

12-5-2017

## Scholastic minutes 12/05/2017

Scholastic Committee

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**Scholastic Committee**  
**2017-18 Academic Year**  
**December 5, 2017**  
**Meeting Ten Approved Minutes**

**Present:** Roland Guyotte (chair), Jennifer Goodnough, Alyssa Pirinelli, Judy Korn, Brenda Boever, Elsie Wilson, Ray Schultz, Merc Chasman, Dan Magner, Michelle Schamp, Leslie Meek, Parker Smith

**Absent:** Emily Trieu, Harshita Kalidindi, and Emma Kloos

**Guest:** Janet Schrunk Ericksen, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean

**1. Approve minutes of November 28, 2017, meeting**

Minutes approved. Discussion about including petition vote results was tabled for next semester.

**2. Chair's Report**

No report

**3. SCEP Report**

The report will be provided in the following topics.

**4. SCEP: Dean's List**

<https://policy.umn.edu/education/gradingtranscripts>

Morris's Dean's List policy differs from the systemwide University policy in two ways. The Morris policy is more restrictive in that students must complete all credits for which they were registered during the semester. Students who withdraw from a course after the 10th day are ineligible. The systemwide policy only states that students must complete a minimum of 12 credits on the A-F grading system. In contrast, the Morris policy is more generous than the systemwide policy because it allows some of the minimum 12 credits to be on the S/N grading system.

The committee was reminded that if Morris wants a policy that differs from the systemwide policy the campus will need to ask for an exception. After discussions with Interim Dean Janet Schrunk Ericksen, both she and Jennifer Goodnough could not find a reason why Morris would want an exception.

The main concern with the systemwide policy is how it would affect education students who have to take several courses that are offered S/N only. The committee agreed that there would be few education students affected, but those who were could petition. Petitions currently go to the Functions and Awards Committee, but members believe future Dean's List petitions should go to the Scholastic Committee (SC). The SC is responsible for the grading and transcripts policy, therefore it makes sense SC reviews Dean's List petitions. The Functions and Awards Committee was a SC subcommittee, but that is no longer the case. It was suggested that the petition criteria for education majors should be added to the Frequently Asked Questions section of the policy.

*6. Can a student be retroactively added to the Dean's list?*

*Students may be retroactively added to the Dean's list under the following circumstances:*

- *there was an administrative error in calculating their eligibility.*

- *they receive a grade for an incomplete grade that then makes them eligible.*
- *they receive a grade change that then makes them eligible.*
- *They are a Morris education student with 2/3 of 12 credits graded A-F due to required professional courses only being offered S/N.*

*Under no circumstances will students be retroactively added to the Dean's list as a result of repeating a course in an future term and having the grade from the first course bracketed (bracketing excludes the course from the term and cumulative GPA).*

The committee agreed that Morris would begin following the systemwide Dean's List policy effective for spring 2018. It was agreed that it did not have to go to Campus Assembly for vote because the changes were simply to clean up the policy and be consistent with the systemwide policy. The committee agreed that the SC decision could go to Campus Assembly for information. It was noted by student members that most students won't hear about the change and most don't care unless they're looking to be on the Dean's List.

Judy Korn and Janet Ericksen agreed to look into the Faculty Endorsement Form and possibly remove the form from the website.

Motion -- To make the UMM Dean's List criteria match the Grading and Transcript Policy "All colleges and campuses will publish each term a dean's list, consisting of students who achieved a 3.666 GPA or higher and who completed a minimum of 12 credits on the A-F grading system." And to follow the same procedure at UMTC which is that a student with an I is not placed on the Dean's List.\* This will be in effect for Spring 2018.\*\*

\*Students who would be eligible for the Dean's List once the I becomes a grade, can use the petition form as outlined in the FAQ and be retroactively added.

\*\*Fall 2017 who would benefit from this change can petition SC to be held to the Grading and Transcript Policy.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **5. SCEP: Grading and Transcripts policy**

### **a. D+ grades**

The committee discussed the merits of continuing to use the D+ grade. Many disciplines do not allow D/D+ grades to satisfy requirements in the majors. Other majors limit how many credits of D/D+ grades are allowed in the major.

Morris does not use D- or A+ grades.

Is D+ a valuable distinction? It was mentioned that the 0.333 could keep a student from being suspended.

Members discussed whether there is a distinction between D and D+ such as the distinction between an A and A-. A D/D+ grade technically means the student has done enough to work worthy of credit, but doesn't satisfy the requirement.

A grade of D/D+ allows students to move on to the next course in sequence in some instances. For example, a D in General Chemistry I is okay for a student to move on to General Chemistry II, but it is not okay for a student to move on from Organic Chemistry I to Organic Chemistry II. Organic Chemistry II has a prerequisite of C- or higher in Organic Chemistry I.

Some members believe there is a range of achievement between a D and D+ grade and they would like to acknowledge that difference. A member expressed that they would feel more uncomfortable if all border students received a D grade. They would be less likely to bump someone up from a D to a C-.

While the committee did not come to a resolution regarding D+ grades the feedback will be helpful for the next discussion at SCEP.

**b. Grade definitions**

It was noted that most instructors are not using the grade definitions when assigning grades. It was also noted that the University is an outlier as most Big 10 schools use one-word descriptions (ex. excellent, good, fair, poor) or no descriptions. Other schools such as St. Olaf want more words.

There is a push to move to a simple one-word scale.

Do the definitions mean a lot to the Scholastic Committee? Will there be pushback if SCEP wants to change the definitions?

The committee was open to seeing a new set of single-word definitions and provided some suggestions. The committee likes the words: excellent, exceeds expectation, and satisfactory (over the word fair).

**c. Incompletes**

The current policy regarding incompletes states that an I symbol will automatically change to an F if make up work is not submitted within one year of the last day of final exams. SCEP is looking at changing the timeframe of when the I is automatically changed to an F to be the grading deadline of the following semester. Faculty would still be able to add a new I symbol or change the grade after the grading deadline. The change to the time frame could potentially change a student's expectations and makes it a little less harder to forget.

The proposed time frame wouldn't change what's allowed by the policy. Instead, the intent is to reframe the expectations. The proposed time frame may also prevent enabling students getting into trickier situations.

It may not be reasonable to give a student an I when less than half of the coursework is done.

There are about 70 incomplete agreements per semester. There are few (~25) left at the end of the following semester. It's harder to determine incomplete deadlines for those who do not have an incomplete contract.

Students who need to be away for more than one semester can do a Leave of Absence (LOA) request. DACA students are protected and would be allowed to do an LOA. Faculty could continue working with students while they were away.

The committee wanted to know when the new time frame would go into place.

The committee was reminded that SCEP doesn't have the authority to make changes. SCEP serves as an advisory board to administration and to the Faculty Consultative Committee. President Kaler advocates supporting students, but he can only do so much. It is the purview of the faculty.

**6. SCEP: Counting credits toward a University degree - tabled**

<https://policy.umn.edu/education/bacreditreq>

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Senger  
Office of the Registrar