November 5, 2015

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

From: James Graham, Chair  
Faculty Senate  
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Re: UWRF Faculty Senate Motion 2015-16/35

The following motion was approved 16/0/5 by the Faculty Senate on November 4, 2015:

A motion from the Academic Programs and Policies Committee (Mialisa Moline, Chair) to approve the following:

a. New Designator: College of Arts & Sciences (CAS)
b. Change to Existing Program: CAS Liberal Arts Program

✓ Approved

Disapproved

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor  
12/9/15 Date
TRANSMITTAL for COURSE DESIGNATOR CHANGE/CREATION:
Request for Designator Creation/Change

I. INFORMATION:

1. Department(s) Proposing Designator Change/Creation: College of Arts and Sciences

2. College(s) College of Arts and Sciences

3. Proposal prepared by: Tricia Davis Date: 08/13/15

4. Check all that apply
   [ ] New Designator [ ] Change In Designator

5. Other Programs/Departments Consulted (Requires letters of comment from all Departments or Programs substantially affected):
   a.)
   b.)
   c.)
   d.)

6. Proposed Catalog year of Implementation: Year 2016-2017
   Note: Must be done in consultation with the Registrar’s Office.

7. Attach Request Narrative: Include in narrative on attached pages a rationale for the requested changes or creation of a designator. Include a listing of courses affected by the designator change/creation. Also list all courses affected by the designator change/creation. Include the current and proposed designator assignments for all affected courses?

8. UNIT APPROVALS: Requires signatures of all Department Chairs and Deans whose programs will be substantially affected by the changes or proposal. Signature lines for the affected Departments and Colleges (noted in “5” above), are on the 2nd page of this form. These signatures should be obtained prior to review by all other shared governance levels.

   Department/Program Chair ___________________________ Signature ___________________________ Date 9/23/15

   Registrar

   Dean of College ___________________________ 9/30/15

   Academic Policy & Program Cmtt. Chair ___________________________ 10/28/15

*NOTE: The master copy of this transmittal & accompanying documents must be filed in the Registrar’s office upon final approval. The Registrar’s office will notify all appropriate administrative offices [Dean(s), Department Chair(s)] of approvals & necessary actions to implement changes.
The College of Arts and Sciences is developing a new Liberal Learning Program, to replace the Liberal Arts program. The new Liberal Learning program will begin in the 2016-2017 academic year. The program will have specific requirements that students majoring in a department in the College of Arts and Sciences will be required to take. The College requests a course designator specific to the College indicated as a CAS designator.
TRANSMITTAL for UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS:
Changes or Proposals

I. INFORMATION:

1. Program Title: Liberal Arts Program
2. Department(s): CAS
3. College(s): College of Arts and Sciences
4. Proposal prepared by: Tricia Davis Date: 8/13/2015
5. Check all that apply
   - [ ] New program
   - [ ] Existing program
   - [ ] Change in course name
   - [ ] Change in number of credits
   - [ ] Change in major
   - [ ] Change in minor
   - [ ] Change in course content
   - [ ] Change in emphasis/option

6. Other Programs/Departments Consulted (Requires letters of comment from all Departments or
   Programs substantially affected):

   a.)
   b.)
   c.)
   d.

7. Catalog year (and semester) of Implementation: Semester Fall Year 2016

8. Have all courses in this program been approved? Yes [ ] No [ ]

   If “No” which courses have not been approved?

9. Attach Request Narrative
   Include in narrative on attached pages a rationale for the requested changes or creation of program.
   Include clarification concerning any courses that have not yet been approved. If requesting a
   program change also include a listing of course array for both the current and proposed program?

10. UNIT APPROVALS: Requires signatures of all Department Chairs and Deans whose programs will
    be substantially affected by the changes or proposal. Signature lines for the affected Departments and
    Colleges (noted in “6” above), are on the addendum to this form. These signatures should be obtained
    prior to review by all other shared governance levels.

    | Signature | Date |
    |-----------|------|
    | Department Curriculum Committee Chair (optional) | 9/23/15 |
    | Department/Program Chair | 9/13/15 |
    | College Curriculum Committee Chair | 9/30/15 |
    | Dean of College | 10/7/15 |
    | University Curriculum Cmtt. Chair | 10/28/15 |
    | Academic Policy & Program Cmtt. Chair | 10/28/15 |
    | Faculty Senate Chair | 11/11/15 |
    | Provost / Vice Chancellor | 11/13/15 |
    | Chancellor | 11/13/15 |

*NOTE: The master copy of this transmittal & accompanying documents must be filed in the Provost’s office upon
final approval. The Provost’s office will notify all appropriate administrative offices [Registrar, Dean(s), Department
Chair(s)] of approvals & necessary actions to implement changes.

Revised December 2012
TRANSMITTAL for UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS: Changes or Proposals - Addendum

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Melani MB  9/23/15

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Department Chair  
Signature: Mark Beeslind 
Date: 9/23/15

Dean of College  

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Department Chair  

Dean of College  

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Dean of College  

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Revised December 2012
College of Arts and Sciences
Liberal Arts Program
(Program Suspended in 2014-2015)

The College of Arts and Sciences has been evaluating its Liberal Arts requirement over the past few years. At that time the Liberal Arts program had the following conditions:

1. Students needed to take at least 8 credits, totaling 3 courses.
2. Students need to complete courses from at least two of the following divisions: Humanities division, Natural Science and Mathematics division, Modern Language division, and Social and Behavioral Science division.
3. Students may only take one course in the division of their major or minor, but the course cannot be in either the major or minor area.
4. Students need to take at least two Liberal Arts courses at the 200 level or higher.

Due to changes in 2014-2015 as to how course requirements are being counted in a student’s degree program (the ability to count courses wherever they meet a requirement), the College of Arts and Sciences suspended the Liberal Arts program, with the aim of creating a new program starting Fall of 2016. The goal is to make changes to the Liberal Arts program that enhances General Education and student’s major program, as well as increases student retention and persistence to graduation.

Your CAS Adventure
Liberal Learning Program

Your CAS Adventure is the new College of Arts and Sciences Liberal Arts program. Your CAS Adventure emphasizes high-impact educational practices, student engagement, and out of classroom problems. The objective is a program that is distinctive, that defines our College, and that attracts students to our majors, our College, and to the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. All students completing a Bachelor of Science, a Bachelor of Arts, or a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete this program.

The proposed CAS Adventure currently has one piece that will begin Fall 2016; other aspects of the Adventure Program are under development but wouldn’t begin until Fall 2017. CAS students start with the First Year Adventure, innovative one-of-a-kind classes designed to promote student engagement.

The First Year Adventure

The First Year Adventure (CAS 101*) brings students together with faculty to study questions in the faculty member’s field of interest. The courses, each focused on a unique topic, are taught by exemplary faculty using engaging pedagogies. They help students make the intellectual transition from high school to college. Although the various First Year Adventure courses differ, all address the three learning goals of Information Literacy, Critique and Innovation, and Constructive Teamwork.

- **Learning Goal: Information Literacy.** Information literacy is an essential component in academic and professional life. Information literacy is the ability to know when there is a need
for information, and to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information for the problem at hand.

- **Learning Goal: Critical Thinking.** Critical thinking is necessary to analyze, interpret, and synthesize information and context to solve problems. Critical thinking is a habit of mind characterized by comprehensive and open exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events.

- **Learning Goal: Constructive Teamwork.** Teamwork and group problem solving are essential in today’s world. Teamwork is behavior under the control of individual team members (effort they put into team tasks, their manner of interacting with others on a team, and the quantity and quality of contributions they make to the team), as they explore an open-ended question or desired goal.

These learning goals are based upon the American Association of Colleges and Universities Essential Learning Outcomes.

*CAS 101 catalog description: The First Year Adventure is designed to introduce first year students to the spirit of academic excellence and intellectual rigor at UWRF. Students will have the opportunity to closely engage with field experts from the College. The course is premised on a model of inquiry-based learning, where students collaboratively investigate a subject of interest. Students will be introduced to three goals of the Liberal Learning Program in the College of Arts and Sciences: (1) information literacy, (2) critical thinking, and (3) constructive teamwork. Prerequisite: Student in the College of Arts and Sciences; Internal and External Transfer students into CAS with less than 30 credits. (F, SP)*

The First Year Adventure courses are for first-year students only. Students who transfer into a CAS program, either internally or externally, who have 30 or more credits will have the FYA waived. However, if a student transfers into the university with 30 or more credits but has never attended college (ie: AP credits, Youth Options credits, etc.), they are treated as First Year college students and will be required to take the First Year Adventure course.

There will be an application process for individual’s to apply for and teach a course. A CAS committee will review applications each year. See attachment for the application.
CAS 101: FIRST YEAR ADVENTURE
Course Proposal Form
Courses for Academic Year 2016-17

Beginning Fall 2016, CAS first year college students will take a First Year Adventure as part of the Liberal Learning Program in the College of Arts and Sciences. Each seminar enrolls a maximum of 30 students and offers them a challenging gateway experience. All First Year Adventure courses will be taught as a face-to-face class.

CAS 101: First Year Adventure
Catalog Course Description: CAS 101 catalog description: The First Year Adventure is designed to introduce first year students to the spirit of academic excellence and intellectual rigor at UWRF. Students will have the opportunity to closely engage with field experts from the College. The course is premised on a model of inquiry-based learning, where students collaboratively investigate a subject of interest. Students will be introduced to three goals of the Liberal Learning Program in the College of Arts and Sciences: (1) information literacy, (2) critical thinking, and (3) constructive teamwork. Prerequisite: Student in the College of Arts and Sciences; Internal and External Transfer students into CAS with less than 30 credits. (F, SP)

Please fill out the following application and return to the CAS Dean's Office by February 8th, 2016. Final decision for teaching a FYA during the academic year 16-17 will be determined by February 22nd, 2016.

1. Name

2. E-mail Address

3. Phone Number

4. Home Department/Program (if not teaching or working in another unit at present, put "None")

5. Current Position

6. Title of Proposed Course
7. Course Description (200 word maximum)

8. If there is any possible course material overlap between this course and other courses at UWRF, please include a list of departments offering classes on related topics and attach letters from those departments.

9. Please share why you are interested in teaching a First Year Adventure and describe any special qualifications you could bring to the proposed course (200 word maximum)

10. It is expected that FYA courses will use engaging pedagogies and involve students in a shared process of inquiry. It is understood that you have not fully developed this course. However, please share some ideas as to how you would fulfill these expectations.
11. The student learning outcomes assigned to FYA are:

* Information Literacy. Information literacy is an essential component in academic and professional life. It is the ability to know when there is a need for information, and to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information for the problem at hand.

* Critical Thinking. Critical thinking is necessary to analyze, interpret, and synthesize information and context to solve problems. It is a habit of mind characterized by comprehensive and open exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events.

* Constructive Teamwork. Teamwork and group problem solving are essential in today’s world. It is behavior under the control of individual team members (effort they put into team tasks, their manner of interacting with others on a team, and the quantity and quality of contributions they make to the team), as they explore an open-ended question or desired goal.

Every section of FYA will address these outcomes. Please explain how your course will strive to meet the learning outcomes. Please limit responses to a 200 word maximum per outcome.

Outcome 1: Information Literacy


Outcome 2: Critical Thinking


Outcome 3: Constructive Teamwork

For more information or answers to questions about your proposal, please feel free to contact the CAS Dean's Office.

Proposers should submit this completed and signed form to the CAS Dean's Office by **February 8th, 2016.**

Applicant's Signature: _______________________________ Date: __________

Chair/Supervisor's Signature: __________________________ Date: __________
The CAS Chairs met to discuss the proposed change to the Liberal Arts Program (see below). There was much discussion over the second (Choose Your Adventure) and third pieces (Share Your Adventure) to the proposed program. In order to ensure we keep moving forward, and we are able to implement the First Year Adventure during Fall 2016, it was decided to cut Part 2 and Part 3 out of the proposal at this time.

Motion was made to accept the new College of Arts and Sciences Liberal Learning program, with the First Year Adventure piece moving forward only at this time (Marshall Toman, Sandy Ellis). Motion unanimously passed.

College of Arts and Sciences
Liberal Arts Program
(Program Suspended in 2014-2015)

The College of Arts and Sciences has been evaluating its Liberal Arts requirement over the past few years. At that time the Liberal Arts program had the following conditions:

1. Students needed to take at least 8 credits, totaling 3 courses.
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Your CAS Adventure
Liberal Learning Program

Your CAS Adventure is the new College of Arts and Sciences Liberal Arts program. Your CAS Adventure emphasizes high-impact educational practices, student engagement, and out of classroom problems. The objective is a program that is distinctive, that defines our College, and that attracts students to our majors, our College, and to the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. All students completing a Bachelor of Science, a Bachelor of Arts, or a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete this program.
The CAS Adventure has three aspects. CAS students start with the First Year Adventure, innovative one-of-a-kind classes designed to promote student engagement. After their first year, students continue with Choose Your Adventure, enrolling in classes or activities (such as research, internships, or study abroad) focused on out of classroom experiences. Students finish with Share Your Adventure, presenting their experience at a CAS Symposium.

Part 1 – The First Year Adventure

The First Year Adventure (CAS 101*) brings students together with faculty to study questions in the faculty member’s field of interest. The courses, each focused on a unique topic, are taught by exemplary faculty using engaging pedagogies. They help students make the intellectual transition from high school to college. Although the various First Year Adventure courses differ, all address the three learning goals of Information Literacy, Critique and Innovation, and Constructive Teamwork.

- **Learning Goal: Information Literacy.** Information literacy is an essential component in academic and professional life. Information literacy is the ability to know when there is a need for information, and to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information for the problem at hand.

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These learning goals are based upon the American Association of Colleges and Universities Essential Learning Outcomes.

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The First Year Adventure courses are for first-year students only. Students who transfer into a CAS program, either internally or externally, who have 30 or more credits will have the FYA waived. However, if a student transfers into the university with 30 or more credits but has never attended college (i.e. AP credits, Youth Options credits, etc.), they are treated as First Year college students and will be required to take the First Year Adventure course. Note: Any student who transfers into the College of Arts and Sciences with more than 30 credits will still be required to engage in Part 2 – Choose Your Adventure, and Part 3 – Share Your Adventure of the Liberal Learning Program.
There will be an application process for individual’s to apply for and teach a course. A CAS committee will review applications each year. See attachment for the application.

**Part 2—Choose-Your-Adventure**

The second-phase of the CAS Adventure program will engage students outside of the traditional classroom, and help them to become active learners and global citizens. In Choose Your Adventure (CYA), students will choose from a variety of high-impact learning activities. They will complete an approved project in one of the areas listed*, or may petition to design a different type of project.

The CAS Dean’s Office will administer Choose Your Adventure with a start date of Fall 2017.

A Choose-Your-Adventure activity will need to meet the following criteria:

1. **Significant time commitment:** The experience should comprise 75-125 hours over the course of the semester.

2. **Meaningful application:** The experience should allow the student to effectively synthesize academic concepts with concrete experience.

3. **Reflection of understanding:** Completion of a well-defined reflection is required. The reflection must demonstrate how the student synthesized academic concepts with their concrete experience and what they learned in the process. This would ordinarily take the form of a reflection paper written after the student has completed the activity or a journal that is kept as the students goes through the experience. The format and length of this reflective component is determined by the student in consultation with the Assistant Dean in the College.

*CYA high-impact practices: study abroad, national student exchange, undergraduate research and scholarly activity, internship, and others as approved. Students must apply for meeting this requirement prior to the experience-taking place.

**Part 3—Share Your Adventure**

The final piece of the CAS Adventure will be students’ presentation of their work in Choose Your Adventure at a yearly CAS Symposium*. The CAS Symposium, known as ‘Share Your Adventure’ (SYA) and coordinated by the CAS Dean’s Office, is designed to highlight students’ Choose Your Adventure activities. This annual CAS showcase will highlight student achievement through posters, short-films, art exhibits, PowerPoints, and interactive displays in a lively and content-rich event. Presenting students, their families, faculty, and current students will all be invited.

*Note: If a student is presenting at another event (ie: NCUR, URSCA, discipline-specific conference), she/he may request an exception from participating in the CAS Symposium. Students must, however, indicate somewhere on their presentation that the project was part of the CAS Adventure: Liberal Learning Program. Students would still be highly encouraged to present their work at the symposium so as to allow other CAS students (such as those in the CAS First Years Adventure courses) a chance to see examples of work they could do in the Choose Your Adventure program.
October 8, 2015

UWRF Governance Leaders Jim Graham, Mialisa Moline and Alexandru Tupan,

Questions concerning the staffing and funding of the new CAS Liberal Arts “First Year Adventure” (LAFYA) have been raised in the curriculum approval process and let me begin by stating that the program will have no financial implications at the Central Budget level (i.e., no additional FTE or funds are needed) as it is being designed to be staffed via internal reallocations completely within the College of Arts and Sciences. One of the reasons that University Curriculum Chair Tupan did not receive any feedback about the financial implications from the CAS Chairs and Program Directors is that they were aware of the plan and understood that it would be budget neutral beyond the college. In hindsight, I should have included a description of the staff plan with the curriculum transmittal form and am taking care of that oversight with this e-mail.

You are correct in assuming that our target number of students is 400. We keep the class size at 25 so that we can accomplish the desired course learning outcomes. This equates to the need for about 16 sections of the class. The plan is for the staffing FTE and dollars to come from CAS reallocation from 3 sources.

First, the new iteration of UWRF General Education and University requirements has dropped the former MD requirement. As you might expect, CAS was a major player in staffing this course and we will be reallocation some former MD staffing FTE to the new LAFYA.

Second, the previous CAS Liberal Arts curriculum required students to take 3 courses with Lib Arts designators. With this requirement gone, we again plan to reallocate some former LIB ARTS staffing to the new LAFYA.

Finally, the LAFYA will be required for all incoming first-year CAS majors. This will mean that of a likely 15 credit load, 3-credits will be dedicated to this class. It is most likely that these credits will replace 3-credits that would normally have come from a general education requirement (e.g., a social/behavioral science course, a humanities or fine arts course). As you know, CAS staffs the vast majority of general education courses on campus. As part of the reallocation plan we will slightly reduce the number of general education offerings and will replace them with LAFYA sections. This reduction will be spread across all general education categories as to not impact the ability of students outside of CAS to get a general education schedule similar to those gotten in previous years.

Once again, using these 3 sources for reallocation, we are confident that we will be able to staff the new Liberal Arts “First Year Adventure” (LAFYA) with no addition FTE nor dollars.

Sincerely,

Bradley J. Caskey
Dean – College of Arts and Science