February 19, 2015

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

From:  David P. Rainville, Chair  
       Faculty Senate  
       University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Re:    UWRF Faculty Senate Resolution 2014-15/3

At the February 18, 2015 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, resolution 2014-15/3 was passed. The motion is forwarded to you for your information.

Whereas

The Board of Regents needs urgently to assure faculty and other personnel that current policies and procedures protecting and implementing traditional faculty tenure, employee benefits, and shared governance of University of Wisconsin System campuses ("current policies") will continue even if the university becomes a public authority as proposed in Governor Walker’s 2015-2017 Executive Budget,

Whereas

Authority for said current policies comes from Chapter 36 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which may not apply to the University of Wisconsin System if it becomes a public authority,

Whereas

Said current policies are bedrock principles of the University of Wisconsin System, upon which many talented professionals have joined together and built our university system into a national and international leader in education and research, a university system of which our graduates and the citizens of Wisconsin are justly proud and which provides vital, lasting benefits to the people and economy of the State of Wisconsin,

Whereas
In proposing public authority status, the proposed executive budget dramatically and fundamentally throws in question the University of Wisconsin System’s commitment to said current policies and other commitments to current and prospective students, faculty, and non-faculty personnel,

Whereas

In the very competitive marketplace which is higher education, said current policies are critical to providing quality higher education for Wisconsin students and are essential expectations for employment of university faculty and non-faculty personnel,

Whereas

The uncertainty created by the proposed executive budget regarding said current policies demonstrably is already directly hurting the University of Wisconsin System’s ability to keep and recruit high quality faculty and non-faculty personnel at University of Wisconsin System campuses, and

Whereas

The Board of Regents can significantly reduce the ongoing damage and begin restoring the University of Wisconsin System’s competitiveness by immediately affirming continuation of said current policies and by writing and approving new policies, consistent with said current policies, to be applied if the University of Wisconsin System becomes a public authority,

Now, Therefore

We, the leaders of faculty governance groups representing the four-year campuses of the University of Wisconsin System, hereby request the Board of Regents urgently act as follows:

• clearly and urgently affirm current policies protecting and implementing traditional faculty tenure, employee benefits, and shared governance to continue even if the University of Wisconsin System becomes a public authority, and

• promptly write and approve policies to accomplish these goals if the University of Wisconsin System becomes a public authority.

Sincerely, Faculty Senate University of Wisconsin River Falls
co-sponsoring leaders of other UW System faculty governance groups to be listed here also