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Scholastic minutes 04/05/2007

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #15, April 5, 2007

The Scholastic Committee met at 12:00 P.M. on April. 5th, 2007 in Imholte 217.

Members Present: J. Anderson, J. Deane, D.De Jager (Ex. Asst.), Fisher, E., K. Gonier-Klopfliesch, J. Goodnough, S. Haugen, D. Magner, N. McPhee (Chair), B. McQuarrie, L. Meek (Secretary) J. Schryver, M. Stewart, C. Strand (Interim Registrar).

Guest: Jamie Moquin

1. Announcement: A petition to waive residency based on institutional responsibility was granted by the Secretary. The student had completed 75% of his general education requirements and 75% of his major at UMM. He also had discipline approval to complete his major at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. The student was completing his degree as a multi-university student and asked for a waiver of the 15 credits in residency at UMM required during the senior year. This was granted, since he had previously been given permission to take the multi-U courses. The committee was informed of this decision.

2. Minutes from 3/22/07 and 3/29/07 were approved.

3. Jamie Moquin, Director of Admissions, attended the meeting to discuss how the Scholastic Committee might best aid Admissions in the recruitment and admission of International students, particularly transfer international students. Jamie reported that a group appointed by the previous Chancellor, Sam Schuman, had been working on a report about how to best support International students. This group consisted of James Morales (Assoc. V.C. for Enrollment), Jamie Moquin (Director of Admissions), Judy Kuechle (Interim Dean), Sandy Olson-Loy (V.C. of Student Affairs), Tom McRoberts (Director of CERP) and Fang Du (Assistant Director of MSP). The report addressed the kinds of infrastructure and resources that would be needed to successfully sustain an enrollment of 50 international students a year. Many questions were asked by the committee about why Scholastic had not been included in this process from the beginning, since we could foresee many academic problems that we would like to proactively anticipate and solve. Moquin agreed to forward the report to the committee and the Chair agreed to discuss this issue with Morales, who is heading the committee.

Three kind of International students come here, NHS (students attending their first year of college); NAS (transfer students who already have some college credits); and Exchange Students (students who plan to attend UMM for a short period of time).

Immediate problems that had been identified during the preceding year are these:

General Problems:

- 1). Language problems precluding students from doing well in class. Only Chinese students were allowed to take the ESL course.
- 2). Lack of infrastructure in Advising and Academic Assistance to support these students.
- 3). Lack of preparation of faculty to deal with students who struggle in their classes due to cultural/language problems.

Admissions Problems:

- 1). Very difficult for Admissions and the transfer specialist in the Registrar's office to determine whether students already had received a college/university degree.

- 2). Students seemed not be aware that if they came to Morris for a degree they would have to fulfill all of our requirements.
- 3). We can't deny them admission even if they already have a degree, but they need to understand they cannot automatically receive a second degree and must at the very minimum fulfill residency requirements.

Proposed Solutions:

- 1). Have a firm deadline by which documents must be at UMM, such as June 1.
- 2). Perhaps only admit in the fall, when we could have an orientation for new international students. Also, ESL is currently only taught in the fall.
- 3). Be very directive about which courses (and how many credits) students can take during their first semester. Advisors need to know which courses worked and which didn't during this last year. The instructor of ESL has compiled some data.
- 4). We need to have a clear idea of how other institutions handle international students and the kind of infrastructure that supports them.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on April 12th, noon, IH 217. We will continue our discussion of the proposed Master Advisor Program with Brenda Boever, Interim Director of Advising.