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Scholastic minutes 01/30/2008

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #6, 1/30/2008

The Scholastic Committee met on 1/30/2008, in IH 217. Members present: B. McQuarrie (Chr), S. Boyd, JDeane, D DeJager, K GonierKlopfleisch, S Haugen, L Hedquist, J Jost. L Meek (Sec'y), J Schryver, T Soderberg, , T Sommers, C Strand

1. Approval of minutes: Approval of Minutes # 5 from December 3rd was deferred until the next meeting.

2. Petition: #1180--Waive the Fine Arts category of the General Education Requirements based on completing a research project focused on folk music. Approved

3. Maximum credit limit policy: The practice in the Registrar's office, dating back to quarters, has been to limit students to a maximum of 20 credits (including on-line registration) and discussing with students the ramifications of taking more than 20 credits: 1) taking up space in courses that other students may wish to take, 2) the workload may be too much for students and 3) before the tuition plateau of 13 credits was put in place, any credits over 20 would have cost extra tuition. Most students who want to take more than 20 credits are music students or students who are close to graduation. Currently, the Registrar's office cannot deny students the chance to register for more than 20 credits, they can only counsel students as to the feasibility of doing so.

The Interim Registrar asked the committee for two decisions:

- 1) Whether UMM needs an official policy for maximum credits (all other UMN campuses have an enforceable maximum).
- 2) Determine the process whereby students receive permission to register for more than the maximum.

Proposed Policy

To adopt the same enrollment limit that is in effect at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities:

Statement of Standard Undergraduate Academic Policies and Practices
(effective Fall Semester, 1999)

*The maximum number of **credits** per semester for which a student will be allowed to enroll without approval is 20. Scholastic Committee approval is required for a student to enroll for 21 or more **credits** in a semester.*

Rationale:

Current UMM practice is max 20, but there is no policy. The tuition band (15-20 credits for the same tuition amount) has changed to an all-University policy of a single tuition rate for 13 or more credits, but there is no enrollment ceiling as yet.

Adopting the same policy would provide consistency for multi-University student enrollments.

Students are expected to invest 3 hours per week for each credit: 20 credits x 3 hours = 60 hours. This rule of thumb is for an average student to earn a C in each class.

This is an academic progress issue. Some students may be able to successfully complete more than 20 credits. Most, however, would find it difficult to commit more than 60 hours to attending classes and doing homework.

A 20 credit maximum was approved, with the Scholastic Committee as the oversight body. The committee grants the Registrar permission to deny or approve such requests, however if a student is denied, they may appeal the decision via petition to the Scholastic Committee.

This change will be submitted to the Executive Committee to determine whether it should go to Assembly for information or for action.

4. Residency Requirement:

SCEP and the University Senate passed the following all-University residency requirement 9/29/05:

(1) To be eligible for a University of Minnesota undergraduate degree, a student must present at least 30 semester credits awarded by the University of Minnesota campus from which he or she is seeking to graduate.

(2) Students must complete at least half of upper division major work on the campus from which they are seeking to graduate.

(3) At least 15 credits of the last 30 credits earned prior to the awarding of a University degree must be awarded by the University of Minnesota campus from which a student is seeking to graduate.

(4) For students who seek an academic minor, to be eligible for record of a minor on the University of Minnesota transcript, students must take at least three upper division credits in the minor field at the campus from which they will receive their degree.

A student's college or campus may, under extraordinary circumstances, waive the requirements in sections 2, 3, and 4, above, but not section 1.

All credit awarded by the University, regardless of the type of instruction, shall count toward the credit requirements for the degree.

Interpretation by the Senate Committee on Educational Policy: This policy, revised in the spring of 2005, will apply to incoming students beginning in the fall of 2005.

UMM currently implements items one, three and four, but not two. The discussion centered on the problem of students coming to UMM with most of a major completed, and whether or not policy should be in place to prevent those students from claiming a UMM degree in that major. Currently, only the French discipline explicitly states UMM credit requirements for the major, all other majors decided on a case by case basis how many transfer credits they will accept towards completion of the major. Also, the problem of oversight of non-UMM credits in interdisciplinary majors and areas of concentration was brought up. The discussion will be taken up again at the next meeting on Feb. 6th.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting Feb 6th, IM 217.