November 17, 2016

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

From: Mialisa Moline, Chair
       Faculty Senate
       University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Re: UWRF Faculty Senate Resolution 2016-17/2

The following resolution was approved with 18 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstentions, by the Faculty Senate on November 16, 2016:

Resolution of the UWRF Faculty Senate

Whereas,

Since the passing of The Wisconsin Legislature’s 2015 Omnibus Motion by the Joint Finance Committee of Wisconsin, The Faculty Senate of UWRF only operates at the pleasure of the Chancellor and thanks to that Chancellor’s gracious agreement to allow it to continue its customary role.

And whereas,

While we as a faculty appreciate the willingness to acknowledge the faculty as a voice in decision making by our current administration at UWRF, laws establishing shared governance were passed expressly for the purpose of countering the whims of an incompetent, hostile, or uninformed administration where those whims are clearly deleterious to the maintenance of a well-operating institution of higher education.

And whereas,

We believe that the persons most qualified to make decisions about education are educators themselves in cooperation with students, administrators, and communities
And whereas,

Shared governance bodies have systematically been barred from the real
decision making taking place in regards to the UW system by the Board of Regents for
nearly a decade now

And whereas

The most recent major policy change to the Faculty Handbook that passed with a highly split
vote through UWRF's Faculty Senate on November 2, 2016 in no way reflects that body's
true wishes,

- not because it provides a program of post-tenure review, but because we have
  always had such a process under which faculty could be fired, disciplined, or
  promoted for cause, but not at the whims of a disgruntled or politically opposed
  administrator or through political pressure on an administrator;

- not because we think of tenure as a guarantee of a “job for life,” but because we DO
  think of tenure as a guarantee that our free speech will be protected from partisan
  interference by persons who disagree with our research interests, direction, and
  findings.

- and because very few professors would be so arrogant as to claim to deserve a
  “job for life” regardless of performance, but that is never what we’ve had.

Be it Therefore Resolved that,

We as a body wish to register our strong objection to the Post Tenure Review Policy
authorizing a policy that was revised by system legal so that:

- There is no appeal process
- UW System has precluded mention of the Family Medical Leave Act within the
  Post Tenure Review policy

Prior to Post Tenure Review, limited assistance for faculty is provided by this campus, such as in
the form of an ombudsman.