Welcome to the open meeting to discuss the impact the $1.7 million university-wide budget cut, its impact on the UWRF sport module and the future of the swimming and diving program. I'm Grace Coggio, Chair of the Athletic Committee of the Faculty Senate, Roger Ternes, Athletic Director, Crystal Lanning, Assistant to the Athletic Director. We also have additional members of the athletic committee here with us in the audience tonight, and our program associate for athletics is Dori Holter in the front here who is taking notes for the meeting. We are also recording the meeting tonight so that we hear what everyone has to say and we have a mike here which we will be using for all people who want to speak and again so all of your comments are recorded.

Let me begin by emphasizing that we value all of our athletic programs and athletes here—including our swimmers and divers. We fully appreciate the educational value of competitive athletics for our students and are saddened truly that we are in this situation. As you know, consecutive budget reductions have taken their toll across the university. Athletics in particular has made substantial across-the-board cuts each year for the past two years. This year the budget must be reduced even further due to the additional state-mandated $1.7 cut facing the university, and effective July 1, 2014 athletics must make an additional $48,500 GPR budget reduction. So why are we looking at swimming and diving? In May UWRF will break ground on the construction of the new Falcon Center, and renovation of Hunt, Knowles and Ramer Field. As part of the state capitol project approval process in 2009-2010, a pool was not included in the final plans of the project. Due to the fact that UWRF won’t be building the necessary facilities to support swimming and diving for the foreseeable future, suspension of the program is now under consideration. As the Chancellor announced at the beginning of the semester, worthy programs will be affected by the additional budget cuts facing the university. Unfortunately these difficult decisions are now at our door. This meeting is your opportunity to ask questions and provide input. To ensure everyone has a chance to be fully heard we ask that you come to the microphone here to share your comments and that your voice is fully recorded. We’d like to begin with input that specifically addresses the 8 Considerations for Suspending a Varsity Sport which is on the sheet that we handed out to you. We are shy just a few so please look to your neighbor if you didn’t get a hold of that sheet. And when it is your turn to speak, we ask that you come up to the mike, as needed, give your name first, followed by the Consideration your question or comment addresses. After all questions concerning the specific Considerations have been addressed, we will have time for that at the end. So if you have additional things that you want to share that aren’t directly related to these 8 concerns, we will have time for that at the end. We would like to stick with the process though of addressing these 8 considerations. And finally
to insure that everyone has the opportunity to speak, please limit your comments to no more than five minutes. So we now open the floor to comments, if someone would like to come forward and speak with the microphone, we welcome you.

**Mike Bollinger – Current Swimming and Diving Coach**

It was my first year here and I do want to address, actually I do have a number of things to address on these 8 goals, and then later on I will be introducing some of the current athletes on the squad to give some additional information.

**#2: Are the facilities adequate to support a competitive program?** Yes, they definitely are. We swim over at the high school pool. The two things that I would like to bring up is yes, we do have to rent pool time over at the high school, but looking at the amount that is spent on rental, it’s actually cheaper than it would be to upkeep and do all the maintenance on your own pool. So if you are looking at actual costs of having our facilities over at the high school, it’s cheaper than if we built a pool and had one included in the new facilities. Now grant it, I would have loved to have a new pool out there, but unfortunately it was cut but if you are just looking at the facility price-wise, you are in better shape renting than actually owning. As far as being able to support a competitive program, I believe 7 years ago, oh, it’s been 5, so for the past 5 years we have been using the high school pool. They've been able to work around class schedules up there, get in and get an adequate workout to perform competitively.

**#3: What is the competitive and participation history of the sport?** I don’t have the exact numbers as I said this is my first year here. But I can tell you that the squad currently has 31 members (men and women). Team is larger in number this year than last year and is growing. It is definitely larger than it was 5 years ago. Participation history is that the team is growing. There are 11 new freshmen on the team this year. Future recruits, there will be 11 or 12 new freshmen coming in, with only 4 seniors graduating. Swimming and diving consists of 21 different events between individual and relay; 92 top ten times set; 16 different school records set; over last 5 years team is getting better and better each year; statistics prove year by year improvement. Win and loss record better over last 3 years–beat Oshkosh first time ever in dual meet in history of program.

**#4: Is quality, consistent coaching available?** Yes, Ryan Hawke, the previous coach. Mike stepped in at the last minute. Did fantastic this year. He wants to be here in the foreseeable future. Part of two different programs in Wisconsin and Minnesota and watched them grow and prosper.

**#6: Contribution to broad based athletic program.** His main goal is to protect and support my team, my family—the swimming and diving program. The athletic family—look at all the programs. Don’t look at one sport and try to make it the best it can be. Competition pits athletes against athletes in each program. Need to look at recruits and what they see when cutting programs. If you cut sports to fix the budget program, what will recruits think? If you cut sports when is it going to change from sports to cutting academics? Don’t want to see university decline athletically and academically.

**Ed Robbins – Faculty Member**

Ed stated he was the most senior faculty member at UWRF. Knows something about students and about education. Still a lingering athlete. He swims for fitness. He sees students at the pool at 5:00 AM, 5 days a week, 6 months out of the year. Student athletes who are swimmers are great students. These students show true dedication, something you like to see in all young people. We’re all about education and growth of young people here at UWRF. And that’s what these swimmers demonstrate. This is a success story. This
program should not be cut but praised and publicized as these athletes are doing well academically and athletically. These are people we would like to hire when they graduate. He would like to see the athletic program and the health and human performance department demonstrating the will to keep the swimming and diving program here. That’s what it’s all about, it’s not the how much of a budget shortfall there is, it’s all about demonstrating the will to find the solution.

Grace: Reminder to stick with the 8 considerations on the sheet.

Tucker Malecha – Sophomore; Co-Captain of the Men’s Indoor Track & Field Team
Tucker stated he loves the university here—everything about it—the people and all the opportunities to meet all people. Attending here has changed his life. Everyone deserves an opportunity like this. Should not take this opportunity away from these people. He urged instead of cutting the swim team to find another solution to the budget problem. He feels many of the swimming athletes would transfer if program was cut. Everyone can lend a helping hand to each other and our swimmers deserve the chance to prove themselves.

Haley Sullivan – Sophomore at UWRF; Level II Coach, St. Croix Valley Special Olympics Swim Team
#7: Effect on community involvement and service. Haley stated swimmers are people with special skills. She has finished all seven levels of swimming—that’s as far as she reached. Been in talks with team to come and help them out. Read a quote from Minnesota Special Olympics. Experienced and competitive UWRF swimmers are able and willing to assist with kids with special needs and different abilities (Special Olympics). Three athletes came and assisted in the 100 meter butterfly and other levels. These athletes came and taught flip turns and skills—what the special needs athletes need, and athletes worked with special needs kids with much passion.

#6: Contribution to broad based athletic program. UWRF swimmers come and help her teams, which promotes and displays great public relations for the university, and hopefully can have more athletics involved in Special Olympics.

Matthew Hobbs
Matthew stated he is not an athlete and can’t swim. He feels swimming and diving is a good program on campus and hates to see it cut. He stated swimming is one of the least expensive sports per student on campus ($880 per athlete)—basketball around $1700 per athlete; hockey $2100 per athlete all with higher rosters than the swim team. Matthew stated other methods of solving the financial situation should be found rather than cutting programs. Perhaps a fund raising quota each team should have. If we lose the swimming program we will lose students. Retention one of biggest concerns on this campus. If we lose 10 students that’s probably more than $100,000 for the school, a big loss in revenue for the school—this is not a solution, and a true disservice to the student population. Need to look at fund raising and campaigns with alumni, Foundation donations, other means than to cut a program and create a real disservice to our student population.

Maddie Gray – UW-Eau Claire Swim Team Member
#3: What is the competitive and participation history of the sport? Maddie stated since the last Olympics in 2012, swimming has grown in popularity. Twelve and thirteen percent increase in swimming since the Olympics in 2012. There are 6500 high school swimmers in Wisconsin and over 7000 high school swimmers in Minnesota. Many want swimming and
schools that offer swimming in this area. Division III is open to all levels of ability. Many are interested in swimming at River Falls due to the size of school and in our conference. Cutting swimming and diving would be detrimental both to the university here and swimming in general as a program. Wants to see program stay around.

Mike Bollinger – Current Swimming and Diving Coach

#7: Effect on community involvement and service. Swim team athletes help out in the community with food drives, and public relations. Will diminish contacts in community and high school if program is cut. Good relationship with college and high school, not just high school students, but also the custodians, parents of people at high school and community in general. They help out school-wide; have a great relationship with high school transfers; parents, community and the university.

#8: What are the enrollment implications, including impact on the university’s strategic enrollment goals? Want more students, enrollment now falling. Numbers have grown; bring more money in for all; university as a general; if you cut one program, and then cut another, this is not good for recruiting. Need to look at ways to not affect the whole student population. Numbers wise not good to cut a sport. If cutting sport, look at ways it is going to affect whole university. Swimmers are on upper end of GPA statistics, above average. Average university GPA average will fall off getting rid of good GPA students. Freshmen retention rates—not as many quit in sports. Graduation rates are a big deal for the university. Students are through school in four and five years. Athletes are required to take full-time course load; graduating in shorter amount of time. Want to have as many student-athletes here as possible.

Mike Davis – Former Swim Coach, 1966

Mike understands the situation and assures the athletic director does not take the situation lightly. Wonderful here getting opinions. Being an ex-swim coach, he is somewhat biased. Swimming shows energy, discipline and strong work ethic, is a life-time sport. The cost ratio for swimming is the lowest of any sport. Program budget $20,000? (Roger stated total budget for swimming was $59,014). Ranked with other sports, swimming is a vital sport; not extremely expensive; there is no facility for swimming. Was surprised and can understand why no pool included in new building. Mike feels it would be very short-sighted for the university to drop the swimming program, and urged to support it.

Isaac Milky – Former Swim Team Member, Alum (2013)

#8: What are the enrollment implications, including impact on the university’s strategic enrollment goals? Isaac was a transfer student from UW-Stevens Point; swam at Stevens Point for a year. Stated Stevens Point is the best team in the conference and nationally ranked—they make cuts to their team. He calls UWRF his home. He stated he learned many life skills while in the swimming program here and wants to be here to support the swim team members.

Bob Treadway – 79 Grad – Swam for 3 years

#8: What are the enrollment implications, including impact on the university’s strategic enrollment goals? Swimming gave him a chance to be involved as a team member, and watched conference swimming team meets. Border schools like UW-La Crosse, and UW-Eau Claire have about 30 men and 30 women in their competitive program. If RF had a strong commitment to this program, in no time this school should have 60
#3: What is the competitive and participation history of the sport? As an alum he has participated in the Falcon Invite the past five years. He has attended conference meets, as his son swam here for a year. His daughter attends UW-Eau Claire. He has seen the program at UW-River Falls grow in the past five years—have become more competitive and represent UW-River Falls very well.

Ryan Hawke – Former UWRF Swim Coach; Now Head Coach at Hamline
Ryan stated our mission is to help prepare students to be productive, creative, ethical, engaged citizens and leaders with an informed global perspective. The problem we are facing is the choice is a hard resolution. There is no easy solution to the problem at hand. It is a counter-productive step. Many eyes are taking a look at the swimming and diving program. Facing a $100,000 deficit. Not a solution to cut programs. Classes taken—help students have success in their field; many skills are taught through sports. Ethical and engaged students become great leaders; value of respecting community opportunities.

Cheryl Zaske – Mother of Swim Team Member
Just saw 8 Considerations and feels they have been addressed very well, but wants to add to them.

#2: Are the facilities adequate to support a competitive program? Yes, you see this in the dedication to rise at 5:00 AM for practice.

#3: What is the competitive and participation history of the sport? Yes, the team this year took down a 1996 record!
#4: **Is quality, consistent coaching available?** Yes, speaks for itself. Team was facing the lack of a coach and the team was able to find a qualified coach, who is also a student at UWRF.

#8: **What are the enrollment implications, including impact on the university’s strategic enrollment goals?** Her son, a Physics major, has been accepted at the University of Minnesota but wants to finish here—staying in River Falls—he wants to compete. Daughter has been offered a scholarship at two schools but has chosen to come here. Will not come here if no swim program. If the program is dropped, need to let students know as the deadline for applying to other schools has been extended to March 15. Future students need to be given the opportunity to know that the program may or may not be here to make a determination about their future.

#7: **Effect on community involvement and service.** Swimming athletes have been involved in many opportunities to serve the community—blood donating, bone marrow donating, supporting giving opportunities. Swimmer a WIAC spotlight athlete this year for the first time. If could recruit four students that would bring in the $50,000, four students would bring that revenue into the university. As a parent, she feels other options should be pursued besides cutting the swimming program. It came as a surprise to her as to how quickly this proposal came about. Many students have set goals for next year. Give the coach a chance to recruit. Have other options and other avenues to resolve problem. Fought to keep program this year. She has spoken to other parents, they love what they saw at WIAC—swimmers are a unique breed—they swim for passion, love of the sport, are dedicated, and proud of it. DIII—not paid to be here. Keep the program, they are dedicated, they drive to the high school for practices at 5:00 AM.

Chad Goetsch—Spouse of Assistant Swimming Coach Emily; UWRF Alum
Chad attended UWRF for four years; met Emily at swimming, swam in 2001

#2: **Are the facilities adequate to support a competitive program?** Chad swam in Karges for four years—called it the dungeon—not the best pool to be swimming in. The high school is way better and he wishes he would have had the opportunity to swim there. Shame to let pool go empty from 5:15-7:15 AM.

#3: **What is the competitive and participation history of the sport?** In 2001, Chad was one of five men on the team. This team has grown every year, and he expects it to continue to grow.

#4: **Is quality, consistent coaching available?** Mike is a very good coach; he hears nothing but praise for him from Emily. Mike loves the sport and does not want to see it go because it’s his sport—he loves swimming.

Rellen Hardtke—Not a swimmer; Physics Professor
Rellen is not a swimmer but married into a family of swimmers who are all PhDs and college professors in physics and engineering—they all donate to their alma maters. One-fourth of swim team men are physics and engineering majors. Need to raise academic preference of student body; swimmers have done that. Many are earning two degrees in physics and engineering. Swimmer commuting from the University of Minnesota, also coaching a youth swim team. It is amazing to see their passion and involvement. Rellen is Chair of Faculty Senate Recruitment Committee. State budget cuts—10-12% loss. Trying to retain students. Down in tuition—working very hard to recruit more students to campus and retain them. Lost a couple students because of the swim team uncertainty in the fall. Many of these students would not return if the swimming program were cut. Yes, it is hard to not have a pool, but we have excellent collaboration with the high school. Cost money, but we also receive money
from the high school for use of Ramer Field for football. Are our swimmers blowing the conference away—they set some records and are improving. We can figure out the money but please keep swim team. We need these students!

**Madeline Remperten(?)**  
Knows nothing about swimming. Been sitting for an hour. Really struck by the passion of this team. This team has a passion for swimming—find alternative ways to deal with the budget cuts. Rather than take everything from one team, take a little bit from each team if it means saving a team. Please keep the swim team.

**Frank Cerscion – Swim Team Alum ’78 Grad**  
Can reach younger people with town hall meeting like this. Felt not enough notice was given of meeting. Felt better advertising would have filled the room with swimming alums. Very good points made thus far. Found a place closer to home when coming to River Falls. Opportunity is still out there. Losing swimming would drop enrollment. Will not find a better group of people in swimmers. Division III athletes are even better. Close to Twin Cities—great way/place to recruit. Need to help team and find better ways to figure out the budget than cutting a sport. Easy decision is not to cut programs. Cutting the sport will not solve the problem—it may make it even worse.

**Grace:** Does anyone else have anything else to say directly to the 8 considerations at this point?

**Mariah Ring – UW-Eau Claire Senior; 4-Year Swimmer**  
Will be able to finish her swimming at Eau Claire but it would be sad if the third year athletes at River Falls would not be able to finish their college education here.

#2: **Are the facilities adequate to support a competitive program?** Yes—they have competed very well in the Conference. She has competed in high school pool.

#3: **What is the competitive and participation history of the sport?** Watched the growth of the team in four years. Gets better every year. Team comes out and gives all and has the spirit and work their butts off; amazing to see growth. These kids have come to swim and do it for the love of the sport.

#4: **Is quality, consistent coaching available?** Clearly, you heard three coaches speak. River Falls team members are friends. She was coached by Ryan Hawke in high school, knew he was a good coach, have coaching we need.

#6: **Contribution to broad based athletic program.** This team is part of the WIAC Conference. Just had Conference meet. If we lose this team, we lose competition; it would cut competition for the entire conference, not just UWRF. Cutting abilities for everyone to compete and love of sport. Competition is the one thing we live for. It is amazing how they recruit and find teammates and work. So much fun to swim against. Been lucky enough to swim for four years. Not fair to cut one team for budget. Should find alternatives. Have facilities and people who love to come. Division III athletes love it and deserve to stay. Deserve to stay—keep the program.

**Steve Iverson – Swim team Alum**  
Mike Davis was his coach. Not one of better students, didn’t take school or swimming very seriously. Being part of the swim team made a huge impact on his life. Thirty plus years later from UWRF swim team he feels he has a life-long family.
#4: Is quality, consistent coaching available? Most don’t know Mike from coaching swimming. He coached at Simley and Mike was on the team. There was no boys’ team and the team was the smallest in the league. Mike was part of the evolution in men’s swimming. His passion and love for the sport will take the team wherever it needs to go.

Matt Shutey – Track Team Member; Co-Captain of Track Team; Member of several committees on campus
Mike is well involved in campus community life. Overlooked budgets as a whole. Overall $77,000 deficit next year if enrollment figures are correct. Cutting program like swimming, would be a $60,000 cut but still an $18,000 deficit, cutting off one chunk is not enough to fix the problem. Look at reforming the budget. 2005 swim team had small numbers; in 2013 there were 31 members. Why are you cutting a team that is growing instead of teams that are stagnant and not getting better? In favor of athletics—want to see programs do great. Don’t see how cutting program would help program.

Brad Ribar – ’78 Alum
Most understand why swimmers love the sport. Hate swim meets when going into them. Getting a lot of calls to donate money to foundation. Why build a building with no heart and soul left inside—what’s left—just bricks and mortar.

Grace reminded all to express comments about 8 considerations. Open forum will follow consideration comments. Committee will look at responses to considerations, floor will be open items people want to share

Tony Ring – Former student and athlete
#4: Is quality, consistent coaching available? He was part of the swim team—big part of hearing about what’s going on. Do they have a quality coach? Yes. It is very evident Mike is a good coach. Showed will power and desire to be there.

#3: What is the competitive and participation history of the sport? Good competitive standing; right now underdog at Conference. Work hard every day and give it their all and it is showing in the pool. Participate in anything and everything we can—to swim and participate and get our name out there.

#7: Effect on community involvement and service. Team has participated in blood drives, bone marrow drives, Polar Plunge participants, trick or treat for canned goods. Swim team big contributor to community involvement and service.

#6: Contribution to broad based athletic program. Sibling of another swimmer in Conference. Knows their team well, knows our team. Teammates have friends in other teams. Cutting program completely cuts off communication to friends in other schools does not seem right—affects the Conference as a whole. Yes, lower on the totem pole, but climbing. Other teams are starting to notice that. To take that away when team is starting to improve, does not seem right.

Nick Vanden Heuval – Student
Took part in some intramurals. Last time he was in Theater he was in a play. From Hudson; when he came here, he didn’t know what he wanted to do. Fear in Hudson was that River Falls is a small school, not a lot to do here. It is surprising to see how much River Falls has to offer. Cutting a program is not an easy fix, a drastic measure to fix the budget. Bigger problems lurking beneath the shadows than to cut a program.
#5: What are the financial implications, including reallocating resources within and outside of athletics? If cut program and funding going towards sports to support our reputation, if we do cut, reallocate sports that improve our reputation. Make sure other programs are still functioning.

**Tony Sumnicht – Track Team Member; Vice-President of Student Senate**

Enrollment currently going down; sports module needs to looked at better and more often; budgeting needs to be looked at also. Should be part of a long-term plan.

**#3: What is the competitive and participation history of the sport?** There are lots of under-performing sports on campus—track and field and football for example. Swim team is competitive right now. Member of track team and record not very good this year. Swimming is the lowest cost sport compared to other sports on campus. Some coaches’ salaries are more than the entire cost of the swimming program. Should look at entire program, not just one sport. Opportunity to expand athletic program; soccer and lacrosse sports are becoming very popular; possibly add them as varsity sports. Look at growing enrollment across the state, our region and the Midwest. Take a holistic approach to looking at the athletics in our program. The whole process is a disappointment. Not much information provided. Very little notice of meeting. Almost no advertising—most done by students. Don’t see anyone with budgets here. No academic performance data, no retention data, no cost per athlete data, revenue generated per sport, no graduation rates data provided. Should not be talking until public is given this information. Should take a year or two to look at our whole program. No comparison for cost per. We should not be here talking about this matter until all the facts are put on the table.

**Todd Coleman – Limited contact with swim team, former swimmer**

Division III athletics is money losing. Competitiveness—team has not performed well in the WIAC. Important to understand that is a high standard to hold yourself to. UW system at nationals; 6-7 teams sending students to Nationals. Had no idea there were that many UW campuses at the time. Strong athletic conference across the board, especially in swimming.

**Allie Hable – UW-Eau Claire Swim Team Member**

**#8: What are the enrollment implications, including impact on the university’s strategic enrollment goals?** Went to UW-Madison for 1.5 years but needed to swim so transferred to Eau Claire; part of team; great blessing and gift to be able to be part of a team and that family, especially in college. Swimming was big part of picking the university she attended, if team didn’t exist then will go somewhere else. Excellent academics displayed by swim team.

**#3: What is the competitive and participation history of the sport?** Representing UW-Eau Claire and rest of WIAC—talk about UWRF not as competitive as rest of Conference. Dumb thing to say. Eight of the swim team members traveled the one hour to River Falls to show support to UWRF swim team. Wants to see UWRF as part of the Conference. They want to see the program continue. Says a lot that UW-Eau Claire is there to support UWRF.

**Grace:** About 9 minutes left, if want to speak, can get them in, in that amount of time.
Mikhail Patros – UW-Eau Claire Swim Team Member
#6: Contribution to broad based athletic program. As a freshman, it is scary going to college. Not knowing if going to meet new people and make new friends. When he joined the swim team he learned he had a big net to fall into. He got to know people; belonging to a team was a plus—took a lot of pressure off him.

Emily Larson – Women’s Basketball Player at UWRF
Emily has a best friend on the swim team. When she suggests going out to a movie and going to get something to eat, or doing something fun with the team member, she is told she can’t go as she has to go to practice. She admires the dedication to the sport by the team members and would hate to see her best friend lose their team.

Alexander Carr,
Wanted to ask the panel questions about the budget. Has not been able to see it. Large student body has not been able to see number. Should be able to question panel. Would have a better dialogue if budget could be seen. $1.7 million has an effect on everyone—not just swimming. Cutting something this large has a huge effect on everyone. More data is needed.

Mike Bollinger – Current Swimming and Diving Coach
#1: Impact to Title IX, which states: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Mike spoke on behalf of Consideration #1 as no one else had done so yet. This is an easy way to look at men’s and women’s sports. Cancels itself out—cutting one men’s and one women’s sport, by cutting swimming. Whole purpose of Title IX is to promote female sports. Swimming and diving specifically, swimming and diving men and women practice in the same pools and lanes, intermix, chance for females to compete with men; swimming and diving promotes athletics, not male and female, unique to a sport like swimming.

Dennis Dadashev – Freshman Swim Team Member
Came to UWRF with great aspirations; great student, great person, great athlete; easy for him to socialize. Here a little tougher, little frightening. Swim team is like a net that welcomed him with open arms. Theme was family during last season. Being a freshman, he is like a little brother to the upper classmen swimmers; sometimes they pick on him, but often happens to little brothers, and sometimes they make it tough on him. But they pushed him to be a better athlete, and a better person overall. David Zaske has encouraged him to run for Student Senate next year. Lucas Hetzel is a great mentor to him—helps him with his math. Candy Hoelzel is like a mom to him—she is always there for him, extremely heart-warming. He is wanting the future swimming athletes to experience his experience, the competitiveness drive, to push mentoring and coaching. When women team competed at Morris, the guys were doing time trials. Dennis suggested next year they have caps with their names on them. Coach Bollinger reminded him that they are swimming for the team, university and the family, not themselves.
Mike Schuenke – Swim Team Member
Mike thanked panel for hearing everyone’s input on the budget, using information to assist in decision-making process. Major in economics, minor in coaching. He is proud to say he is a UWRF athlete. He came in 2009 for a college visit with his aunt; had high hopes walking on campus because he had attended a college fair in Minnesota. He fell in love with the school, campus and staff. Staff extremely helpful and respectful. His choice was UWRF to participate in swimming and academics, or the University of South Dakota, and just focus strictly on academics. He had met with Coach Bill Henderson who had a big impact on him. He would not be here if he hadn’t had a chance to meet the swimmers. He not good at socializing. The team is the reason he turned his academic career around—and his swimming career around—swimmers are always helpful. Can always go to others for help. At Conference you get to line up and have every team cheering for you—can’t get that feeling in academics alone. Experience with swimming and has job at Foss in Woodbury and will get an internship through Economics through Foss. Being a swimmer, you get the chance to teach other swimmers how to be safe in and around water. Coach Bollinger has meant so much to the team—been one of the best things that has happened to this team. Came in with a goal and a vision. This team has been through so much. When the going got tough, the team got tougher—the team has fought and will continue to fight. Most motivated to be part of a team. Take everything into consideration before cutting. Cutting this team would be one of the worst decisions made. Loss of community service, Greek saying: Either with the shield or on it. This team lives by that saying. Take everything into consideration that has been said tonight when making the decision.

Grace: Over the time—anyone have a burning desire to get up here before we close?

David Zaske – Swim Team Member; dual degree student; athletic rep on Student Senate; vice-president of Student Athletic Advisory Committee.
Finished Conference competition—successful season. One that is a good note for us. Sees budget and processes that happen. Wide range of academics on team—not fair to cut program for so many great minds.

Becca Skelly – Second Year Swim Team Member
Speaking on behalf of women on team. Being a part of a team has helped her with time management—six 5:15 AM practices, 9 other practices; achieved 3.2 GPA—team sets example for her. Has helped her develop leadership skills. Confidence in swimming; family motivates and supports her. Leaders do it for and with the team. Moorhead and River Falls—swim team here was deciding factor. Always someone to help. Best year to swim out of 15 years competing. This team is her family and she is committed to them. Top ten list for every event she participated in. Allowed to grow academically and as a person, and as a friend. Thankful for swim family in her life.

Mike Bollinger – Current Swimming and Diving Coach
Lot of different things said; see it coming down to numbers; came on this year not knowing team and this family; fought to get a coach here; fighters at 5:15 AM practices, hard workouts, hard meets Friday and Saturday, whole family has shown they are fighters, all the way thorough. Certain things said about cost effectiveness, success in pool in comparison. Goal is not to attack anyone else—in seven days this much support here—this much fighting spirit, we want to be successful and want to help you to keep us here, want you to think this is support—not adversary
Grace: Greatly appreciate all coming here this evening and sharing feelings and arguments for this team. Public speaking professor—not easy getting up in front of a microphone so kudos. Committee will take into consideration all that we have heard tonight, and at this point, unless there is something else, we will call meeting to a close. Thank you so much for attending.

Athletic Committee Meetings open to public. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 5, 1:00 PM, 334 Willow Room in the University Center. More information on Faculty Senate website.

Forum meeting was called to a close at 8:13 PM.