April 9, 2015

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

From: David P. Rainville, Chair  
Faculty Senate
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Re: UWRF Faculty Senate Motion 2014-15/82

At the April 8 2015 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, motion 2014-15/82 was passed and is effective immediately. The motion is forwarded to you for your action.

A motion from the Executive Committee to approve the following changes to what we currently call Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C options for graduate students, and the language to be placed in the Handbook reflecting the proposed changes.

Proposal to include defined options for students completing masters programs in the Faculty and Academic Staff Handbook.

Students in masters programs will complete one of the following options:

Thesis

Includes a minimum of 30 semester credits of graduate course work and a master’s thesis for which you may receive no more than four graduate credits in your area of specialization. The thesis is directed at original research that should provide a new contribution to knowledge. You will also complete either an oral and/or written comprehensive examination. Both a hard copy and an electronic copy will be made available through the UWRF library.

Research Paper

Includes a minimum of 30 semester credits of graduate course work and a research paper. The research paper is directed towards the use of primary and or secondary sources, and may also include action research and/or a literature review. The expectation is that the paper should be significantly greater in scope and/or of
significantly higher quality than a paper produced in a typical graduate seminar. You will also complete either an oral and/or written comprehensive examination. Both a hard copy and an electronic copy will be made available through the UWRF library.

**Capstone Experience**

Includes a minimum of 30 semester credits of graduate course work (note: this might be 34 credits depending on the option chosen below). In addition to the options to complete either a thesis or research paper, some graduate programs offer alternative paths towards completion of a master’s degree that might include one or a combination of the following (note: materials produced through Capstone Experience are not required to be made available through the UWRF library):

- Completion of a minimum of 34 semester credits of graduate course work
- Capstone course
- Comprehensive oral and/or written examination
- Internship
- Manuscript
- Portfolio
- Published book
- Special project

Approved

Disapproved

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor

Date