

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Scholastic Committee

Campus Governance

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4-26-2016

### Scholastic minutes 04/26/2016

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**Scholastic Committee  
2015-16 Academic Year  
April 26, 2016  
Meeting Twenty-four Approved Minutes**

**Present:** Steve Gross (chair), Emma Kloos, Judy Korn, Brenda Boever, Merc Chasman, Ray Schultz, Dan Magner, Leslie Meek, and Jennifer Goodnough

**Absent:** Jennifer Rothchild, Joseph Beaver, Edison Yellick, Madeline Youakim, and Yujing Song

**1. Approve minutes of April 5, 2016**

Members agreed to provide suggestions for corrections via Google Docs and Scholastic Committee will review the minutes again at the following SC meeting.

**Approve minutes of April 12, 2016**

Members agreed to provide suggestions for corrections via Google Docs and SC will review the minutes again at the following SC meeting.

**Approve minutes of April 19, 2016**

Members agreed to provide suggestions for corrections via Google Docs and SC will review the minutes again at the following SC meeting.

**2. Chair's Report**

There may be a petition for an IC exemption next week. The committee will review the new IC petition procedure discussed in last week's meeting.

**3. SCEP Report**

Jennifer Goodnough, Morris representative to the U-wide Standing Committee on Educational Policy, provided an overview of a recent SCEP discussion on a news item from the *Minnesota Daily* asking professors to save finals for finals week. The University stresses that faculty not move their final exams and is considering responding to the newspaper with a statement supporting students.

Goodnough mentioned the Twin Cities mandated enrollment plan at Campus Assembly and was informed that the Chancellor is aware of the plan. However, there was no mention of any collaboration with other committees and departments on the enrollment plan.

No agenda has been provided for the next SCEP meeting, but Judy Korn informed the committee that SCEP will be discussing the Campus Specific Credit Requirements for an Undergraduate Degree policy. The Twin Cities is preparing for more certificate programs and is suggesting requiring three credits from the awarding institution to complete a certificate, similar to the requirements for a minor.

**4. Foreign Language discussion continued**

Members agreed to continue the foreign language discussion while the language faculty are rethinking their proposal. A brief conversation with the constitutional group revealed that there is nothing in the constitution that mandates a path for proposals coming out of any particular discipline or committee. Members agreed there ought to be a clear path on how proposals are brought up at Campus Assembly. Members believe there should be procedures in place that mandate consultation with committees in corresponding areas. The Steering Committee should always be consulted as it is their responsibility to apprise appropriate committees and to promote

communication and coordination among committees. SC would like to invite the Steering Committee to apprise them of SC concerns regarding the proposed World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (WLLC) requirement, and also to explain the SC's responsibilities. It was noted that the purview authorized by Campus Assembly to the SC may be interpreted differently by different people.

Members feel there may be a need to review general education requirements since UMM has not accomplished a review of general education requirements since semester conversion.

Members agreed that if the foreign language requirement is changing, there needs to be a conversation about implementation and a conversation on how to convey the change to students and advisers so that the requirement is clearly understood.

SC suggested raising the proficiency threshold from 1002 to 2001, similar to the Twin Cities foreign language requirement. This would give all students the same "finish line" as opposed to the proposal which has a different "finish line" for every student or requires some students to run two races.

Members are concerned that part of the rationale for the WLLC proposal was to make Morris' foreign language requirement similar to that of the Twin Cities, when a preliminary study on four-year graduation obstacles shows that one of the reasons CLA students on the Twin Cities campus are not graduating in four years is difficulty completing the foreign language requirement.

It was also noted that the foreign language requirement is very linear and unlike all other general education requirements. The Science and Science with a Lab requirement do not require students to take courses in sequential order to satisfy the requirement.

Members questioned whether the Admissions office was consulted about the proposal. It was noted that Admissions spoke against the Writing for the Liberal Arts (WLA) requirement. Members believe the WLLC requirement is very similar to WLA and would cause a lot of confusion for new high school students.

It was discussed that the proposal could put a strain on students on a regimented track or those with financial concerns. The proposal also puts up barriers for students with a bilingual background or those who have studied abroad.

The proposal would exempt international students from the foreign language requirement, but not domestic bilingual students. It was noted that some international students have poor English skills. Would international students be required to test for English as a second language?

An argument for changing the foreign language requirement made by the language faculty was that foreign language was the only general education requirement that could be satisfied by high school courses. It was noted that if the foreign language faculty believe 1001 and 1002 are high school level work, then these courses would be considered remedial and should be renumbered to 900 level.

SC recommended making the new Steering Committee Vice-chair Nic McPhee aware of the WLLC proposal and SC concerns to make sure SC is involved in the conversation. Gross has agreed to email McPhee. SC also recommended making Admissions and the Dean aware of the proposal and SC's purview regarding transfer credit, respectively.

**5. Nationally Recognized Exams Statement draft tabled**

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Senger  
Office of the Registrar