Dear UW-River Falls Students:

On behalf of campus administration and the UWRF Student Government Association, we hope that your semester has gotten off to a great start.

We would like to take a moment to remind everyone that we believe UW-River Falls is a special community with strong core values, one of which is inclusiveness. That means we are a campus that values diversity in people and ideas. While our identities and perspectives are not and should not be the same, we must still strive to express and understand our differences in thoughtful ways that do not denigrate or tear down others.

While here at UWRF, you will have many opportunities to interact with and learn from people from different backgrounds and experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, on campus, or across the globe. You will likely encounter others who have different—and sometimes opposing—views. We encourage everyone to fully embrace those opportunities. While different perspectives may sometimes feel uncomfortable or challenging, constructive and respectful engagement creates a dynamic and diverse learning environment that benefits us all and upholds our commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression.

As election season approaches, we also want to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to participate in our democracy by casting informed votes and by discussing political issues in ways that are fair, constructive and respectful. Learn more about how to vote or register to vote here: https://www.uwrf.edu/vote/.

Lastly, as you go about your daily interactions here, whether they be in the classrooms, on social media, in the University Center, or in the newly reopened David Rodli Hall, please keep in mind that We Are Falcons. As a member of the Falcon community, you contribute by valuing and learning from diverse people and points of view while setting a high standard of civility and respect for all.

Sincerely,

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor
Tate Schlichting, Student Government Association President

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