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Scholastic minutes 03/25/2003

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee
Minutes #13, March 25, 2003

The Scholastic Committee met at 3:45 p.m. on March 25 in the Behmler Conference Room. Due to conflicts with Campus Assembly and new student registration, the next meetings will be on April 15 and 29 at 3:45 in Behmler. We may need to extend the meeting hours, if business warrants.

Members present: W. Cox, S. Gashaw, R. Heyman, K. Klinger (coordinator), N. McPhee, B. McQuarrie, L. Meek (chair), R. Richards, C. Gonzalez, K. Sharp, M. Uttke

1. The March 4th minutes were approved.

2. Petitions

#1196—Allow the student to change from S/N to V in Soc 2451 after the two week deadline. **Approved.**

3. Credit awards:

The move to semesters necessitated a review of all CLEP (College Level Examination Program) and AP (Advanced Placement) awards. This has meant Scholastic Committee review of the scores required and number of credits awarded, review by the Registrar of applicability to the GER, and review by the disciplines of applicability to the major. The Scholastic Committee coordinates the review, which occurs periodically, as tests or UMM courses change. Scholastic Committee members spent time asking questions about what the programs were, when they came into being, and how they work. For example, AP awards are based on college level courses taught in high school, together with students achieving a score of 3 or higher on the AP examination. The score of 3 is set at the all-University level. CLEP tests are tests that measure college level learning that may have taken place in non-credits programs or outside the classroom. They are overseen by the American Council of Education (ACE), which recommends passing scores as well as credit awards. UMM accepts the national ACE score recommendations. At UMM, flexibility has been practiced in the award of credits, since UMM courses have been based on four semester or five quarter credits, rather on the traditional three credits. Since the move to semesters, the Scholastic Committee staff has initiated some fine-tuning to clarify discrepancies and to bring about consistency among credit awards. The Committee has acted on small changes, as they occurred. When this process is complete, the full list of changes will be brought to the Campus Assembly for information.

Between the last two meetings, ACE had published new CLEP scores for granting credit at the intermediate level. Since new student registration happens Thursday (March 27th), and incoming students raise questions about both AP and CLEP awards, it is important to have the Committee's recommendation now. The Committee took the following actions:

a.) *The Scholastic Committee will accept the most recent ACE language score recommendations for granting CLEP credit at the intermediate level.*

These scores are based on review by up to 15 representative faculty who teach the subject matter and comparisons with student performance in intermediate level courses:

	<u>Previous requirement</u>	<u>Revised requirement</u>
2 semesters French, Spanish & German	50	(no change)
4 semesters French	52	62

4 semesters Spanish	54	66	
4 semesters German	63	63	(no change)

b. *The number of credits awarded for the AP Spanish Language exam will increase to 8 credits.*

K. Klinger, who gives approval for CLEP exams in behalf of the Committee, raised the question of whether UMM should give retroactive credit for the first year of language when a student has successfully completed the intermediate sequence. The Twin Cities makes retroactive awards, and prospective students inquire about our policy. Both the language coordinator and the Humanities division chair advise against this. After considerable discussion, the Committee decided not to address this issue. Therefore the policy that UMM will not award retroactive credits stands.

In an attempt to explain how CLEP works, Klinger explained that CLEP credits are generally not awarded for introductory language skills obtained in high school. From the possible total of 16 credits for passing at the intermediate level, four credits are subtracted for each year of high school study. Currently, a student who passes the CLEP Spanish exam, for example, will receive 16 credits if no course work was completed in high school, 12 credits if one year has been completed, eight credits if two years have been completed, and four credits if three years have been completed. Since UMM grants a waiver for the first year of language, credit is not given at that level, unless the language skills were developed outside the classroom. Some members found it unfair not to recognize college level work that occurs in high school. Others noted inconsistencies across program in interpreting what is high school and what is college level. Still others questioned the use of credits. This issue will be brought back to the Committee, along with more information about national, Twin Cities, and UMM credit awards. Another national directive long observed at UMM is that native speakers may not receive CLEP credit at either the introductory or intermediate levels. However, they may receive credit at the advanced level through credit by examination, if the discipline concurs.

Klinger noted that the French discipline has asked that the placement score for qualifying for Intermediate I be raised from 27-30 to 27-32. The three language disciplines recommended scores on the proficiency examinations for placement in Intermediate II and Advanced languages. She approved them as a one-year pilot. The language disciplines will see how these new scores work out.

The meeting was adjourned.