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Scholastic minutes 03/26/2013

Scholastic Committee

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**Scholastic Committee
2012-13 Academic Year
March 26, 2013
Meeting Eighteen Minutes Approved**

In attendance: Jennifer Goodnough (chair), Hilda Ladner, Chad Braegelmann, Judy Korn, Jess Larson, Nic McPhee, Steve Gross, Brenda Boever, Pete Wyckoff, Luciana Ranelli, Ellery Wealot

Not in attendance: Melissa Hernandez, Zach Kroells, Clare Dingley, Kent Blansett, Jen Zych Herrmann

1. Minutes For Review

March 12, 2013 minutes approved

2. Chair's Report

Medical documentation has been received from the student of whom we approved the petition contingent on receiving these documents.

Korn will be meeting with English faculty on March 27 regarding Writing for the Liberals Arts. Topics of discussion should include being prepared to give students the correct information about writing courses at registration. By not being prepared, we could be setting the stage for institutional responsibility petitions.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sandy Olson-Loy will attend the April 9, 2013, SC meeting to discuss Academic Integrity topics.

Retention Coordinator Jen Zych Herrmann will attend the April 16, 2013, SC meeting to present retention data. We will be reviewing the Transcript and Grading policy from different perspectives, identify problems and specific questions at the April 2, 2013, SC meeting.

3. SCEP Report

SCEP will discuss graduate assessment at its March 27, 2013, meeting

4. Finals/Study day request from Cougar Athletics

Morris will host the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference Track and Field Championships on Saturday, May 4, 2013, which is also a Study Day. Sixty students may be affected. Participation is not mandatory. Bad weather may force the date to be changed.

The event is at Morris. Student workers will not be required to work as there is a back-up plan to use Athletics staff and for many of the situations (timers, etc.) outside professionals are hired. Because there is no travel involved, the time commitment of the athletes is much less, and no formal study tables are planned.

The SC unanimously endorsed the request for an activity to be held on a Study Day. McPhee will present the request to SCEP for approval. SCEP will be interested in opportunities to study during the event. The event starts at 11 a.m. and will end between 5-7 p.m. No travel will be involved this year because Morris is hosting.

The SC discussed credit for varsity participation. This course is graded S/N, and student who actively participated through the course of the year receive credit even if they do not attend the championship.

The TC campus has its own policy for conference championships, which Morris uses as a guide (<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/ATHLETICSTUDY.html>).

5. Future Calendar to be discussed at Assembly

The 2017 calendar creates a situation that is not completely aligned with SCEP policy regarding study days. Saturday and Sunday could be considered "in limbo" because classes end on Friday and Monday is the only labeled study day. Are we creating a "loop hole" inconsistent with Part C of the policy (<http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/EXAM.html>). The TC campus clearly labels study days that fall on Saturday and Sunday. Should we be concerned that activities could be scheduled on Saturday and/or

Sunday if not labeled as study days? Should we be protecting the students by labeling Saturday and Sunday as study days? The SC discussed committee meetings, senior seminars, how students' could perceive not attending "optional" activities when scheduled by someone in 'authority' or with grading power. Study days often offer access to faculty, and faculty not officially available on Saturday and Sunday.

If calendar moves forward as is, SC may wish to contribute a resolution stating Saturday is a study day.

Would we ever end classes on a Monday or Tuesday? If we advocate for three study days, could we be setting the campus up for three study days no matter the way the calendar falls? Institutionalizing three study days?

The Academic calendar policy would prevent the above. We are just discussing one calendar, as well. It was noted that half-semester fall courses do not have a finals day, a disadvantage for these students.

5. IC discussion post Curriculum Committee procedure review

On behalf of the SC, the Chair asked the Dean to gather feedback from the Curriculum Committee (CC) in regard to asking faculty if their courses have Intellectual Community (IC) characteristics. The SC current policy was approved and shared with Campus Assembly in spring 2011.

In response, the CC noted that they believe the IC Petition procedure is cumbersome. It allows student to petition to take a nonIC course if they don't like the IC courses. The process is intentionally cumbersome to deter students from dropping IC. The CC questioned if students could fail IC and have the requirement completed or have the lowest grade be D for an IC course or allow students to continue repeating until they pass an IC course. The Division Chairs and Dean have also talked about the IC policy that SC developed.

Boever stated that all students who have inquired about petitioning are international students. The SUFE students in IC courses are those who haven't earned 12 credits at SUFE and/or through STELLAR. Motivation and ESL are concerns.

Ideas shared for discussion included categorizing the SUFE program as having the characteristics of IC or one of the language classes could substitute for IC. Should the 12-credit waiver only apply to credits earned at an American university?

Only five students have inquired about the IC petition. The committee discussed possible reasons why such low numbers when we know there are more students who need to complete IC to graduate. Thoughts included students who are planning to transfer or students who know they are not doing well and may not be continuing their studies at Morris.

We could recommend saving one seat per IC course for non first-year students.

The SC current policy was approved and shared with Campus Assembly in spring 2011. For such small numbers, the committee is hesitant to re-open the policy discussion.

6. Academic Integrity Grid, final TC online version

Tabled for next meeting. <http://www.oscai.umn.edu/integrity/faculty/index.html> Then click on "Sanctioning Guidelines" to open the PDF