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Scholastic minutes 10/30/2013

Scholastic Committee

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**Scholastic Committee
2013-14 Academic Year
October 30, 2013
Meeting Eight Minutes Approved**

Present: Jennifer Goodnough, chair, Brenda Boever, Chad Braegelmann, Jennifer Herrmann, Peter Wyckoff, Steve Gross, Judy Korn, Hilda Ladner, Saesun Kim, Jess Larson, Marcy Prince, Laddie Arnold, Nic McPhee

Absent: Roland Goyotte, Clare Dingley

- 1. October 16 minutes approved
October 23 minutes for review tabled and sent to Dean for approval of his comments**

- 2. Chair's Report**

The Chair informed Campus Assembly of Scholastic Committee's (SC) recommendations for the Leave of Absence (LOA) policy. One question was asked about the status of email accounts when students are deactivated. At the next Campus Assembly, the topic will be for action to reduce the time a student can be active without enrolling from two semesters to one. Herrmann and Goodnough discussed this proposal with Sandy Olson Loy, vice chancellor student affairs, who agrees with the suggested change while emphasizing review for disciplinary actions before granting an LOA.

LeAnn Dean, director of Briggs Library, will serve as Committee on Academic Integrity liaison. Her library experience and understanding of academic integrity issues will benefit the committee. She is already proactively discussing how the library can provide instruction. One academic integrity case will be moving forward.

The Chair requested feedback on the transfer student WLA draft that has been shared on google docs. The intent is to share the memo draft with the Dean.

- 3. SCEP Report**

SCEP will meet this afternoon. The agenda includes grad school topics. McPhee shared SCEP SRT changes at Campus Assembly. SCEP has completed its work on this topic, and now it moves on to the Senate. Comments can still be sent to Senators.

- 4. Appeal to full SC, petition denied by SC executive staff**

The committee heard an appeal from a student whose petition for late registration was denied by the SC executive staff. The appeal was unanimously denied by the full committee.

Prior to addressing the "spirit of the requirement" petitions, the committee discussed ENGL 1601 and the Writing for the Liberal Arts general education requirement in general. Comments are recorded below.

- I understand that we are obligated to evaluate courses, but we should go with the writing coordinator's determination regarding WLA.
- The SC may review these requests petition by petition or review the course.
- A question was asked about the wording of the draft letter to transfer students who could have their composition courses evaluated. It was not stated in the draft that the default is that they will not be accepted. The letter will lead to petitions. The letter should lead to evaluations not petitions. We didn't vote up or down on evaluations. The goal of the letter was to level the playing field for students who know about options and those who do not.
- Sometimes we make a rule that we learn later isn't enforceable. I am starting to think that we didn't do a good job of writing this requirement. We need to tell Curriculum Committee. There used to be a second writing requirement on campus. Every discipline had a writing course. Students would gain writing experience throughout the curriculum. What we really want is for students to write more.

- Respectfully disagreeing, more writing may not always help. A first-year student, arriving at Morris with writing skills, placed into another freshman writing course will be bored.
- A better option would be to take a different course in writing rather than taking ENGL 1601.
- We should tell Curriculum Committee that this isn't a good idea. We need to find something else.
- Campus Assembly wants all students to take a writing course at Morris. The gen ed was supposed to be absolutely unique and ENGL 1601 was supposed to be absolutely unique. That didn't happen.
- My impression of all the [WLA] discussions is that this committee is undermining the intent of the WLA and the English faculty.
- I agree that we need a better plan, but this is what we have. If we choose to gut it, we have nothing.
- The best way to send the message that it is broken is to approve all the petitions.
- The recently distributed Survey of General Education Survey of gen eds reflects that students identify a discrepancy between the importance of writing and their achievements in writing.
- Could we communicate with Curriculum Committee and English directly?
- We need to deal with student petitions in a timely manner.
- Not all petitions are necessarily equal, for example, one of the students is a transfer student.
- We need to approve all or deny all so that something good happens in the end.
- We should let Curriculum Committee know that we want the "ideal," and we need to get Curriculum on the agenda.
- Accepting WRIT 1301 as WLA is more pro student in terms of disenfranchisement. Say no, and ENGL 1601 is the same.

A motion, seconded, was made to accept TC WRIT 1301 as fulfilling the Writing for the Liberal Arts general education requirement.

Guyotte, who was not able to attend the meeting, shared the following comments via email.

My inclination would be, subject to listening to the committee's deliberations were I there, to support the petitions, especially those from UMMC. These meet the University's requirement AND they appear to meet UMMC's official goals for Eng 1601. It is easy to imagine that UMMC can have more stringent regulations than state universities and community colleges, if in fact they are more stringent (subject to the contracted Transfer Curriculum Agreement), but it is difficult to imagine that UMMC's regulations should be stricter than the Twin Cities Campus.

The committee compared the ECAS information for WRIT 1401 and 1301 as the Writing Coordinator had previously used WRIT 1401 as an example of a course which would substitute for ENGL 1601.

There were no comments indicating WRIT 1301 failed to meet one of the stated goals of WLA.

The motion passed. Nine in favor, two opposed, no abstentions

Herrmann will speak to the Dean. The Chair offered to speak to the Curriculum Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the remaining petitions as a slate.

Discussion included WLA for the courses versus approving individual petitions.

The motion was tabled until the November 6, 2013, meeting.

- 5. Petition #1218**
TC WRIT 1301 approved as satisfying WLA by SC.
- 6. Petition #1219 tabled**
- 7. Petition #1220**
TC WRIT 1301 approved as satisfying WLA by SC.
- 8. Petition #1221 tabled**
- 9. Petition #1222**
TC WRIT 1301 approved as satisfying WLA by SC.
- 10. Petition #1223**
TC WRIT 1301 approved as satisfying WLA by SC.
- 11. Petition #1224 tabled**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Korn
Scholastic Committee Executive Staff