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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #10, Feb 15, 2007

The Scholastic Committee met at 12:00 P.M. on Feb. 15, 2007 in Imholte 217.

Members Present: J. Anderson, D. De Jager (Ex. Assistant), S. Haugen, J. Goodnough K. Gonier-Klopfliesch, B. McQuarrie, N. McPhee (Chair), L. Meek (Secretary), J. Schryver, C. Strand (Interim Registrar), J. Wencl.

Guest: B. Boever, Interim Director of Advising

1. Dan Magner was announced as the replacement on the committee for Ken Crandall.
2. James Morales, Assoc. Vice Chancellor of Enrollment, will no longer attend the meetings since he will be leaving UMM shortly.
3. The minutes from Feb. 8 were approved.
4. The Ex. Assistant revealed the new web page to the committee. Added features include: 1) policy to be brought to Assembly for approval; 2) new reports for Fall 06 on various groups of students; 3) policies and their implementation dates; 4) a student page with information for students on what to do when dropping classes, after suspension, or after probation.
5. The committee discussed some new initiatives in advising. Under discussion was the creation of:
 - 1) A mentoring program for advisors.
 - 2) The creation of 'super advisors', advisors in each division that others could use as a resource.
 - 3) Whether (and how) advising can become more important in consideration of salary/tenure/promotion.

Currently, an advising questionnaire is given to graduating seniors. When 5 or more of the forms have accumulated, they are given to the advisor. It was suggested that a similar questionnaire could be given to students when they change their advisors, since presumably, students may be changing because they are dissatisfied. If the form is given only to seniors, they will be evaluating their last advisor, with whom they presumably were satisfied. In general, the senior advising questionnaires tend to be positive, while feedback from the registrar's office and a survey done by the Career Center indicate that early advising experiences tend to be more negative (for freshmen and sophomores), and that this is at least partly due to freshmen not knowing what to expect or underutilizing advisors. The Advising Office is planning on developing an Advising Template which advisors could give out to students so that they would know:

1) expectations of students; 2) expectation of the advisor; 3) FAQs. It was also suggested that upperclassmen could be used as mentors for incoming freshmen and that this relationship would work closely with the advising relationship. It was also suggested that UMM needs to make sure that students are getting the appropriate feedback in the first two weeks of classes so that they are sure that they are in the right classes and know that they can switch classes during that time.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be on Feb 22nd, in Imholte 217.