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Scholastic minutes 01/30/2006

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #12, January 30, 2006

The Scholastic Committee met at 3:30 P.M. on January 30th, 2006 in the Prairie Lounge. The next meeting will be at 3:30 P.M. on Feb. 13th, 2006, in the Prairie Lounge.

Members present: K. Crandall, D. De Jager, K. Gonier Klopfliesch, J. Goodnough, S. Haugen, W. Hunt, J.-M. Kim, N. McPhee (Chair), L. Meek (Secretary), G. Sheagley, K. Strissel, C. Strand (Interim Registrar)

1. Minutes from Jan. 23rd, 2006 were approved.

2. Petition

#1158--Allow the student to count the grade for Mus 3101 (C-) earned in Fall 2004 instead of the grade earned when the course was repeated in Fall 2005 (D+). **Denied.**

3. The committee discussed extending the length of suspensions from one semester to one year. The proposal and rationale are as follows:

The Scholastic Committee wishes to preserve the quality of education at UMM, and has put in place new academic progress standards that help ensure that this occurs. Extending the duration of suspension to one full academic year (two regular semesters) will help preserve our quality of education.

Proposal

1. Suspension will occur following fall semester and spring semester. The suspension is in effect for one full academic year (two regular semesters). May Session and Summer Session will continue to be excluded from determining academic progress.

2. Because students with persistent academic difficulties benefit from taking time off, suspended students may appeal to return only after an absence of one regular academic semester. All appeals will be heard following spring semester. Students suspended after the preceding fall may appeal to return the following fall semester; students suspended after spring may appeal to return the following spring semester.

3. Suspended students who do not appeal or whose appeals are denied may apply for readmission one full academic year (two regular semesters) after suspension. They must present an academic plan for improvement; evidence of successful completion of evening, summer, or transfer courses; and/or evidence that personal difficulties are being addressed.

Rationale for increasing the duration of suspension to one full academic year:

1. The Academic Alert system makes it clear that there is a small subset of our students who cause a significant amount of work and distress to faculty, staff and other students. This is a group that combines severe personal problems with very poor academic performance. Suspension for one year will allow these students time to address the personal issues that are affecting their academic performance.

2. Students who ask to be readmitted need to show evidence that they have succeeded elsewhere. Suspending for two semesters gives those students more time to demonstrate their ability to do college work as well as to gain the academic skills they need to succeed at UMM.

Rationale for students who appeal taking one semester off before returning:

Currently, students who successfully appeal their suspensions return during the next regular semester following their suspension. However, our data indicates that these students tend not to be successful. Since the current suspension criteria were adopted in 2002, 34 of 49 of students (69%) allowed to return based on appeals after suspension did not meet the conditions set for their return. Taking one semester off will allow these students to deal with the issues that are affecting their academic performance.

<u>Appeals Approved with Conditions, 1999-2004</u>		
	<u># Approved, Registered Fall</u>	<u># Did Not Meet Conditions</u>
1999	28	13
2000	26	17
2001	21	6
*2002	19	12
*2003	21	17
*2004	9	5
	* subtotal 49	*subtotal 34
	Total 124	Total 70

Discussion points:

- One of the questions raised during the previous week’s discussion was the inability of student’s who were suspended following fall semester to appeal in a timely manner. The above proposal allows students suspended after both fall and spring to appeal during the summer and, if their appeal is successful, they can then return after taking one semester off. Thus, for example, a student suspended after fall semester 06 would appeal the following summer (07) and return fall 07 (spring semester 07 would be taken off). Students suspended after spring semester 07 would appeal the during summer 07 and return spring 08 (after taking fall 07 off).
- The question was raised whether this would violate any Senate policy. Since suspension policy is governed by each individual college, it will not.

The motion to approve suspending for one year was passed, with one nay vote. It will be taken to Assembly for information and for action during spring semester 06.