May 11, 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 2014-15/88

At the May 6, 2015 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, motion 2014-15/88 was passed and is effective immediately. The motion is forwarded to you for your action.

A motion from the Academic Standards Committee (Terry Ferris, Chair) to approve the following:

Dean’s Offices have received periodic inquiries from students which over time have revealed that several students are confused about student eligibility criteria for Senior Merit. Some students believe they qualify when they really do not. The Academic Standards Committee has reviewed Policy 8.2.25 and recommends the policy be reworded to clarify the process of academic merit and to avoid future misunderstandings of student eligibility. The policy content and process of implementation are not changed, only the wording.

Motion: Reword policy 8.2.25 Academic Merit. The new wording would read:
(striked-out words are to be removed and the words in red are to be added)

8.2.25 Academic Merit

Academic Merit before graduation is recognized by placement on the Dean’s List. Superior scholarship is recognized at the completion of fall and spring terms by publication of the Dean’s List. Undergraduate (Freshman-Senior) degree-seeking students are eligible to receive this honor. Students must complete a minimum of 12 credits, receive a minimum of a 3.500 term grade point average, and have no grades of F, outstanding incompletes or repeat grades during the academic term. Outstanding SP designations will not preclude students from receiving this honor.
At graduation three types of merit awards can be received are recognized—Senior Merit, cum laude merit, and completion of the Honors Program. These awards will be given at the College award ceremonies in the spring pending completion of all credits. Persons who qualify only after all credits have been counted will also receive honors at that point.

- Senior Merit: Graduating seniors who have maintained a 3.5 GPA for their last 60 honor-credits at UWRF will receive Senior Merit.
- Cum Laude: Graduating seniors with a minimum cumulative 3.7 GPA for their entire college career at all institutions will receive their diplomas cum laude.
- Magna Cum Laude: Graduating seniors with a minimum cumulative 3.8 GPA for their entire college career at all institutions will receive their diplomas magna cum laude.
- Summa Cum Laude: Graduating seniors with a minimum cumulative 3.9 GPA for their entire college career at all institutions will receive their diplomas summa cum laude.

Grade points determining the academic merit awards are calculated during the student’s final semester. Upon calculation of final grades students who then meet the merit criteria will also receive the award. Students who did not meet the merit award criteria prior to graduation but meet the criteria after final grades are submitted will also receive the academic merit award.

Approved  ✓  

Disapproved

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor  5/14/15  Date