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 2015-16/5

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

Faculty Senate Resolution

Wisconsin Pension

Introduction
The Wisconsin Legislature is considering two proposals by Sen. Duey Stroebel, R-Saukville. The first would raise the minimum retirement age for obtaining pension benefits for most state workers from 55 to 57. The second would use a state worker's highest five years of salary, rather than three, to calculate the pension payout.

Whereas, Wisconsin has a fully funded pension system, and has for years, unlike most states that are struggling to fulfill their obligations to retired public employees, as our Governor has repeatedly declared; and

Whereas, the proposal would actually cost the state more by having higher-salaried workers stay on the job longer rather than be replaced by cheaper, younger people; and

Whereas, some legislators would like the state to be run more like businesses, which typically reward workers for good effort, pay competitive wages to keep top performers, and provide bonuses for good work; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has been eroding state worker compensation and through increased benefit costs actually lowering salaries and punishing workers for their loyalty and good work;

The University of Wisconsin – River Falls Faculty Senate, therefore, opposes these two pension proposals and calls on the legislature to stop eroding state workers’ compensation. Further, we call upon our state representatives and senators to reject these proposed changes.