May 6, 2016

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 2015-16/78

The following motion was approved, with amended changes in red, with 15 in favor, 3 opposed, and 2 abstentions by the Faculty Senate on May 4, 2016:

A motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to create the following Strategic Choices Task Force:

**Strategic Choices Task Force**  
**Overview:**

Because of the ongoing effects of base budget cuts from the state, the freezing of tuition, and the effects of undergraduate enrollment declines, UWRF faces significant budget challenges. While budget stressors have long been a concern on campus, and thus motivated campus activity such as program prioritization beginning in 2008, the impact of the losses of tuition revenue and state support are reaching a critical point and impacting the university’s ability to sustain the current academic program array as well as to support general education/university requirements.

**Purpose:**

The task force, composed of academic leaders, faculty members and a student, will focus on the important questions of what array of academic programs (and general education) can be sustained in the current budget environment. Using existing materials—including budget and resource allocation information, the program prioritization reports, UW System enrollment and program array reports, retention documents, class size information and external reports related to program demand and
competition—the task force will examine the viability of existing academic majors and programs. The university's strategic plan, *Pathway to Distinction*, as well as the critical importance of enrollment, will be considered to help guide discussions and develop recommendations.

The task force will review the information and make recommendations as to what academic programs might be logical to merge, consolidate, suspend, reinstate, maintain, or strengthen. Further, the task force will make recommendations regarding how the colleges’ program array and staffing for academic programs and majors relate to general education/university requirements. As appropriate, recommendations will be considered by the appropriate shared governance body and the administration. It is important to note that the intent of the task force is not to bypass governance processes.

**Timeline:**

The Task Force will convene as soon as the committee is formed and work through the summer. An interim report will be provided to the Chancellor and the Faculty Senate Chair, with a potential to extend the timeline based on feedback from the Chancellor’s Office and/or the Faculty Senate leadership.

**Composition: (6 administrative academic leaders; 7 faculty members; 1 student)**

Provost (convener)
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
College Deans (4)
Faculty Senate Chair
Chair of Faculty Senate Academic Program and Policy Committee
Chair of Faculty Senate General Education and University Requirements Committee
Chair of Termination Committee
Chair of Faculty Welfare Policies and Procedures Committee
Faculty representative of each of the Colleges (identified by Faculty Senate) (4)
Student representative (identified by Student Senate)

☑ Approved

Disapproved

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor  
5/13/14 Date