UW-RIVER FALLS FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION ON

SHARED GOVERNANCE IN THE CHANCELLOR SEARCH AND SCREEN PROCESS

Approved by the Faculty Senate
June 10, 2015

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate is alarmed at the Wisconsin State Legislature Joint Finance Committee’s rush to dramatically change state statutes providing for tenure and shared governance throughout the University of Wisconsin System (UWS).

WHEREAS we find the statement in Resolution 1.2.d that members of the Board of Regents (BoR) have “expressed pride in the choices that have been made through the current process; but...have expressed concern that their involvement in the hiring process has been unnecessarily constrained” to be an enormously troubling justification for changing the managerial selection process at this premier system of higher education. The Resolution calls for changing a process that it explicitly recognizes as working well.

WHEREAS the proposed change is doubly troubling in light of the Joint Finance Committee’s mark-up of the current budget bills to eliminate statutory provisions establishing tenure and shared governance. Despite statements by UWS President Ray Cross and some UWS Regents asserting intent to establish tenure and shared governance policy within the UWS system, the very first act of the BoR is to consider a Resolution that purposefully diminishes shared governance. Further, the proposed new policy for selecting Chancellors, etc. calls for faculty to participate in search and screen procedures under the chair-ship of Administrators and Regents who will have the authority under AB/SB 21 to dismiss them without just cause or due process. This is a recipe for dysfunctionality.

WHEREAS having completed a number of rigorous Search and Screens for new Chancellors at the UW-River Falls campus over the past two decades, we are very familiar with the current policy. One critical advantage of the current system is that new Chancellors begin their “tenure” with a constituency that recognizes them as qualified and capable. One critical disadvantage of the proposed system is that it will negatively impact our cooperative relationship with administrators thereby diminishing our ability to teach effectively and to fulfill our role as researchers.

WHEREAS Resolution 1.2.d. may lead to a degradation rather than improvement in the quality and capability of campus administration.

WHEREAS Resolution 1.2.d. reflects a profound disregard for shared governance and sends a message to UW faculty that regardless of rhetorical platitudes, the Board of Regents intends to eliminate meaningful shared governance.

AND WHEREAS we strongly endorse UW-La Crosse Resolution of June 1, 2015, “Response to Proposed Changes in UW System Executive Searches [Regent Policy Document 6-4].”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED On behalf of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, we request that the State Legislature reject and vote no on Resolution 1.2.d. to amend RPD 6-4.