

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Scholastic Committee

Campus Governance

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3-8-2016

### Scholastic minutes 03/08/2016

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**Scholastic Committee  
2015-16 Academic Year  
March 8, 2016**

**Meeting Eighteen Approved Minutes**

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

**Absent:** Jennifer Goodnough, Ray Schultz, Yujing Song

**1. Approve minutes of February 23, 2016, meeting**

Minutes approved.

**2. Chair's Report**

Steve Gross announced that Leslie Meek has agreed to serve as the Scholastic Committee chair next year as Gross will be away spring semester 2017.

**3. SCEP Report**

No report.

**4. Review Credit Maximum Policy doc**

Scholastic Committee reviewed the proposed Credit Maximum Policy document and made suggestions for changes/additions. Judy Korn agreed to make the suggested changes and send the document to members for review via email.

**5. Moodle and APLUS discussion**

Faculty members raised concerns about the new academic alert pilot program currently being developed by the A-Plus team in the Twin Cities. Faculty who use Moodle Gradebook are being recruited to facilitate the development of this function in Moodle. The A-Plus team is looking at integration of this new function for the fall 2016 semester. However, Merc Chasman who was recruited for the program was told it was a pre-study and the new function was not being integrated yet.

Questions and concerns identified during discussion:

- Faculty are being recruited via email. Can developers see who is using Moodle Gradebook? Can they see a student's grades? What are students' rights in regards to FERPA? The A-Plus team originates from the College of Liberal Arts so SC must trust they know a student's FERPA rights. However, grades are part of FERPA and therefore Student Records should be made aware of what is going on in A-Plus.
- The automatic alert could potentially be sent without faculty involvement, perhaps based on the student's grades entered in Moodle Gradebook. With an automatic alert a faculty member cannot address the concern. Members would prefer the function to be a tool that would auto populate grades into an alert message, but not a modification that could automatically send an alert.
- The potential automatic alert sent from Moodle would be inappropriate for some students. Not all instructors enter grades the same way. Therefore, a student may receive an alert because he/she has not had all their grades entered.
- Is Moodle Gradebook going to be forced upon all faculty? Some members don't like the fact that because others are not using the current alert system they are going to have authority over alerts taken away from them. The contract with the current alert system vendor is coming to an end and advisers will be using A-Plus for alerts.

- Will the alerts be stored anywhere? The new function would replace the current system.
- Is it an issue that the technology can do this so let's use it? No, the functionality does not yet exist. It is being developed in response to poor use of the current alert system and the contract expiring. Judy Korn wondered if the A-Plus team knows that Mid-term alerts in the Faculty Center are being "linked" to Moodle. Did the A-Plus team explore the possibility of using Faculty Center functionality?
- Is this a Twin Cities initiative because they have mandatory alerts for lower division courses? Is it for compliance? No, the Twin Cities has good compliance through PeopleSoft. Morris initiated a conversation about using A-Plus for alerts in response to the Pharos contract not being renewed.

Questions for Jennifer Herrmann:

- Total transparency. Faculty ought to know who has access to see when they go in to Moodle.
- What percentage of faculty are using Moodle?
- Will we be having this conversation next year about making it mandatory?
- Did the A-Plus team consider using PeopleSoft functionality related to Moodle?
- What was the conversation/discussion behind this issue?
- Are faculty who currently use Moodle Gradebook being monitored?

## 6. **Retention discussion**

Members reflected on the Retention presentation provided by Jennifer Herrmann and agreed that SC should be more proactive in requesting certain kinds of data from Retention, Academic Integrity, and Study Abroad presentations.

SC also agreed to be more direct in following up after presentations.

Gross shared that he loses some advisees due to factors not related to academics. He suggested having a conversation with Student Counseling regarding non-academic factors affecting students and if appropriate interventions exist.

Is information from housing, athletics, and advising shared and brought together to find a solution? Does the alert group still exist?

Brenda Boever commented that the new Lead Success Coordinator will review comments in A-Plus from multiple departments for all students to find patterns and address concerns. A-Plus is a cumulative record intended to provide a holistic view of a student's collegiate journey. Your role at the University will determine which comments are available to you in A-Plus.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Senger  
Office of the Registrar