

10-13-2015

Scholastic minutes 10/13/2015

Scholastic Committee

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Scholastic Committee
2015-16 Academic Year
9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2015, Moccasin Flower
Meeting Five Approved Minutes

Present: Steve Gross (chair), Judy Korn, Leslie Meek, Brenda Boever, Jennifer Goodnough, Dan Magner, Merc Chasman, Ray Schultz, Jennifer Rothchild, Madeline Youakim, Edison Yellick

Absent: Mike Vandenberg

- 1. Approve minutes of September 29, 2015, meeting**
Minutes approved with change.
- 2. Chair's Report**
No report
- 3. SCEP Report**
The Timely Graduation policy will be discussed at tomorrow's (10/14/2015) SCEP meeting.
- 4. AP Psychology scores recommendation, Leslie Meek**

Notes provided by Leslie Meek:

Meek heard in May 2015 from Jonathan Gewirtz, Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Chair for Curriculum and Instruction for the Twin Cities Psychology Department. He said that the TC, beginning with fall 2014, now requires an AP Psychology score of 4 or 5 to receive credit for their Introductory Psychology Class, Psy 1001. They no longer accept a 3, since they believe it to be "inadequate preparation for more advanced psychology course work." Thus, this means that students who transfer from UMM and who received an AP score of 3 and credit for Introductory Psychology, Psy 1051 on the UMM campus, will be "required to enroll in Psy 1001: Introduction to Psychology on the Twin Cities campus upon transferring." Further communication with Thomas Brothen, the Psychology Department Curriculum Committee Chair, indicated that the 16 students with an AP score of 3 who took his fall 2014 Introductory Psychology course, while scoring similarly on ACT, High School GPA and College GPA, scored slightly, but not significantly, lower on exams and final grades than the rest of the class (n~1000), and, in his words, "their AP score conferred no advantage for them in the course."

The Psychology Discipline at Morris met on 8/19/15 and voted unanimously to raise the AP score needed to substitute for Psy 1051 to 4 to match that of the Twin Cities.

Meek provided a list of AP Psychology scores required at Minnesota schools and out-of-state schools. The trend that appears to be happening is schools requiring an AP Psychology score of 4 or higher. Morris would like to get ahead of this trend and move to requiring a score of 4 or higher to receive credit for Introduction to Psychology, Psy 1051. If students receive a score of 3, they will still earn SS (Human Behavior, Social Processes, and Institutions) general education credit, but not substitution for Psy 1051. Students can still petition if they feel they have earned proficiency for Psy 1051.

The change to the AP Psychology credit awarded is similar to Morris' General Chemistry and Calculus AP credit awarded. The University is not bound by legislature to award credit for a score of 3 like the MNSCU universities and colleges.

It is believed that private institutions are moving towards requiring a score of 4 or 5 because they are tuition-based and that would require more students to enroll in the class.

Introduction to Psychology is required for the MCAT exam but not for medical school. What should advisers recommend to our pre-med students who have earned a score of 3 on their AP Psychology exam? Should they take Psy 1051? If a score of 3 has been found to be inadequate preparation, advisers don't want to give students a false sense of preparedness for the MCAT.

Over the past three years, 11 students have scored a 3 on their AP Psychology exam. Most of those students used their AP score to earn SS general education credit; few students continued to take psychology courses. Only 1 of those students with a score of 3 went on to be a psychology major.

Would the high school students who have taken the exam and whose scores are already in our database be grandfathered in? Would those students receive credit for Introduction to Psychology when they were admitted?

Yes, they would receive credit for Psy 1051 because the new transfer rule in the database will be date ranged. The date range would reflect the change with AP Psychology exams taken starting January 1, 2016 needing a score of 4 or 5 to earn substitution for Introduction to Psychology, Psy 1051. AP Psychology exams taken before January 2016 would be grandfathered in and a score of 3 or above would earn substitution for Psy 1051.

SC agreed that the new AP Psychology score requirement should take place fall 2016 even though the next Admissions cycle of recruitment has already begun. Judy Korn volunteered to speak with the Admissions counselors to inform them of the new AP requirement.

Few students looking to take the exam in 2016 may have been previously informed of the current rule, but it should not be an issue. It was suggested that the AP Chart be dated to reflect the change. The chart could state the information was used for the year prior and is tentative for the following year.

The change to the AP credit awarded could negatively impact a student's decision to enroll at Morris, but the number of students it will affect is very small.

Members believe advisers should advise their students to take Introduction to Psychology if the student is planning on majoring in psychology. Introduction to Psychology will better prepare students for upper division courses.

If students take Introduction to Psychology and they have already earned credit for the course through the AP exam, students will lose their AP credit.

AP instruction is not all equal and does not compare to college professor's instruction. Students who do not take Introduction to Psychology also miss out on introductory research opportunities.

In high school, AP psychology is covered in a whole year, whereas at Morris it is covered in 15 weeks. Within that 15 week timeframe, students are asked to perform a lot of out-of-class work which involves an introduction to college-level responsibilities.

SC motioned and approved changing the AP Psychology credit awarded. A score of 3 earns 4 credits of general education and satisfies the SS general education requirement. A score of 4 or 5 for exams taken starting January 1, 2016 earns substitution for Introduction to Psychology , Psy 1051, 4 credits and satisfies the SS general education requirement.

Edison Yellick volunteered to bring this decision to the Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA) forum at their next meeting.

5. Timely graduation policy discussion continues from September 29 meeting

Jennifer Goodnough provided an update regarding the Timely Graduation policy. She noted that the Frequently Asked Question no longer states anything about administratively clearing students with double majors.

The policy now states that the University has the authority to administratively clear students for graduation but does not state they are going to require clearing students. The policy group has moved away from pushing degree clearance. The policy is directed more at students who have completed their degrees and are delaying graduation rather than seeking out these students.

On the financial aid side of the policy, students would stop receiving aid once they were eligible to be cleared for graduation, but discipline coordinators and administrators at Morris are not required to administratively clear a student for graduation. Korn provided the Financial Aid meeting minutes for discussion. The Twin Cities campus stated it will enforce the policy. Morris will continue to do things the way we've been doing them. Financial aid stated students will receive financial aid up to 180 credits. Morris will continue individually working with students to help them graduate.

The Twin Cities campus has more students delaying graduation because some are waiting to be accepted into a major. Morris students that are delaying graduation are seeking more education or an educational experience. Bonnie Gulbrandson in the Office of the Registrar keeps track of Morris' delayed graduates and contacts them every year/semester.

Goodnough asked if at the next SCEP meeting she should confirm that in six months Morris will not be forced to enforce the new policy. Members believed it was best not to ask the question.

Brenda Boever mentioned that Morris did not have any students that were close to being out of compliance in regards to the "Declaring a Major" portion of the policy. Morris has one new advanced standing student, but advanced standing students have until their second semester to declare a major.

Korn was asked to confirm whether a student's GPA was locked after graduation and where this information is noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Senger
Office of the Registrar