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Chair: James Madsen; Vice Chair: Dawn Hukai; Secretary: Todd A. Savage; Executive Committee: Stephen Reed, Jennifer Willis-Rivera

To: Dean Van Galen, Chancellor
116 North Hall
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

From: James Madsen, Chair 
Faculty Senate
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

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FEB 17 2011

**CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE
UW-RIVER FALLS**

February 17, 2011

RE: UWRF Faculty Senate Resolution 2010-2011/04

At the February 17, 2011 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, resolution 2010-2011/04 was passed. This resolution is forwarded to you for your information.

**A Resolution Expressing Unified Opposition to SB-11
from the Faculty and Staff of UW-River Falls**

The Senate moves to adopt the following resolution, and to have its Chair forward it immediately to the Governor, legislative leaders, Senator Harsdorf, Representatives Knudson and Murtha, and the members of the media and community:

Alarmed that the Governor has proposed a budget repair bill that includes an effective take-home pay cut of 8-12 percent for state workers,

Concerned that UW-System faculty and staff have shouldered significant take-home pay cuts over the last seven years,

Further concerned that the proposed changes will undermine the welfare of the effected state workers, the ability of the UW-System to retain and attract staff and serve students well, and the efforts to have the UW-System serve as an engine for growth for the State,

*Noting that the budget-repair bill eliminates all legally established **rights** to collective bargaining for faculty and academic staff, something that the UWRF Faculty Senate has supported consistently over the years (e.g., Resolution 1-2008-09, Resolution 7-2006-07, etc.), and effectively eliminates collective bargaining for most other state workers,*

Whereas, UW-River Falls academic staff and faculty are willing to share the burden of reducing state expenditures in this time of fiscal crisis, and

Whereas, this is demonstrated by our shared sacrifice of a 3% pay cut through mandatory furloughs, and

Whereas, UW-River Falls academic staff and faculty absorbed an additional pay cut with the permanent rescission of a proposed 2% salary increase, and

Whereas, this additional pay cut would be implemented prior to the end of mandated furloughs thus resulting in a total reduction of more than 10% per paycheck for some employees, and

Whereas, these draconian decreases will disproportionately and dramatically impact our State's lowest wage earners—an immoral act by any measure, and

Whereas, UW-River Falls academic staff and faculty salaries are already, and have historically been, lower than those of our peers in both the private and public sectors, and

Whereas, SB-11 will make future recruitment and retention of highly qualified and motivated academic staff and faculty more difficult in a highly competitive and international market, and

Whereas, SB-11 would end over 50 years of state-union relations that have helped produce an outstanding workforce, and

Whereas, proponents of the bill have used rhetoric pitting Wisconsin citizens against workers in the public sector, and

Whereas, passage of this bill will remove millions of dollars from the local economy and have a negative impact on the State business community which is in direct conflict with the objective of job growth, and

Fully cognizant that immediate action by leaders at all levels is needed to oppose the devastating repair bill,

The UWRF Faculty Senate in collaboration with the Academic Staff Council:

- 1. Requests leaders at all levels to oppose these drastic changes;*
- 2. Calls upon members of the State Legislature to vote against the budget repair bill;*
- 3. Encourages the State of Wisconsin to invest in higher education;*
- 4. Demands that the Governor negotiate these and any related issues in good faith with appropriate representatives of faculty, staff, and administrators*