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Scholastic minutes 10/14/2014

Scholastic Committee

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**Scholastic Committee
2014-15 Academic Year
October 14, 2014
Meeting Four Minutes Approved**

Present: Leslie Meek, Merc Chasman, Megan Jacobson, Chad Braegelmann, Steve Gross, Hilda Ladner, Judy Korn, Brenda Boever, Roland Guyotte, Tisha Turk, Jennifer Rothchild

Absent: Laddie Arnold, Marcy Prince, First-year student TBD, Jess Larson

Guest: Jen Herrmann

1. **Agenda review** Roland Guyotte, chair, conducted the meeting.
2. **September 30 minutes approved.**
3. **No Chair's Report**
Guyotte would like to thank Jess Larson, vice chair, for conducting the meetings while he was on leave.
4. **No SCEP Report**
All material at most recent SCEP meeting pertained to TC campus.
5. **Leave of Absence reevaluation**
Judy Korn presented history on the Leave of Absence policy and procedure for the Morris campus. The Universitywide policy, (www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/READMISSIONLOA.html) has not been updated with revisions, and therefore does not reflect the current policy for either the Twin Cities or Morris campuses. Until last year, Morris students could be out two consecutive semesters (not including summer) and they would continue to receive registration information into the second semester without having to do a Leave of Absence. Last year, the SC reviewed the policy from a retention angle. A motion was passed to make the Morris Leave of Absence "semesters away" the same as the TC campus. Therefore, the Morris section of the policy was changed from two semesters to one semester. Students could be out one semester and receive registration information for the semester following their absence. If a student was going to be out more than one semester, they would have the option of requesting a Leave of Absence to be able to return without having to apply for readmission.

Last week it was learned that the TC query team runs the one semester-out deactivation process before registration occurs, which means students who have not registered for that semester are deactivated and do not receive registration information. The SC intended/interpreted the deactivation process to be run after registration so students not attending still received registration information for the following semester. Seventy-two students were incorrectly deactivated in the process. Bonnie Gulbrandson from the Office of the Registrar works closely with many of those students and identified the discrepancy between the SC's intent and the actual query process. Those students have been reactivated. The question of whether the query can be run after registration for the Morris campus was asked, and Korn stated that timing should be possible.

Herrmann stated the Leave of Absence was not intended to be a barrier, but they did want to know the student's intention. The Leave of Absence is meant so the student does not have to apply for readmission. Korn stated students who are in good standing when they leave are readmitted even without a Leave of

Absence on record. The Return from Leave of Absence form, which is the same as the Readmit form, is to make certain the University is allowing “good citizens” to return.

The SC agreed not to repeal or amend the previous policy until the updated version has been reviewed. The SC has identified the issues and resolved them for the moment. The SC would like to see a 10-day wait into the second semester of a student’s unenrollment before the student is deactivated. Korn will report back to the committee about the status of Universitywide Leave of Absence revisions.

6. International Students and Language Proficiency Committee

Guyotte is looking for members for the committee which is assessing whether international students are meeting the English language proficiency. As of now:

- International students are admitted with a 5.5 score on the relevant exam. Many colleges require 6.0 or 6.5.
- Eighty percent of Morris international students are at the 5.5 level, though this may have changed this fall.
- How many semesters of ESL are they willing to take?

Ladner volunteered to convene the new group. Herrmann and Meek volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Student and former SC member Saesun Kim will be asked to join the group. Guyotte suggested that before any decisions are made, the SC would like to know how the students do this semester. The SC would then propose a change if needed. Guyotte will pursue a member from the Curriculum Committee

Turk brought up the issue that the same material is not being covered in both the ESL Writing for the Liberal Arts (WLA) class and the native WLA classes. International students experience different issues with sentence structure and word choice. Ladner commented that six credits of ESL are recommended but not required, which may be a problem.

Boever voiced a concern that the IC requirement in international students’ first semester is an issue because they are not prepared for the course discussion requirement.

7. IC Requirement

The IC requirement presents a problem for students who fail the course during fall 2014 semester because IC courses are not being offered in spring 2015. It was decided to not offer IC courses in the spring because they contain an unusual representation of students, ie. students who didn’t pass the course, new ESL students, and new freshmen. Herrmann stated that there is one seat reserved in each section for repeaters in fall semester, but that opportunity would not meet the complete-in-the-first-year IC requirement. SC questioned which options would be available to students who don’t complete IC this fall? On average, what percentage of students doesn’t finish IC in the fall? If the percentage is small, how important is it to offer second semester courses?

Herrmann commented that maybe the IC course shouldn’t be taken in the first year. It is due to questions such as these that she believes a Curriculum Committee person is needed on the International Students and Language Proficiency SC subcommittee.

As the IC petition stands now, students take a non-IC course, and then are required to petition the SC to have the course meet the requirement. The SC, to date, has not received an IC petition, yet it is known that some upper class students have not completed IC.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Senger