

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

Scholastic Committee

Campus Governance

2-16-2023

Scholastic minutes 02/16/2023

Scholastic Committee

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/schol_com

Scholastic Committee
Feb. 16, 2023 @ 11:40 a.m.
Meeting Number 6
Virtual

Members present: Cameron Berthiaume, Julie Eckerle (Chair), Josh Kuusisto, Mark Logan, Marcus Muller, Alyssa Pirinelli-Deslauriers, Jessica Porwoll, Jason Ramey, Dennis Stewart, Beth Zaske

Members absent: Rachel Dagbovie, Jess Larson, Lindsey Roemeling, Nick Skulan, Dylan Young

Guests: Melissa Bert & Kristin Youngblom

In these minutes: *Discussion of Testing Optional*

Agenda & Minutes:

1. Melissa Bert and Kristin Youngblom did a presentation of testing optional (see attached).
2. After the presentation, there was a discussion of the following questions.

A. Question: A point on the slide noted a pattern existed suggesting that GPA, ACT predicted success in the first semester of college. A question was asked about whether an actual statistic existed (i.e., correlation coefficient) to support the relationship exists.

Response: The response was that the data for the years was limited and not in high enough quality to justify the calculation of a correlation coefficient.

B. Question: What is the timeline for deciding test optional in the future?

Response: At the system level, there is a white paper being written on the issue. However, at this time, we are not certain about when the decision will be made.

C. Question: "Prior to Morris going test optional did we require test scores for NAS/transfer students" (taken from chat)?

Response: They were uncertain, but it was a question that could be followed up on. However, the person asking the question said it was not that important to know.

D. Question: Do students know that we do not use tests? If so then why do they send them in anyways?

Response: Students are aware that we are test optional. However, they may send in the test by checking a box on a form or because they are completing a shared application form.

E. Question to the committee: Are we surprised by the data on student engagement?

Response: In general, the student engagement data is consistent with the experience of the faculty.

F. Question: What is the major force driving the consideration of testing optional?

Response: There is some concern that the test might not be ideal for prediction purposes. There is also concern that it may predict better for some groups than others. Finally, it would be difficult to justify not being test optional if all our major competitors have adopted this policy.

G. Question: When did the vote occur on testing optional? Can we change the term?

Response: The vote was last year. Yes, we can talk about the term. The process for changing the term would involve looking at how other schools are handling the term.

H. Question: What can be done to improve student success?

Response: Since students who do poorly (i.e., probation, suspension) in their first semester or two are prone to not graduating from either UMM or the university system, we should be more proactive than reactive in addressing these concerns.

There have also been discussions about a mid-semester grade check.

I. Question: Does it make a difference between calling it test optional and test free?

Response: We would need more data to understand that issue.

J. Question: Where do you see the Scholastic Committee being involved in this process?

Response: Dennis Stewart, Julie Eckerle, Melissa Bert, and Peh Ng should all meet to discuss it. Several members also noted that this does primarily seem like the responsibility of the Scholastic Committee.

Date of next meeting: March 1, 2023

Adjournment time:	12:40
Submitted by:	Dennis Stewart
Date submitted to Digital Well:	April 13, 2023