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Scholastic minutes 09/04/2013

Scholastic Committee

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**Scholastic Committee
2013-14 Academic Year
Wednesday, September 4, 2013
Meeting One Minutes approved**

Present: Jennifer Goodnough, chair, Brenda Boever, Chad Braegelmann, Clare Dingley, Jennifer Herrmann, Nic McPhee, Jon Troe, Peter Wyckoff, Hilda Ladner, Saesun Kim, Ellery Wealot, Roland Goyotte

Absent: Steve Gross, Chrissy Kolaya

1. Chair's Report

Chair Jennifer Goodnough shared that the five-page annual Scholastic Committee (SC) report, based on minutes from the 2012-13 academic year, is finished. It will be placed on the SC website under annual report. New members are asked to review it to be caught up on topics which will likely resurface this year. Returning members are asked to review for accuracy and completeness.

The Chair shared that the topic of English as a second language (ESL) students will be discussed this academic year, and several ESL issues that began last academic year will be completed. Professor Tisha Turk, writing coordinator for the English Discipline, and Judy Korn, SC executive staff, have been working on the new course ENGL 1601 and the Writing for the Liberal Arts general education requirements. The English faculty believed last spring that there would be no substitutions for ENGL 1601, but a few transfer courses have qualified as substitutions. Should this result in a loss of transfer credit situation, the SC will be involved and explore options to assist students. Academic Integrity will also be a continued topic from 2012-13.

2. Committee Charge/History and Introductions

Each member of the committee introduced her/himself. The Chair provided an overview of the SC's constitutional "powers."

The Scholastic Committee develops, reviews, and recommends policies affecting the quality of education. It is concerned with such matters as admissions, academic progress, course related behavior, scholarship, and graduation. It has the power to grant exceptions to academic regulations when the spirit of such regulations has been satisfied. The committee admits students and evaluates transfer credit in accordance with standards established by the campus assembly.

—from the UMM Constitution and By-Laws

The Scholastic Committee:

- monitors and grants exceptions to a broad range of academic regulations including those governing admissions, grading, academic progress, transfer, and degree requirements.
- operating within its charge, recommends to the Assembly admission standards, changes in the grading system, regulations and procedures governing registration, academic progress requirements, transfer policy, standards for awarding credit by examination, and changes in the advising system.
- establishes procedures for exemption from degree requirements.
- while the Office of Admissions makes admissions decisions, consults on the annual admission plan, monitors compliance with policies, and reviews results.
- monitors the academic progress requirements
- through the Office of the Registrar, verifies that all degree requirements have been met.
- through the Student Scholastic Standing Committee, enforces academic progress policy and acts on appeals of suspension and on readmission after suspension.

The transfer evaluation coordinator, for the Scholastic Committee, awards transfer credit consistent with college and all-University transfer policy.

The Student Scholastic Standing Committee is not a subcommittee of the SC, but the SC works closely with this committee on issues of readmission for students who have been suspended.

The Committee on Academic Integrity (CAI) is a subcommittee of the SC.

The SC hears students' petitions in regard to granting exceptions to policy. Petitions are considered within three criteria: hardship; institutional responsibility; and spirit of the requirement.

Petitions regarding graduation originate with Brenda Boever, advising coordinator, working with the student. Several types of petitions related to registration are delegated to the registrar or the SC executive staff.

3. Scholastic Committee Vice Chair Discussion/Action

Professor Roland Guyotte will consider accepting the role of SC vice chair for the 2013-14 academic year that will follow with service as chair.

4. Academic Integrity Committee Discussion/Action

The AI Committee has experienced increased academic integrity reports and hearings, including seven hearings last year. Hearings are the result of multiple violations or a student/faculty situation in which the situation cannot be resolved. Given scheduling challenges, the chair suggests we have alternates pre-selected. It is not required that the three faculty and two students be current members of Scholastic Committee. Peter Wyckoff will serve this year on this committee. Troe and Kim agreed to serve, and Wealot will serve as alternate. Other faculty/staff members are still needed, and possible members were discussed.

The SC also discussed the issue of needing an Academic Integrity liaison. The assistant dean, a position that no longer exists, served in this role for two years, and the former assistant dean continued the position until he resigned from his Morris faculty appoint for another position. The role of liaison is to be a neutral presence, not an advocate, for the student under review. The Academic Integrity policy/procedure is dense and legalistic problem. The student needs to clearly understand the ramifications of the situation. The liaison can also be an academic resource to committee, provide communication during the prehearing stage. Appeals beyond the Academic Integrity Committee go to dean. Several suggestions were made and the Chair will discuss these with the VCs for Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

Goodnough serves on the Senate Committee on Student Academic Integrity Committee and convenes Morris CAI.

5. Introduce First Policy for Review

The University of Minnesota reviews each University policy every three years. The Leave of Absence and Readmission for Undergraduates policy is one of the policies that will be reviewed this year. The SC will provide feedback to Clare Dingley, registrar, for her work with the Universitywide Policy Advisory Committee. SC members should review the policy for discussion at the next SC meeting.

Preliminarily, the SC read through the policy. At Morris, students remain active students even though they may not enroll in classes for two consecutive semesters. (At all other campuses students are inactive after one semester.) They automatically receive all information about registering each semester. After two semesters, the student becomes inactive, and the full readmission process must be used to return. The only use of Leave of Absence at Morris is a special exception for military personnel call away for formal duty.

The Policy Advisory Committee is considering separating the two policies into Leave of Absence and Readmission for Undergraduates. SC members should come to the next meeting prepared to discuss which points of this policy may be confusing. Should concerned students know a range of reasons they can leave if needed? Do we need to add an extra step of considering student behavior? Should we shorten active student status to one semester? What are our options for making it easy for them to come back? What procedures fit the Morris "climate?"

6. The SC will meet on Wednesdays this semester at 10:30 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.