

10-3-2011

## Scholastic minutes 10/03/2011

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris  
Scholastic Committee 2011-2012, Meeting #4

The Scholastic Committee (SC) met at 10:30 on Monday, October 3, in Imholte 217.

1. The Minutes of September 26 were approved.

2. Report from the Chair

- Academic Progress summary, 2010-2011
  1. 40 students were suspended during academic year 2010-2011(16 after fall, 24 after spring)
  2. 340 students were placed on probation (194 after fall, 136 after spring)
  3. 88 students moved from probation or suspension to good standing
  4. 9 of the 40 suspended students submitted an appeal; 1 was approved to return fall 2011, one spring 2012; seven were denied

The committee viewed the academic progress charts maintained online at the following link:

<https://www.morris.umn.edu/Scholastic/protected/Reports/CumulativeSummaries/index.html>

Since students of both domestic and international ethnicities are represented in these reports, the committee asked that international students be broken out and listed in a separate category. This category will be populated by moving international students currently counted in the domestic minority categories to an international category under out-of-state residency and under non-minority ethnicity.

- In the interest of the current Scholastic Committee understanding some of the committee's historical activity, the chair shared that on April 26, 2007 the SC discussed and formally endorsed a Master Adviser program. In the September 26, 2011 SC meeting, the dean noted this program, if implemented, as one of the entities that could potentially assume some of the work of the former assistant dean position. A copy of the endorsed program will be provided to the committee.

3. Mus 1300 concert after Study Day

- Two students contacted the chair to appeal the committee's decision to deny the request from the Music 1300 instructor to schedule a concert during the final exam period. Currently the SC does not have an appeal process or policy; students were referred to SCEP, the ultimate authority regarding exceptions. The Humanities division chair contacted the SC chair, asking if the Mus 1300 concert were optional, would Symphonic Winds/Mus 1300 then be in compliance with policy. The SC chair brought this question to the full committee. The committee's focus of discussion was on whether the event was a class meeting under part D.1 of the policy related to scheduling events during finals and study day. The following points were expressed:
  1. Manipulating the attendance requirement clearly violates the spirit of the policy. How do students know it will not affect their grade? A level of coercion exists, such that students may feel compelled to attend.
  2. Can the concert truly be optional since it cannot be performed if a significant portion of the group is missing (for example, no trumpet players participated)?
  3. The concert is the focus of the class, therefore this is a class meeting.
  4. Many other activities are scheduled during this same time period; why are they allowed? Will Scholastic address other events that appear on the calendar so that this group (if not allowed to do their concert) would not be penalized for doing the right thing, i.e. bringing the request?
  5. The students in Mus 1300 all signed the petition to allow the concert.
  6. Does the syllabus list a minimum number of concerts in which students must participate?
  7. The concert can still happen; other scheduling options are available.

8. In music ensembles, athletic teams, and other courses where the activities of the class require participation in order to occur, the activities are the purpose of the course. Therefore, this is a class.
9. Music concert scheduling is an issue only during years when the Thanksgiving holiday and the last day of class fall within two weeks.
10. The event has been planned all semester. Can we approve this request and implement the policy for the future?
11. The request was hampered by faculty turnover, not the fault of the current director nor by Mus 1300 students
12. UMM needs to develop a culture of compliance. Violations of the policy have been allowed for 20 years. The policy is designed to protect students and it is time we enforced it.

The chair will draft and distribute a motion for discussion and vote at the next meeting. Results of the vote on the motion will show the committee's interpretation of the policy language.

Submitted by Dorothy De Jager