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Scholastic minutes 10/30/2012

Scholastic Committee

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Scholastic Committee
2012-13 Academic Year
October 30, 2012
Meeting Seven Minutes Approved

In attendance: Jennifer Goodnough (chair), Steve Gross, Pete Wyckoff, Nic McPhee, Hilda Ladner, Judy Korn, Clare Dingley, Brenda Boever, Jess Larson, Ellery Wealot, Kent Blansett, Jen Zych Herrmann

Not in attendance: Chad Braegelmann, Luciana Ranelli, Melissa Hernandez

- 1. October 23, 2012 Minutes Approved**
- 2. Chair's Report**

The Scholastic Committee (SC) will not meet on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Pilar Eble, international study program coordinator, will not attend today's meeting because of a conference commitment. She will be rescheduled. Bryan Herrmann, director of admissions, will present on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. SC catalog revisions have been submitted except for the readmit under good standing section, of which SC has received a deadline extension in order to discuss possible changes with Bryan Herrmann, director of admissions.

The Chair provided a recap of a conversation with the director of admissions, which the SC discussed at length. See addendum one.

SC members discussed inconsistencies between various avenues for readmission, especially in regard to students in good standing returning to Morris. Topics surrounding inconsistencies included nondegree students, criminal background disclosure, leaves of absence, reactivation.

Criminal background disclosure

Criminal background disclosure is mentioned in the University of Minnesota policy for readmission of students who leave in good academic standing of which procedures widely vary. At Morris, the readmit form includes criminal background disclosure, but nondegree students, online students, and students who have only been gone for one semester are not subject to this inquiry. If a student discloses a criminal history, the policy states that the student cannot be readmitted if the crime committed while away from campus would have resulted in suspension if enrolled. Military absence is used at Morris, and the criminal background disclosure is not done in these considerations. The UMTC readmit form does not ask for criminal background disclosure.

Leave of absence

We don't have a procedure at Morris that is applicable to the leave of absence policy (policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/READMISSIONLOA.html). It was noted that it would be good for the SC to discuss and endorse a procedure. If a student requests a leave of absence, there are no obstacles to returning as policy states they do not need to reapply. The inconsistency re: the procedure and criminal background disclosure, etc., was again noted and also the impact of leaves of absence on retention: they make it easier for students to return. This form and the practice could be promoted.

Reactivation

If students are gone for one or two semesters, they are not inactivated. (morris.umn.edu/registrar/readmission/) Although, some students do tell us that they are not coming back, and they are coded as inactive. The term reactivate implies an easier process than readmission, which could be debated as a good situation or not. Readmission procedure may deter students from leaving. Reactivation procedure might encourage students to come back but also make it easier to leave, and not all students return.

Morris readmission procedure

At the TC campus, readmission is focused on program, space, and catalog expiration (onestop.umn.edu/pdf/Readmit.pdf). What is driving the procedure at Morris in regard to students who left in good standing? Financial aid? Fees? The SC reviewed the current Morris readmission form (netfiles.umn.edu/umm/www/registrar/re-admit.pdf).

The Morris procedure tends to be a time consuming process. Several entities are consulted: Financial Aid, Student Affairs, and Office of the Registrar. However much of the information sought is already in the student's record and holds are (or should be) in place. At UMM students are being required to submit transcripts from other institutions before readmission which is not required by the policy, not required at UMTC, and not enforced for other UMM applicants (nondegree, NHS, etc.).

What if a student discontinued enrollment before PeopleSoft was coded regarding conduct? If Student Affairs was not contacted regarding readmission, how would we know? It was noted that if a student leaves, the sanctions will be delivered, and they would be visible in PeopleSoft, the marker would be on the student's record if he/she seeks readmission.

The Office of the Registrar is frequently contacted by students trying to come back; sometimes right before classes start. The current procedure is cumbersome, and students are often late registering if admitted. Once the readmit form has made it through all the "hoops," it is a matter of only minutes for the Office of the Registrar to set up the student. Returning students often contact the student support person repeatedly waiting for the readmit process to be completed.

SC wishes to provide the best service to Morris students. While returning students are a small population, it is important to provide an efficient procedure for student returning who left in good academic standing. Constitutionally, SC is charged with admitting students, but the point of entry for these students should continue to be the Office of Admissions even if the procedure is adjusted. It is a matter of interpreting University policy, and the policy implies that good standing returning students could be readmitted under a simpler procedure. We could consider adopting the TC procedure.

It was stated that the SC should either endorse the current Office of Admission readmissions procedure for students in good standing or advocate for a new procedure.

The SC is interested in pursuing ideas to shorten the current process. Zych Herrmann will check with Student Affairs about how students are coded if they are not eligible for readmission for behavior violations of the student conduct code.

Streamlining the process for readmission of students who left in good standing could positively affect the Business Office, Student Affairs, and Financial Aid, as well.

3. No SCEP Report

4. Petition 1210 passed with one abstention

Request: Waive three credits of the last 15 credits required for UMM residency. (Rationale: meeting the spirit of the requirement and hardship.)

5. CLEP College Algebra

The Math Discipline recently discussed the CLEP College Algebra examination and decided to allow a CLEP score of 50 to be accepted for credit only. Moved and seconded by the Math Discipline. Motion unanimously passed.

This creates consistency since transfer credits for College Algebra from other colleges are accepted.

6. Probation Letter

The Chair will send the current probation letter to the SC for review via Google docs.

7. Brief Discussion of Probation and Suspension Articles tabled

8. IELTS tabled

Addendum One:

Email from Bryan Herrmann, director of admissions

1. Having different processes will be very confusing for students. Right now it is simple - if a student has been out more than two terms or were suspended they fill out the same readmission form. Students are readmitted to the University if they are in "good standing." That is a status for the University to determine, not the student as we need to consider a wide variety of issues (financial, academic, legal, etc.) when determining whether or not it is mutually beneficial for the student to return to UMM. The Admissions is a clear point of entry to the University and we have a process in place to determine the various aspects that determine good standing.
2. Students who go somewhere else after Morris are required to submit a transcript from that institution. The transcript shows us two things - a) that the student is in good standing there and b) that they don't owe a bill at that institution.
3. For every readmission application we need to check with three different areas - the business office (to make sure the student doesn't owe a bill), financial aid (to make sure that the student isn't on SAP suspension), and student affairs to make sure the student doesn't have any student affairs issues. If the student was suspended their application goes to the SSSC for their review after the initial checks. We need to do these checks to make sure that it is in the best interest of the institution and that the student is eligible to come back, even if their GPA might be just fine .

All students need to complete the application for readmission to move to active status, we also need them to update the criminal background questionnaire -all students follow the same procedure. If a student clears the three areas that determine good standing it really doesn't take long at all for them to be readmitted. The process is clear and easy for students because the Admissions Office admits students.