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Scholastic minutes 12/04/2013

Scholastic Committee

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**Scholastic Committee
2013-14 Academic Year
December 4, 2013
Meeting Twelve Minutes Approved**

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

Absent: Roland Guyotte

1. November 13 minutes approved unanimously

2. Chair's Report

The Scholastic Committee (SC) discussed the December 2, 2013, Campus Assembly meeting. The ad hoc committee that will review and make decisions about the Writing for the Liberal Arts general education requirement in regard to transfer credits was a "for information" item (See addendum). Some members of the Assembly were expecting a vote at the next Assembly meeting, of which none was required. Some members of the Assembly were confused by the reaction to Professor Mary Elizabeth Bezanson's Parliamentary Inquiry referring to University of Minnesota, Morris Constitution which states, ad hoc committees "are established to undertake special charges that do not fall within the purview of the standing committees of the assembly." Petitions regarding general education fall to the SC. Only the chair is required to respond to a Question of Order, so with the Steering Committee Chair's comments about WLA implementation "conflicts," and with no appeal to the Steering Committee regarding the establishment of the ad hoc committee, the Parliamentary Inquiry was considered satisfied. No discussion by the Assembly or vote.

Prior to Campus Assembly, the SC Chair met with Dean Finzel, Chancellor Johnson, and Tammy Berberi, Steering Committee chair, and was told what would happen and how the ad hoc committee would be formed. Goodnough recommended McPhee as the SC representative to the ad hoc committee. Wyckoff was invited to serve in this capacity by the Chancellor. Other ad hoc committee members will represent Steering, Curriculum, and perhaps the English Disciple. The Dean will chair.

The committee reflected on the deep level of silence at the Campus Assembly meeting and noted again that the catalog is the guide for general education. A different implementation of a general education requirement would fall to the Curriculum Committee.

The Chair and SC representatives have two upcoming academic integrity hearings regarding multiple violations. Are there more instances of academic violations or more reporting? We need to establish a culture of academic integrity.

Student Reports on Teaching Surveys (SRTS) will be discussed at the next Faculty Senate meeting, of which the Chair is a member. The topic is for information at this time with action in May 2014.

3. SCEP Report

McPhee reported that SCEP meets this afternoon. He received one question from the SC regarding SRTS. Can Morris add a facilities question to the standardized questions? McPhee believes that a facilities-type question will be reintroduced to the survey, but the phrasing has not been finalized. Morris can always locally add questions, but we cannot change or drop questions.

4. Petitions

The ad hoc committee will need the WLA petitions information. The Chair stated that the ad hoc committee will act on the petitions. If the ad hoc committee denies, can the students petition the Scholastic Committee? The Steering Committee chair believes that students should not have been allowed to petition. All students have the right to petition. Campus Assembly approves degree requirements. SC grants exemptions to degree requirements.

It is time for informative emails that tell stories. Some insulated positions on campus do not know the level of discontent.

The Constitution trumps what happens on the Assembly floor. We have a catalog, and SC did not violate catalog. In fact, we are totally in compliance.

If the ad hoc committee determines that every single student must take ENGL 1601, the Curriculum Committee has the right to try to implement, but the catalog must change. Potential implementation issues including admissions challenges and retention.

The underlying problem is that our course and gen ed are not unique.

The Chair recommended to the ad hoc committee that the transfer evaluation coordinator be invited to a meeting.

Transfer courses were to be reviewed per statements made in Curriculum Committee and Campus Assembly meetings.

Student WLA petitions for the ad hoc committee's decisions.

Petition #1219

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition #1221

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition #1224

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition # 1225

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition # 1226

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition #1227

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition #1228

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition # 1229

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition # 1230

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition # 1231

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition # 1232

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition # 1233

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

Petition # 1234

Exception to a GER due to meeting the spirit of the requirement

5. Policy review: Providing in-progress notifications on Academic Performance

Dingley shared that since 2009 it has been Senate policy to utilize a Universitywide policy library that includes regents, senate, and administrative policies. As part of that University Senate action, comprehensive reviews are required.

An upcoming change is to broaden the term “midterm alert” to term notification that would be used no later than the 10th week of class. Students will be allowed to drop until the 10th week of class to give them a longer period of time to “figure out” a given course. The Registrar’s Group has already endorsed this change.

The policy states that students need to be notified, but compliance is a separate issue. While it may be impossible to enforce, we should still have policy. The “out-clause” is in the third paragraph.

The committee discussed the policy’s use of the term “danger” and what that exactly means. The Registrar will bring the idea of changing that text to the Registrar’s Group. Perhaps it could be phrased as “are likely to earn.”

The Morris campus does not use the University-built Midterm alert system. Current midterm links are hidden now with use of Pharos. In spring 2015, the upgraded PeopleSoft will deliver a midterm grade roster which cannot be hidden.

6. Spring semester SC agenda items

The SC discussed topics for spring 2014 meetings.

- Director of Admissions report including gender and students of color specific information
- Director of International Programs report including reexamination of ESL and language exams.
- Academic Integrity
- Implementation of leave of absence to policy owner revision, which will include Campus assembly for information item, make up work for labs, field trips, etc. Chancellor’s excuses. Discussion is needed. FAQ should be updated for this policy.
- Academic authority
- Midterm alerts goals, communication vehicles
- Guidance on group work in classes

A question was asked about Leave of Absence policy and Morris campus changes. The Registrar will ask if the policy group can “slip in” the Morris implementation for fall 2014, but LOAs can start anytime. They are already in current University of Minnesota policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Korn
Scholastic Committee Executive Staff