

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Scholastic Committee

Campus Governance

11-29-2022

Scholastic minutes 11/29/2022

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Scholastic Committee
Nov. 29, 2022 @ 4:15 p.m.
Meeting Number 4
Virtual

Members present: Cameron Berthiaume, Julie Eckerle (Chair), Jess Larson, Marcus Muller, Mark Logan, Alyssa Pirinelli-Deslauriers, Jessica Porwoll, Nick Skulan, Beth Zaske

Members absent: Rachel Dagbovie, Josh Kuusisto, Jason Ramey, Lindsey Roemeling, Dennis Stewart (on sabbatical), Dylan Young

Guest: Matt Johnson, Athletics Director

In these minutes: *Report from Athletics, Student Petition*

Agenda & Minutes:

I. **Greetings** / Thanks to minute-taker Jessica Porwoll

II. **SCEP Update** - Jess Larson

The Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) met on November 16, 2022 and previewed development of new modules on disability that will be coming out soon.

During the SCEP meeting, Jess also fielded questions about the Morris academic calendar. SCEP has expressed questions about our calendar structure extending faculty work time beyond contracted work dates. It was suggested that there is further discussion on this.

III. **Athletics Update**

Matt Johnson, Athletics Director, thanked the committee for the invitation and shared the academic profile of student athletes. 30% of current UMN Morris students are athletes. Johnson noted that athletic coaches are teaching four sections of Morris 1101 this year as well.

Johnson shared that the addition of the community hour on Tu/Th has been really great for the campus community and that coaches wondered if there would ever be a similar opportunity to have a blocked-out time when classes weren't scheduled for team practices. Currently this is really challenging for students; some students have practices early in the morning, some late at night.

Johnson shared examples of how athletics is impacted by practice times spread throughout the day. As an example, Women's Basketball practices from 4:45-6:45 pm,

which reduces the number of outside games coaches can attend in support of recruiting new Morris students.

A question was posed: Do conversations like this start with Scholastic or do they start with Curriculum Committee or calendar discussions?

Johnson and the committee participated in an open discussion highlighting the following:

- The way community hour is structured has resulted in classes going later into the evening on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The question should likely come up through Campus Assembly. This is an important question that needs some further discussion.
- Carving out different times for labs would be challenging if practices were scheduled all at once, whether in the morning or afternoon. Enrollment challenges have amplified this with fewer sections being offered of each class. 4:30-7:30 pm labs, when offered, are challenging. Students also miss the opportunity to eat at the dining hall - this would be an important consideration.
- Community hour in its current iteration took many years to plan.
- Could student athletes be given priority registration to assist them in making better class choices that support their athletic pursuits? Yes, this is a possibility.
- Evening classes that are offered in an effort to free up afternoons likely wouldn't help this issue as students would be missing evening classes for games.
- All teams practice in the Cougar Sports Center gym during the winter months - after winter break every sport has to share one gym and there's no way to provide space for all teams to practice at once.
- There aren't currently good common calendar times for faculty, staff, and students to do things that aren't classes. This affects music, theater, arts, etc.
- This is something we can think about, and perhaps consult with consultative/curriculum committees about.

Johnson also addressed questions from the committee including:

- Are there other issues, things that are particularly exciting, things we (Scholastic) can help with? Johnson is excited about the number of students participating in athletics and their academic profile. Currently, we have about 300 student athletes. The cumulative GPA of athletes was 3.2 last year.
- Are there particular teams that could use additional support? Some of the men's sports struggle a little bit, and coaches have been extremely supportive of them. Football coaches, for example, meet with all 68 students weekly, and being proactive on the athletics side of things is really helpful. Softball, track and field, and volleyball athletes have been especially academically strong.
- Can you talk about the potential of PSEO student eligibility? This would be a policy change across the UMN system. It's likely that this will happen, though it will take extra time. We've had several conversations with other institutions that offer this.

Per Marcus, we have received the OK to move forward with this policy change effective Fall 2023. This would allow PSEO students to play sports on campus, changing policy language to "is making progress toward a degree" versus "degree-seeking student".

Student athlete eligibility will still be four years, and the clock starts when the student starts playing. This also impacts a student's ability to play at the high school level; students cannot play simultaneously at both levels.

It was suggested that a flag or tag appear on APLUS that shares athletic eligibility status and that students are competing as a PSEO student so advisers can take this into consideration when advising students

- Is there a shared calendar with athletic events? Yes! Matt is happy to share with anyone who is interested:

IV. **Petition for Review:**

The committee reviewed a student petition requesting a summer experience satisfy the SCI-L general education requirement. The petition was denied based on lack of substantial lab experience. Marcus will request additional information from the student and revisit the petition, if needed.

Date of next meeting: Jan. 19, 2023

Adjournment time:

12:40

Submitted by:

Jessica Porwoll

Approved by email vote:
Date submitted to Digital Well:

9 approve, 1 abstention
Feb. 13, 2023