. Raymond, J.Schryver, C. Strand.

Guests: J. Z. Herrmann (Assoc. Director of Admissions, J. Morales (Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Enrollment), P. Ng (UMM SCEP Representative), J. Ratliff-Crain (Asst. Dean).

1. Minutes from 10/6/08 were approved.

2. There was a discussion of the transfer students admitted for fall 08.

Underlying issues of concern were identified by the chair:

- A. Communication with the campus about practices and procedures.
- B. Ways to make the process work better.
- C. Oversight on some specific decisions and also justification about why some decisions are made.
- D. What is the pool of students available to us? If we are taking more conditional admits, should we implement a policy that they come in on probation, so that if they do not do well, they can be suspended after their first semester here?
- E. If the quality of students we accept is decreasing, are we making a decision to become a remedial school without ever having that discussion as a campus? Or should we decide to keep quality high, but accept that we will be a smaller campus?

Discussion of pool: Transfers are contacted/attracted differently than NHS. J. Herrmann travels to college fairs and community colleges and talks to potential transfers. One problem UMM has is that we do not have articulation agreements worked out with community colleges, but other 4 year colleges do. Thus, recruiters from other colleges can simply hand potential transfers information about how their transfer courses will be used in the Gen Ed and in the majors, while no such information is available for UMM. Admissions thinks articulation agreements are a very important aspect of attracting transfers, but UMM currently does not have the resources to compile and maintain them, although their importance has been conveyed to the Chancellor and the campus as a whole. It was also pointed out that our Admissions website is not very transfer-friendly.

One question that arose was why we admit suspended students, since this year we admitted two students who were suspended from IT on the Minneapolis campus. One student was admitted because of high ACT scores and a good interview. The criteria for admission of the second student were not discussed. It was noted that it is a Twin Cities Campus policy that if you are suspended from any U of MN Twin Cities college, you cannot attend another for one year. This suggests that UMM may wish to put a similar policy in place.

In response to a question about whether Admissions is given quotas they must fulfill, we were told that they have 'goals' and the goal this year was 100 transfer and 400 NHS students.

The committee asked Admissions to be more communicative with the campus about their practices and procedures, especially since there is some feeling on campus that Admissions brings in the students but then has no responsibility for them. Admissions replied that they are trying to be true to our standards and bring in the best class they can for us. One question they have is why our admits are up (@1100) but we only brought in a class of 374 NHS for fall 08. Something is more attractive about other campuses and they do not know what it is.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Nov. 3, 2008, at 1:00 in IH 202.