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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #1, September 4, 2003

The Scholastic Committee held its first meeting of 2003-04 on September 4 at 12:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Community Services Building. The next meeting will be on September 18th in the same location.

Members present:

Agenda

Chair Leslie Meek welcomed the new members.

1. Minutes: The minutes from April 29th were approved.
2. Meeting dates for the term: We will meet on alternate Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Community Services Conference Room. Those dates are Sept 4 & 18, October 2, 16 & 30, Nov 13, and December 4th. Meetings on other Thursdays will be scheduled as needed.
3. Petitions:
 - a. The following two petitions were approved by email over the summer:
 - #1101--Allow the student to retake Biol 4211, in which he earned a C, and to apply the second grade to his GPA. **Approved.**
 - #1102--Allow the first course of a repeated course to count toward the GPA. **Approved.**
 - b. The following petitions were approved during the meeting:
 - #1103--Meet the second course in Global Village requirement based on completion of a field experience in Washington, D.C. **Approved**
 - #1104--To meet the FA requirement of the GER through a Music directed study. **Approved**
4. Annual report and agenda items for the year: K. Klinger began a review of the 2002-2003 annual report, providing an overview of some of the accomplishments of the year, including policies that were approved or modified. The number of petitions acted upon was the lowest since the move to semesters. Since disciplines have given more of their courses Gen Ed designations, the need for Gen Ed petitions has dropped. We acted on seven requests to repeat courses or to use the better grade when a course is taken twice. Because last year's members were more sympathetic with this request than previous committees, the question of repeat courses and their grades will be on the agenda item this year. Klinger reported that 67 students were suspended under the new academic progress criteria. The number of students suspended is usually 20-30 students higher. Since all students, except those who were on a conditional fall term, began the term with a clean slate, this low number may prove an exception. Twenty-three of 32 appeals were approved, with all of these students placed on conditions.

Chair Meek reported on the summary of Scholastic Committee discussions with the Admissions staff: Scott Hagg and Jim Mootz, as well as VCAA Fritz Schwaller. The members agreed that policies related to Admissions are part of our charge and we would like to continue them. Some of us would like to go beyond reporting and are frustrated with discussions that lead only to more discussions.

We would like to structure an agenda for Mootz and to gain greater clarity on: UMM's rationale for admitting students, how Admissions staff identify those who are likely to succeed, why we rely on the ACT if High School Rank is a better predictor.

B. McQuarrie, who convened the sub-committee that updated the 1979 Student Integrity brochure last year, said that he is ready to bring a final draft to the Committee before taking it to the Campus Assembly and placement on placement on the UMM Web-site. He expressed interest in a larger academic integrity agenda, particularly in working with the student Academic Integrity Office in the Twin Cities.

Chair Meek reviewed the many issues she and Klinger had identified from reviewing last year's work. The following priorities were proposed for the coming year: completing our work on academic integrity, further discussions with Admissions, clarification of the final exam policy, reconsideration of policies regarding retaking courses in which a C- or higher was awarded, reconsideration of the residency requirement, review of policies related to credits from unaccredited institutions, continued fine-tuning of Advanced Placement and CLEP awards, consideration of alternative ways to meet the language requirement, and current practice related to Study Day exemptions.

The meeting was adjourned.