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 2016-17/3

The following resolution was approved unanimously with 19 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, by the Faculty Senate on November 16, 2016:

UWRF Faculty Senate

Tuition Freeze Proposed Resolution

Whereas the UWRF Faculty Senate supports the goal of keeping tuition affordable for all students; and

Whereas maintaining the quality of education and services offered by the University is the top priority of the UWRF Faculty Senate; and

Whereas the Wisconsin State Government has frozen tuition without providing any means to fund this freeze; and

Whereas AFT-Wisconsin's (the faculty union) Higher Education Council has initiated a petition to ask the legislature to fund the freeze; and

Whereas the text of their petition is as follows: "We recognize that college affordability and accessibility are critical in moving Wisconsin forward. Since the 2011 state budget, the cumulative cuts to the UW System have totaled $795 million. Adjusted for inflation, this means Wisconsin now spends less on educating its UW students than at any time in its history. These cuts have harmed students by reducing class offerings and programs, increasing class sizes, and lengthening the time to degree.

"In August 2016, the Board of Regents released a strategic plan entitled “2020FWD.” We believe any strategic plan that is truly forward-looking should fully fund the tuition freeze by 2020. According to
the governor's calculations, this would require a $70 million increase in funding in each of the next three years.”

For the benefit of UW students and the economic vitality of this state,

Be it resolved that The Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls supports the petition to fund the freeze; calls on students, staff, and faculty to support funding the freeze by signing the petition; and asks our campus leaders to stand up and speak out in behalf of policies that would fully fund the tuition freeze and maintain the quality of public higher education in the great State of Wisconsin.