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Scholastic minutes 12/05/2011

Scholastic Committee

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Scholastic Committee 2011-2012, Meeting #10

The Scholastic Committee met at 10:30 on Monday, December 5, in Imholte 217.

Present: T Berberi, C Braegelmann, E Christensen, C Dingley, M Donovan, S Gross, J Herrmann, H Ladner, Ng, M Page (chair), D Stewart, A Wolf, P Wyckoff

1. The Minutes of November 14 were approved.
2. Report from the chair

Meetings will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesdays during spring semester, in IH 217.

Interviews with candidates for the Transfer Evaluation Coordinator/Scholastic Committee support position are scheduled at 1:00 p.m. on Th, F, M, T this week and next.

3. Final endorsement of recommendations for students on probation who are readmitted.
The issue is primarily one of timing: more lead time is necessary to provide the necessary tools to advise students on probation who have been readmitted. The committee discussed potential Scholastic Committee recommendations concerning students applying to be readmitted after being on probation. The following were discussed (not all were adopted):
 - a) Recommend to Admissions Office: On "Application for Readmission" add to Part 2.C. a box for narrative, ask why student is returning to UMM, how circumstances have changed. This information not to be used for admission decision but to assist Advising and others if student is readmitted.
 - b) Recommend to Admissions and Advising: Full Application for Readmission be forwarded to Advising Office; Advising should include the application form and any accompanying materials in the student file for the assigned advisor. Scholastic Committee wishes to emphasize to all involved that returning students may need specialized advising and this is best achieved with adequate time and preparation in advance of classes starting. Last-minute registration is discouraged; students readmitted within one week of the beginning of classes may be counseled to defer their registration to a later semester.
 - c) Recommend to Advising: If student indicates different/new major on "Application for Readmission" form, automatically assign new advisor from new major.
 - d) Recommend to Admissions: Implement process similar to that for students applying for readmission after suspension (with SSSC review, contract)
 - e) Recommend to Advising: Advising Office (or advisors, in collaboration with Advising) work with SSSC/Scholastic Committee (body responsible on this campus) to create contract for readmitted student on probation if deemed necessary.
 - f) No recommendation—status quo.
 - g) Other recommendation formulated on committee floor:
 - 1) Create guidelines or suggestions to support students who have been readmitted—such as, meet with advisor during week 7 (for example) to check in.
 - 2) Ask Advising to phone students to visit with them and gather additional info (if needed) to assign appropriate advisor.
 - 3) Increased "lead time" would be helpful to all—deadline for application? Allow Advising to remove holds? Tell students they may defer to next semester if classes aren't available?

The committee unanimously approved recommendations b) and c) (highlighted above). The recommendations will be sent to the Coordinator of Advising.

4. SCEP discussions: contextualization of grades on the university transcript

Excerpts of the SCEP minutes were sent to the committee and the committee was invited to discuss two issues SCEP has been discussing: creation of a top 30% instructor list; including a percentile rank of grades on transcript. The committee agreed that it is important to contextualize and that it is important to find the best contextualization model. Some contextual information that might be helpful or information that should be taken into account in this discussion includes:

- Level of class: senior seminar vs introductory or general interest class
- Some courses have different pedagogy, such as mastery learning; in other words, some programs require mastery in order to continue, D or F grades never appear
- Advantage of High School Rank: average is over more courses
- A/A-/B+/B is one way of contextualization that is already used
- SCEP may want to research how agencies such as MCAT, LSAT will incorporate contextualized transcript information into their processes

Discussion will continue next semester.

5. Petition: allow a student to withdraw after the deadline for an academic reason. This petition had been denied by the committee agent, the Registrar. The committee unanimously upheld the decision of the Registrar.