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Scholastic minutes 03/05/2013

Scholastic Committee

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Scholastic Committee
2012-13 Academic Year
March 5, 2013
Meeting Sixteen Minutes Approved

In attendance: Jennifer Goodnough (chair), Hilda Ladner, Chad Braegelmann, Jen Zych Herrmann, Judy Korn, Nic McPhee, Steve Gross, Ellery Wealot, Brenda Boever, Jess Larson

Not in attendance: Melissa Hernandez, Zach Kroells, Clare Dingley, Kent Blansett, Pete Wyckoff, Luciana Ranelli

1. Minutes For Review

February 19, 2013 minutes approved

2. Chair's Report

The Chair briefed the committee on various topics generated by the Academic Integrity Committee's evaluation of recent hearings and procedures.

- It should be confirmed that the new Academic Writing for Liberal Arts curriculum includes a clearly stated plagiarism component.
- For English as a Second Language students, the translator perhaps should be opt out rather than opt in because the language of violation hearings can be very complicated. Students may not be taking the offered translator because they are overconfident in their English ability or worried about how it might be perceived.
- The first letter a student receives from the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs may be too dense. For ESL students, perhaps the letter should be translated into the student's first language.
- In the near future, faculty should receive a letter reminding them of the process, perhaps after the SC discusses the Academic Integrity grid. Each faculty member determines if a student's actions warrant reporting to the Academic Integrity Committee.
- A second violation is significant, yet it is not always clear to either students or faculty that the first violation is essentially earning a student "probation" and the second violation could lead to suspension. Can we be clearer in the letter for first violations? Should we consider formally making all first violations have the sanction "probation"?
- Advisers are not informed when an advisee has received a first violation.
- Sanctions are often framed around "is this going to happen again?" instead of being only punitive.
- An easy way to improve the process would be to require that the student acknowledge that he/she received the letter, which is sent by both email and snail mail.

3. SCEP Report

McPhee shared that SCEP is meeting tomorrow with a light agenda. The committee will hear the annual report on courses taught by adjunct professors, grad students, etc. He notes that often the presenters of these types of reports are not sure if the report reflects all University or just the Twin Cities campus information. It would be interesting to see the information by campus. He has asked that the UMM data be presented separately. If the data is for the whole University, the other campus could be making UMTC numbers look better, although the coordinate campus numbers might be too small to matter.

4. Petition # 1213

Approve 7, Deny 0, Abstain 1

Based on hardship, the student's request to change grade basis from A-F to AUD for one course was approved contingent upon the receipt of medical documentation.

5. Prior Learning motion

The SC received a prior learning document via email prior to the meeting in order to facilitate the motion discussion. (See Addendum one) The preliminary motion was revised.

Motion: The Scholastic Committee will no longer review and approve petitions for future Prior Learning Directed Studies and Internships prior to the student submitting the form to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the Dean's approval.

Seconded, Approve 8, Deny 0, Abstain 0

The Scholastic Committee is removing itself from the approval process for Prior Learning Internships and Directed Studies for a three-year period. After three years, the process will be reassessed. "Behind the scenes," the process for Prior Learning Directed Studies and Internships will need to be updated.

A discussion regarding a presentation to the Assembly on Prior Learning was tabled until the March 12 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Korn, Executive Staff

Addendum one

IS 3893 - Prior Learning Directed Study

(1.0 - 4.0 cr [max 10.0 cr]; Prereq-approved directed study form; fall, spring, every year)

Individualized learning project combining prior learning with faculty-directed new learning, awarding academic credit for both. (When content is discipline-related, discipline designation will appear on transcript and credit may count toward appropriate general education requirement category.)

IS 3896 - Prior Learning Internship

(1.0 - 16.0 cr [max 32.0 cr]; Prereq-approved internship form; S-N only, fall, spring, every year)

An educational experience in a work environment providing field application for the student's theoretical classroom learning experiences. The prior learning internship, such as in social service or business settings, occurred prior to the student's matriculation. The prior learning is documented and combined with faculty-directed new learning, with credit awarded for both.

There have been 20 IS 3896 in the past 14 years and only 4 IS 3893.

SC has historically reviewed requests for IS 3893 and IS 3896 since they'd be "transfer" credits as they weren't earned at UMM. It doesn't seem like before fall 2012 the full committee had a role in reviewing these. Instead, the SC Secretary or Executive Group and sometimes maybe no SC person was involved. Given that the committee is generally under-informed and inexperienced with approving Directed Studies and Internships, it would seem to make sense to move this approval process to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs reviews other Directed Studies and Internships making that position more informed and experienced which should result in more consistent review of the IS 3893 and IS 3896 forms.

Motion: The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will approve future Prior Learning Directed Studies and Internships.

Recommendation: The Index of Resources on the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs section on Directed Studies and Internships be updated to include the IS 3893 and IS 3896 forms and information. Further, SC would recommend the Curriculum Committee review the credit max on IS 3896 and possibly have guidelines regarding requests for more than a few credits. (ie the current form seems inadequate to guide a student through the process of documenting more than a few credits.) There are companies that student can pay to have their prior learning documented and perhaps this is appropriate in the case of students requesting more than a few credits. SC would also recommend that periodically CC review the scope and use of these two courses since they fall outside of a particular discipline and division. It should also be considered how more faculty can be aware of these courses in the event one of their students/advises would be able to earn credits this way (ie so students with credit worthy prior learning don't "fall through the cracks" because their adviser is not aware of these courses).

DO WE WANT TO RECOMMEND ANY REMANING CONNECTION TO SC OR TRANSFER EVAL COOR?