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Scholastic minutes 10/10/2017

Scholastic Committee

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Scholastic Committee
2017-18 Academic Year
October 10, 2017
Meeting Four Approved Minutes

Present: Roland Guyotte (Chair), Judy Korn, Jennifer Goodnough, Alyssa Pirinelli, Brenda Boever, Parker Smith, Emma Kloos, Leslie Meek, Merc Chasman, Elsie Wilson, Harshita Kalidindi, Emily Trieu, Dan Magner, Michelle Schamp

Absent: Ray Schultz

1. Approve minutes of September 19, 2017, meeting

Minutes approved as amended.

2. Chair's Report

Guyotte reviewed the agenda for the following Scholastic Committee (SC) meetings. The committee will host Jessica Porwoll, Office of Academic Success on October 24 and Melissa Bert, Office of Institutional Effectiveness on October 31.

3. SCEP Report

Goodnough shared that SCEP is tabling a decision regarding the preferred name policy after learning that the Title IX office is looking into the issue.

The Joint Task Force for Student Mental Health reported that students are requesting more access to course syllabi to assist them in making registration decisions. It was noted that Canvas, the new learning management system replacing Moodle, has the capability for syllabi to be shared institutionally so that anyone with an x.500 can see it in a repository of syllabi. The process of sharing the syllabus is not obvious, but the task force is working on disseminating instructions.

It was questioned whether the task force has been in contact with the PeopleSoft 9.2 subcommittee involved in the syllabus project. PeopleSoft will also have the capability of including the course syllabus and recommendations for using the feature will be shared by the PeopleSoft subcommittee.

The task force wants to encourage best practices regarding making syllabi available to students so they can better plan their schedules during registration. However, there may be some pushback from faculty regarding intellectual property.

Syllabi are also requested for transfer evaluations. Morris students transferring away can easily obtain course syllabi through the division offices. It may be more difficult for students on the Twin Cities campus to obtain course syllabi because it could be harder to determine who to ask.

SCEP also discussed grade accountability in situations where the instructor of a course is no longer at the university. SCEP approved strengthening the language regarding grade accountability changing the wording from "shall" to "must." The statement now reads that if an instructor is leaving the University someone MUST be designated to answer questions regarding grade information request.

The Joint Task Force for Student Mental Health discussed recommendations for allowing students who have three or more midterms to reschedule their exams. Current policy only allows the rescheduling of final exams for students who have three or more final exams on one day.

It was noted that some colleges have a week designated for midterms and a week designated for finals. Some students mentioned that instructors discuss overlapping exams during on syllabus day.

4. Update from Advising and Office of the Registrar regarding new fall 2017 Morris students on probation at other campuses

Boever met with three of the four students on probation at other campuses to notify them of their probation status and discuss what it meant to have credits at another University of Minnesota campus. All the students were surprised their grades followed them to Morris. Most students received the news of their probation status well. One student did seem a little flustered which led Advising to believe it was a good idea to inform students of their probation status in-person rather than only sending a letter.

One of the students has received an academic alert and has met with their success coach. Two of the students are doing well and the fourth student has not responded to any communication. The IC instructor for this student also reported that the student has been missing class. Advising is preparing to send a memo to the student's adviser and success coach.

It was suggested that Admissions notify students about their probation status so students know about it from the beginning. One problem with this approach is that students and Admissions may not know the student's GPA when the student is admitted.

Other comments regarding PSEO grades and credits include:

- Some high school counselors underemphasize grades of PSEO coursework and only think of the grades as high school grades. This is not the case for students who take U of M courses and attend a U of M campus.
- Some students think of the experience as they are trying out college and don't understand that their coursework will be a part of their college record/career if they choose to attend that college.
- The option of taking courses with a S/N (pass/fail) grading basis may depend on the high school policy regarding PSEO courses.
- Admissions does not require students to submit college transcripts; only high school transcripts are required. This could present students who have taken courses from other U of M campuses with a disadvantage since Admissions is able to access these transcripts and grades. It was suggested that in order to be fair Admissions should require all transcripts. This would also allow them to make their admission decisions based on more comprehensible data.

5. Athletic Academic Policy FAQ review

Korn shared a brief history of the movement on campus to get all policies written in a standard format. During this process Korn asked Athletics Director Jason Herbers to review the Athletic Academic Eligibility policy. Herbers noted that the policy statement (approved by Campus Assembly in 2007) might not correspond with NCAA rules, but after further review and discussion they concluded that the Morris policy still captured the correct information as is stated

in the Division III manual. They agreed to leave the Morris policy statement as is and add a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section to help clarify different scenarios.

SC collaborated on changes to the wording in question three of the FAQ.

The Morris Athletics Office will help you navigate transfer eligibility. In general, transfer students from two-year and four-year institutions are eligible if:

**the student participated in intercollegiate athletics and was academically and athletically eligible to continue participating at the time of transfer from the former institution; or*

** the student did not participate in intercollegiate athletics at the former college; or*

** the student fulfills an academic year of residence at Morris.*

6. Admissions letter update

It was decided that it was best to speak with Admissions informally rather than send a formal letter.

7. Brief post-Campus Assembly discussion regarding Multi-I/Result of Vote

As of October 10, no voting on Multi-I has taken place.

It was noted that the Student Senate was discussing Multi-Institutional registration and how no other campus had a policy regarding Multi-I.

One of the reasons for the one semester policy is to ensure students are receiving advising assistance. Students who attend another U of M campus do not get an adviser from that campus assigned to them and it can be difficult for a student to know who to talk to. Chasman shared an experience she has with one of her advisees who attended the Twin Cities campus. The student was given the runaround trying to find help with respect to an advising issue regarding requirements for an engineering program. The staff and faculty on the Twin Cities campus are resistant to providing assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Senger
Office of the Registrar