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Scholastic Committee Annual Report 2009-2010

Scholastic Committee

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Scholastic Committee Annual Report 2009-10

Submitted to Executive Committee

Date: May 3, 2010

Petitions

The Committee received ten petitions: four petitions to waive Historical Perspectives; one to waive International Perspective; one to waive HUM; one [pending] to waive College Writing; and three petitions to add a class after the deadline. Nine petitions were approved, although some of the petitions generated much discussion.

Two petitions arose due to international students not being informed of the administrative waiver of International Perspectives and Foreign Language if from a non-English speaking country (information that previously was presented to students by the Secretary of the Committee during orientation). There is a plan to prevent this from recurring. (Nov 4, 2009)

Fall 2009 the Scholastic Committee received several petitions to waive deadlines or requirements when students encountered difficulties as a result of not submitting transcripts before registering, not reading university email, or attending advising sessions where relevant information was distributed. The philosophy of the committee is that the responsibility lies with the student, and that petitions based on those circumstances will not be approved in the future. (Dec 9, 2009)

Policies & Practices

During spring 2010 the committee addressed UMM compliance with the University policies that underwent review and were approved by the University Senate in April 2009. The Scholastic Committee website will no longer publish the policies but instead will publish links to the University Senate policy page, thereby ensuring a “single source of truth.”

Details of the discussions surrounding these policies can be found in the committee minutes. It was determined that UMM is following the policy (in fact, some policies have been written based on UMM policy), but there were some changes to practice that the committee recommended. These changes to practice include:

- “Upper Division major course work” is defined as 3XXX courses or higher (previously, faculty in the major defined upper division coursework) (Jan 28, 2010)
- Transfer students with a probation hold from other colleges or campuses will receive a probation hold at UMM (Jan 28, 2010)
- Students with a suspension hold will not be allowed to register without sitting out one full academic year and we will get approval from the college or campus that placed the suspension hold. (Jan 28, 2010)
- A decision by the SSSC to not readmit a student who has been suspended will be binding. (Jan 28, 2010)
- Formalizing the practices relating to UMM’s Student Scholastic Standing Committee (SSSC), and how the SSSC administers re-admission after suspension (Jan 28 & Apr 29, 2010)

- Students readmitted who were suspended at any U of M campus will be given a written contract. (Jan 28, 2010)
- Students suspended by any campus of the University of Minnesota will not be allowed to take Continuing Education classes at UMM. This applies to all students, including PSEO and non-degree students. (Feb 3, 2010)
- PSEO students will not be required to register for IC. (April 1, 2010)
- Changes to Probation Practices (Feb 25, 2010)
 - Credit maximum changes from 14 to a range of credits: 12-16. Students who wish to exceed 16 credits must submit a petition to the Scholastic Committee.
 - The petition requires consultation with the adviser, and a recommendation from the adviser is sent to the Committee.
 - This will be in effect beginning Oct 2010, when students are registering for spring 2011 classes.

Other Policy Items

- Change to foreign language placement recommendations: Based on their placement exam scores, students will place into the intermediate level, rather than into a specific course (2001 or 2002) within that level. (April 1, 2010)
- In light of the approved change to the curricular component of the first year experience, successful completion of IS 1001 (FYS), IS 1020 (Inquiry), or a waiver of either course will substitute for the Intellectual Community (IC) general education requirement. (March 11, 2010)

Scholastic Committee Endorsements

- Endorsed the proposal to raise to four the number of math courses for high school preparation requirements (Oct 28, 2009).
- Endorsed the recommendation to the Dean regarding the admin XO position on the Committee (Nov 11, 2009)
- Endorsed Proposal from the Functions and Awards Committee (Feb 11, 2010)
- Endorsed proposal to revamp Academic Alert given the diminishing resources available to it (Apr 21, 2010)

Discussions

- How to carry out the business of the committee without the 40% faculty release time position of the Executive Secretary (Oct 21, 2009).
- Learning Outcomes (Nov 11, 2009).
- Academic Alert Report (Nov 19, 2009).
- New Student Registration (Dec 9, 2009).

Preliminary Scholastic Committee Agenda for 2010-11

- Scholastic Committee did not receive data from Admissions in 2009-10. Admissions and Retention data must be presented to Scholastic Committee for discussion in 2010-11. (Apr 29, 2010)

- Review Academic Integrity Policies, and determine how the committee should engage the campus (both faculty and students) in a broad discussion about Academic Integrity in coming years. (Apr 29, 2010)