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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #15, March 23, 2004

The Scholastic Committee met on Tuesday, March 23, at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Services Conference Room. The next meeting will be April 6th, rather than March 30, in the same location.

Members attending: L. Burbank, W. Cox, K. Crandall, B. Fisher, N. McPhee, B. McQuarrie, L. Meek (chair), R. Richards, J. Ropp, T. Faux, K. Klinger (coordinator), J. Mullin, R. Thielke

1. The March 16 Minutes were approved.

2. Petitions:

#1125--Allow the student to count the grade earned the second time he completed Beginning Spanish I. The student is a senior Sociology, Anthropology and LAAS major who plans to graduate at the end of summer 2004. His majors will be completed by the end of spring semester. He will complete Artistic Performance in May term and Math/Scientific Reasoning in summer. In Fall 2001, he completed Spanish 1001, earning a C. He withdrew from 1002 in spring 2002 because he was building on a weak structure. He decided that going abroad and immersing himself in the language would give him the foundation he wanted. In spring 2003, he registered for 18 credits in the Spanish Cuernavaca, Mexico program offered through the (then) Global Campus Office. Though he had intended to register only for Beginning Spanish 2, he found that his language foundation was not adequate. He changed his registration to include Beginning Spanish 1. The Global Campus staff assured him that he would be able to use the grade he earned through repeating Beginning Spanish 1. The all-University policy allows students to use any grade earned in a course taken the second time. UMM requires permission from the Scholastic Committee to use grades earned in repeated courses, if the first grade was a C or higher. The student requests that he be allowed to use the grade earned in Beginning Spanish 1 in S 2003. **Approved.**

3. For action: Revised Proposal for Early Alert Intervention: Chair Meek reviewed the changes made in the earlier draft. The revised document pays more attention to the students' point-of-view and additional information about the expectations of the faculty.

Before approving the document, the members of the committee raised questions about the number of students that could be affected. Meek noted that fall term 138 students had been placed on Scholastic Committee probation and 12 were suspended for not meeting conditions. Financial aid placed 77 additional students on financial aid probation and 58 could have been suspended. Thus, as many as 300 students may be affected. Vice-Chancellor Schwaller would like to see this early alert program begin with the reorganization of Academic Affairs in fall 2005. Both V-C Schwaller and Olson-Loy have suggested that the initiators of the proposal meet with various groups, such as the division chairs, MSP, and athletic staff to gain input on groups to include. Crandall would like athletes included in the program. Meek agreed and noted that MSP has expressed an interest as well. J. Ropp asked how advisors will know how to help their advisees who receive early alerts. Meek replied that advisor training will be available. N. McPhee moved to support the proposal; the motion was seconded by B. Fisher. The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. Retaking courses in which students earn a C- or higher (for action): This is an issue we have discussed before and are anxious to make progress on in the remainder of this academic year. The current policy is that students who earn D or F grades may retake that course one time without permission. Students earning a C- or higher must have permission from the Scholastic Committee to retake a course and to use the grade that they earn in their GPA. The UMTC allows all students to retake a course one time, whatever the grade, and the second grade counts in the GPA. R. Thielke noted that her TC colleagues

often tell her that UMM is out of sync with the system.

Chair Meek noted that the courses most likely to be retaken are in disciplines like Math, Chemistry, Biology, and Psychology, and that available space could be an issue if we move to allowing repeats, regardless of the grade. Changing to a more permissive policy could also discriminate against students who can't pay. Crandall countered later that tuition costs have risen, and it's unlikely many students will choose to pay the additional charges to retake a course.

Ropp suggested that we allow students to repeat courses in which they earned a C-. A grade of C- carries a 1.67 GPA. Students need a 2.0 to be in their majors, as a cumulative GPA for graduation, and to remain in good standing. In addition, though graduate school do accept an occasional C, they are unlikely to accept a C-. Meek noted that many students enter with Biology and pre-med as areas of interest, though they change their interest area after a term or a year, when their grades are low. If we allowed them to retake Biology, we could be faced with a resource problem. McPhee was concerned about letting enrollment in a few classes drive the policy. Could we protect a few classes? Thielke noted that sequential courses are a particular problem. J. Ropp moved and L. Burbank seconded this motion:

Courses with a grade of C or higher may be repeated only with the permission of the Scholastic Committee (UMM Catalog, p.38).

The policy was unanimously adopted. K. Klinger will check further on UMM's autonomy to change the policy.

Thielke would like us to address the repetition of courses within the University of MN system, given that the University has one transcript. At the present time, repetition must occur within a single college in order for the second grade to count.