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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #15, April 29, 2003

The Scholastic Committee met from 3:45-6:00 on April 29th in Behmler Conference Room for the first hour and in the Continuing Education Conference Room for the second.

Members present:

1. Minutes: The minutes for April 15 were approved.
2. A petition allowing a student undergoing surgery to change from the A/F to the S/N grade base, approved administratively, was reported to the committee.

#1098--Waive the foreign language requirement based on difficulty with language learning and hardship.
Denied.

#1100-- Waive the second term of the two-term foreign language requirement based on effort, hardship, and meeting the spirit of the requirement.. **Approved.**

3. Report of the Academic Integrity sub-committee: Barry McQuarrie, chair of the sub-committee, distributed the draft revision of the Academic Integrity brochure. The charge of the sub-committee was to edit the current brochure, clarify the process, flesh out some points, and make the document more understandable. The Scholastic Committee had reviewed the existing brochure earlier, giving suggestions to the sub-committee. Among the changes in the new draft:
a section was added elaborating on what academic honesty is;
examples of scholastic dishonesty were brought up-to-date;
copy was streamlined and made easier to understand;
the role of the faculty member, the student and the dean in the appeal process were clarified.

The Scholastic Committee members were appreciative of the work of the sub-committee. In our discussion, we questioned the use of certain phrases (such as "in a timely manner"). Heyman indicated that this language was chosen because it is difficult to pinpoint when the cheating occurred. We raised questions about portions of the process description that were still unclear to us. If a student does not protest a finding, then that student is considered guilty. We asked that protections be built in for the student who is falsely accused. We were concerned (2.1-2.4) that the range of resolutions available to the faculty and to the Dean to respond to dishonesty be broad enough. We would like the academic integrity committee responding to individual cases to recommend sanctions to the Dean; and that these sanctions not be limited to expulsion or suspension. When students are not guilty, appropriate courses of action should also be taken so that their academic records are not harmed. We were concerned (3.1) that when the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs has finished their review of the matter they are not required to report to the parties involved.

4. Update on Admissions: As of April 24, we had 1349 continuing students and 199 registered new admits (classification breakdown not available). J. Mullin updated that figure to 1362 as of the 29th. The target size for freshmen is 485 new students. At the present time, confirmations are down by 20 (5%) from last year at this time. Staff with knowledge of the history of enrollment think we will be close to the target.

5. Continuation of AP discussion: The Math discipline supported the change of credits awarded for Calc AB passed at the level of three from ten credits to five. The AP exam passed at that level is

considered equivalent to the first Calculus class. The History discipline formally will be asked next fall to reconsider its decision regarding the use of AP U.S. and European History in the major.

6. Chair Meek commented briefly on agenda items that have been identified for 2003-2004:

a. CLEP and Advanced Placement: Reconsideration of current CLEP guidelines and summary chart. Finalization of AP changes.

b. Reconsideration of the residency requirement. Currently a student must complete 15 UMM credits in the senior year. Michael Korth has requested that we reconsider this residency requirement. "With study abroad programs, dual degree programs, national student exchange, and other opportunities we are encouraging our students to undertake, I think we need a residency requirement that assures the high quality of UMM degrees while also allowing students to explore many kinds of opportunities off campus." In the past few years, the Scholastic Committee has made two formal exceptions to current residency. 1) UMM students who study abroad in their senior year are exempted administratively if three-fourths of their college credits in the GER and in the major are UMM credits. 2) Students who participate in the joint UMM/IT program are exempted, if they have completed 75% of the major at UMM and have a plan in place for completion of the UMM Gen Ed. The Scholastic Committee may wish to meet with the Curriculum Committee about this issue.

c. Credits from unaccredited institutions: Jim Mootz has asked why UMM accepts credits from unaccredited institutions. We will review the policies and procedures in place to determine whether current policies or practices should be changed. A proposal to limit credits from unaccredited Bible colleges was returned to the Committee by the Assembly a few years ago.

d. Retaking courses in which students have received a C-: The Committee has expressed an interest in reviewing the UMM policy that requires students to petition to retake a course in which a C- or higher was awarded. The grade for the second course is calculated in the GPA only with Scholastic Committee approval. UMM's policy is at variance with the all-U policy which allows the second grade to count.

e. Activities during Study Day and finals: Are we out of step with all-University policy in regard to permitting exemptions during the end of classes and the beginning of finals? Bert Ahern, former chair of SCEP, thinks we are. Since UMM offers half-semester courses, the exemption policy also should extend to half-semester examination week.

f. Graduation with Distinction: UMM graduates more students with distinction than any other UM campus. Are our standards in compliance with those of other colleges of the University? All-University guidelines call for 10-15% of the graduating class to receive these honors. While 11% of the Twin Cities graduates earned distinction, 27.7% and 21% of UMM students graduated with distinction in the past two years. Grade inflation is a related topic.

g. Admissions process: What is our rationale for the criteria we use for admitting students? What is our rationale for relying heavily on the ACT in admitting students, if High School Rank (HSR) is a better predictor of a student's performance?

h. Unexcused absences: Should the Scholastic Committee review the policies for granting excused absences?

i. Continuation of discussion of Academic Integrity: The sub-committee will submit a working draft of the brochure for posting on the web and for distribution as a hard copy brochure. We will consider whether we wish to pursue any of our other 2001-2002 recommendations.

j. Final examination policy: Dean Schwaller has asked us to look at having the last exam in a course take place during final examinations. We will need to consider half term courses as well, both to include language about half term courses in the catalog and to clarify policy on rips or extracurricular events that occur during the finals for half term courses.

k. discussion of the language requirement for the GER with the curriculum committee to explore whether there might be a viable alternative for those unable to learn a foreign language.