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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #14, March 22, 2005

The Scholastic Committee met on March 22nd at 3:45 p.m. in the Behmler Conference Room. Our next meeting will be on March 29th in the same location to continue with the discussion of the D limit.

Members present: S. Aronson, B. Burke, K. Crandall, J. Goodnough, W. Hunt, P. Lawrence, N. McPhee (chair), G. Sheagley, K. Strissel, S. Haugen, D. De Jager, K. Klinger (coordinator), L. Meek, R. Thielke

1. March 8th minutes approved as corrected.

2. Petitions:

Request--To allow the student to exceed the D limitation by one credit. **Approved.**

3. Continuation of the discussion of removing the 12 credit limit on D grades applicable to the degree.

In our earlier discussions, we expressed concern that a *quality of work GPA* separate from the cumulative and the graduation GPA was needed to determine students' eligibility for graduation. The *quality of work GPA* currently includes all transfer credit and a maximum of 12 credits of D. The Scholastic Committee has forwarded to the Assembly for information a change that would eliminate transfer credit from the *quality of work GPA*. We would prefer eliminating the *quality of work GPA* entirely so that a student would graduate based on the cumulative GPA. However, allowing 12 credits of D still will need to be addressed in APAS and perhaps in the GPA calculation as well.

Crandall asked why we wanted to lift the *quality of work GPA*. Some transfer students are able to graduate because a higher transfer GPA is calculated along with a lower UMM GPA. They may get hurt if we stop this practice. He works with students who are finding the Gen Ed more difficult than advanced courses in their majors and wondered why this would be. Thielke added that in an earlier study of the problem, Gen Ed courses made up 25% of the course spaces, while over half of the students needed them.

We compared two options: We can propose that the limitations on D's be lifted entirely, and this appears to be the Committee's first choice. We have many more restrictions through probation and suspension that protect the quality of the degree. Students would graduate based on their transcript cumulative GPA at the point of graduation. This is simple, straightforward, eliminates the *quality of work GPA* and is thought to be less harmful to students. The extreme case, which the Committee agreed should not drive policy, is that students will graduate with very poor work in the general education component, since the number of D's in the major is limited. It also represents a large change. We will need to be prepared to provide a solid rationale to the Assembly.

The second choice is to continue to allow students to earn 12 credits of D, a long-standing practice. Graduation will be based on the transcript cumulative GPA at the point of graduation. The graduation and cumulative GPA will match. There will be no need for a *quality of work GPA* if all credits are counted. However, because all D's will count against them, students with low cumulative GPAs will have to continue until their GPAs reached 2.0.

We will seek more information about how other colleges protect their degrees and what number of students are likely to have more than 12 credits of D.

Following is additional background provided by Thielke.

Background

*The D credit limit was introduced when the D grade was restored to our grading system in 1985. CLA

on the TC campus provided a model for the 12 credit D grade limit (15 quarter credits at UMM). The GPA for academic progress was on a sliding scale--from 1.40 GPA at 24 quarter credits to 2.0 at 180 quarter credits--using a maximum of 15 allowable quarter credits of D throughout. The F grade was restored in 1997, and 2.0 became the standard for Academic Progress requirements. In 2005, we have fewer students who remain at UMM with large numbers of D on their records. Recently, the Scholastic Committee has begun to receive petitions--from students whose transcript cumulative GPA is well above the required 2.0--to use more than 12 credits of D toward the 120 total degree credits