November 2, 2017

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

From: Mialisa Moline, Chair
      Faculty Senate
      University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Re: UWRF Faculty Senate Resolution 2017-18/5

The following resolution, was approved with 17 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions, by the Faculty Senate on November 1, 2017:

Resolution Condemning Program Maintenance by Administrative Fiat in the UW System

Whereas, the Higher Learning Commission’s guiding values state, “Governance of a quality institution of higher education will include a significant role for faculty, in particular with regard to currency and sufficiency of the curriculum…”¹; and

Whereas, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) states, “Within a college or university, the nature of the accrediting process requires common enterprise among the faculty, the administration, and to some extent the governing board. The appraisal of the academic program should be largely the responsibility of faculty members. They should play a major role in the evaluation of the curriculum...in relation to the institution’s objectives and in the light of its financial resources”²; and

Whereas, the University of Wisconsin System states, “Wisconsin law specifically provides that the faculty of each institution, ‘...shall have the primary responsibility for advising the chancellor regarding academic and educational activities...’”³

**Whereas**, Article I of the Constitution of the UW-River Falls Faculty states, "It is the responsibility of the faculty, as a community devoted to scholarship, to engage in the formulation, implementation, and maintenance of programs and policies designed to effectively encourage the pursuit of knowledge" and;

**Whereas**, Article III of the Constitution of the UW-River Falls Faculty states, "Faculty responsibility includes, but is not limited to, the areas of curriculum, subject matter, methods of instruction, standards for scholarship, research, academic program development for the student, academic advising, those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process, professional and welfare matters that relate to the faculty working environment, and the general areas of professional standards and overall faculty responsibility for the educational process within the University community" and;

**Whereas**, the UW Board of Regents recently approved policy removing the requirements of both the achievement of terminal degrees and tenure status for chancellors and vice chancellors, thus removing the requirement that these administrators hold faculty status;

**Whereas**, the faculty at UW-Stevens Point have stated that administrators did not properly consult the faculty of that campus before a dean preemptively informed the faculty that the geography/geology program would be eliminated (August 2017), and have subsequently rescinded that declaration and sent the discussion to a work group of faculty for examination a week later; and

**Whereas**, the faculty at UW-Superior have stated that administrators did not properly consult the faculty of that campus before informing them that "in consultation with university leaders, the decision has been made to suspend...majors and minors effective immediately ... [and] ... programs have been placed on ‘warning’ status effective immediately..." (31 October, 2017);

**Be it therefore resolved**, the faculty at UW-River Falls strongly condemns these actions of administration at UW-Superior and UW-Stevens Point as program maintenance by fiat. We, the UW-River Falls faculty, find them unconscionably exclusionary to the faculty bodies of their relative institutions, inconsiderate of issues of accreditation, wholly reckless, and inappropriate.

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4 Faculty and Staff Handbook. UWRF. 2017. Page 73.
5 "SELECTION PROCESS FOR SYSTEM PRESIDENT, CHANCELLORS, AND UW SYSTEM SENIOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS"