October 22, 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 Resolution 2015-16/4

The following resolution was approved by the Faculty Senate on October 21, 2015:

**Faculty Senate Resolution**

*Sensible Gun Policies*

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**Introduction:**

In an attempt to stop “mayhem” on and around UW campuses, and to offer students and faculty a chance to protect themselves from gun violence and crime, including rape, on campus, State Rep. Jesse Kremer (R-Kewaskum) and Sen. Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) have introduced a bill to repeal the current UW System ban on carrying weapons inside campus buildings. The bill would also prevent UW campuses and campuses of the Wisconsin Technical College System from prohibiting firearms for those who have concealed-carry licenses.

**Whereas,** college campuses are a place of higher learning, critical thinking, and debate, and where opposing viewpoints may sometimes spark passionate argument; and

**Whereas,** traditional college students are away from family possibly for the first time in their lives and may experience great stress as a result; and

**Whereas,** many young people on college campuses experience feeling that they can live forever no matter what they do and may experiment with risky behavior and mind-altering substances, including excessive amounts of alcohol; and

**Whereas,** at this time of a young person’s life their passions may overpower their reason as they explore relationships, ideas, and orient their moral compasses; and
Whereas, depression and suicide are major dangers on college campus, which possession of firearms would make more difficult to prevent; and

Whereas, students employing a gun to defend themselves on campus may do greater harm by instigating gun fights and injuries from stray bullets, and

Whereas, students with guns might pull them out even for minor provocations and increase the numbers of injuries and deaths on campuses; and

Whereas, law enforcement officers may have trouble distinguishing between “good guys” and “bad guys” during any incident involving guns, increasing the likelihood of students being killed by law enforcement officers; and

Whereas, permitting guns in campus buildings would greatly increase the dangers of teaching and working on campus;

Whereas, taking away the right of campus communities to establish their own approaches to crime and violence on campus usurps current safety plans and greatly undermine local law enforcement efforts to provide for campus safety;

The Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, therefore, opposes the proposed legislation to allow concealed weapons to be carried in campus buildings. Further, we call upon our State Representatives and Senators to oppose this new legislation.