

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Scholastic Committee

Campus Governance

9-16-2021

Scholastic minutes 09/16/2021

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Scholastic Committee
2021 – 2022 Academic Year
September 16, 2021
Meeting 2 Minutes

Present: Dennis Stewart (Chair), Jason Ramey, Joseph Beaver, Jehosuah Kuusisto, Alyssa Pirinelli, Julie Eckerle, Maureen Zeleny, Anika Eaves, Marcus Muller, Jessica Larson,

Absent: Lauren Combellick, Naeem Williams, Jessica Porwell

Minute-Taker: Joseph Beaver

1. Introductions

2. Approval of Sept 2 minutes

A. Minutes from the September 2, 2021 meeting of the committee were approved unanimously.

3. Chair Report

A. The chair reported that he had met with Dean Ng and Director of the Office of the Registrar Marcus Muller to discuss what the committee's top priorities might need to be. Three key things that we will need to deal with came out of that meeting: and DORegistrar. Things to deal with:

1. Former Dean's designee Brenda Boever (now retired) had acted as the advocate for students filing petitions with this committee, and there is no obvious replacement for this role. The committee will need to discuss how the petition process should work under current staffing.

2. The committee needs to follow up on the suggestions made by the Chancellor in the committee's previous meeting regarding policy vs. delegation of exception-making power to staff members, such as the Office of the Registrar and the Transfer Coordinator.

3. Action needs to be taken to redesign the committee's webpage, because information on the current webpage does not match the reality of process and/or conflicts with information on the webpage of the OneStop. This is likely to require a subcommittee.

B. The former Chair of the Scholastic Committee, Merc Chasman, has forwarded minutes from last semester that still need approval, so we will need to deal with that.

4. SCEP Report

A. The Senate Committee on Educational Policy met for the first time this year the day before this meeting, mostly orienting new members to the committee and such. Topics expected to be addressed this year include:

1. Dealing with holidays as they impact the the school year (this year, the Twin Cities campus' first day of class fell during Rosh Hashanah, for example, and the official recognition of Juneteenth will affect Summer Session, etc.)
2. There are questions to be resolved about the impact of hybridized teaching in a pandemic, particularly on graduate students, but generally about the rights and responsibilities of instructors and students in the current situation.

5. Select a Vice Chair

A. Julie Eckerle was elected Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

6. Discussion of how petitions will be brought to the committee.

A. The general consensus of the committee was that the retirement of Brenda Boever and the subsequent reorganization of the Office of Academic Success and the Advising Office has left a hole in our petitions process that should be filled. The following were key points about the person presenting student petitions to the committee:

1. They should not be a voting member of the committee.
2. They should probably not be a faculty member or a staff member who is involved in other parts of the petition process (e.g., the Director of the Office of the Registrar, who might have denied the initial request that the student is now petitioning the committee over).
3. The responsibility for presenting these petitions should be integrated into their job, not added on with no revision of existing responsibilities.

B. It was decided that the Chair would email the Dean to ask that an individual be designated for this role, with the above concerns addressed.

7. Discussion of the Scholastic Committee establishing parameters for how the OTR makes decisions on petitions.

A. It was decided to form a subcommittee to begin working on transitioning from delegation of this committee's authority to grant exceptions to certain standing policies to the Office of the Registrar, etc. toward a model where this committee sets policy for such exceptions, which the Office of the Registrar, etc. then implements.

1. At least initially, the subcommittee will look at the process by which the Director of the Office of the Registrar has been deciding on such exceptions as a model for what the policies might be.

2. The following members will be part of the subcommittee: Dennis Stewart, Marcus Muller, Alyssa Pirinelli, Anika Eaves, and Joseph Beaver.

8. Further discussion of discussion of what the committee wants to examine in the coming year (if time allows).

A. Much of this will be the typical annual meetings of the committee with staff from offices relating to advising, student success, and so forth. A particular interest was expressed in also inviting staff working with transfer students.