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

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

December 18, 2009

RE: UW-RF Faculty Senate Motion 2009/2010/26

At the November 18, 2009 meeting of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty senate, motion 2009-2010/26 was passed and is effective immediately. This motion is forwarded for your action.

A motion from the Executive Committee to accept a report and the recommendations contained in that report from the Athletic Committee (Brian Huffman, Chair). The Report is as follows:

**Athletic Committee Recommendation to the Chancellor Regarding the UWRF Swimming & Diving Team**

**Introduction**

The Athletic Committee recommends the retention of the UWRF Swimming & Diving Teams. The vote in favor of retention was 6 to 1 with the Athletic Director abstaining.

This recommendation to the Chancellor was to specifically address the following eight considerations for suspending or terminating a varsity sport:

1. Title IX impact
2. Are the facilities adequate to support a competitive program?
3. What is the competitive history of the sport?
4. Is quality, consistent coaching available?
5. What are the financial implications, including the possibility of reallocating resources within and outside of athletics?
6. Contribution to broad based program:
   a. Balance between team and individual sports
   b. Other opportunities for competition
   c. Availability of intramural alternatives
7. Effect on community involvement and service.
8. What are the enrollment implications, including impact on the university’s strategic enrollment goals?

The next eight sections of this report address each of these issues.

**Item 1: Title IX Impact**

The Title IX impact of suspending the team would be minimal. Although the suspension of the swimming team would involve more women than men (22 women versus 17 men), the ratio of women to men varies from one year to the next. Furthermore, the ratio of women’s to men’s sports offerings at UWRF will still be the largest in the WIAC Conference (see Table 1 in the Appendix).

**Item 2: Adequacy of Facilities**

It was reasonable to consider the desirability of retaining a team when their primary facility fails. Therefore, the 7-year Athletic Review (written to former Chancellor Betz) said that consideration should be given to dropping the swimming and diving program should the pool fail.

There are three pools to consider: the UWRF Pool, the River Falls High School Pool, and the Hudson YMCA Pool. First, the UWRF Pool is broken beyond economically viable repair. Nobody disputes that fact.

Second, the Hudson YMCA Pool is inferior to the River Falls High School Pool, the distance to it is much greater, and the rental is higher. Thus, there is no reason to consider it further.

Third, the River Falls High School Pool is superior to the university pool which failed. It has more lanes, wider lanes, and two 1-meter diving boards (versus no boards at the university pool). That pool is also very close to the university.

Adequate facilities exist whether or not the team is suspended.

**Item 3: Competitive History**

The women’s and men’s teams have never been competitive in the WIAC Conference finishing last or second last in 36 of 42 years. Their overall (conference and non-conference) win/loss ratio for the last 6 years are 19/14 for the women (winning 57.6% of the time) and 7/23 for the men (winning 23.3% of the time) respectively.

The teams have forfeited the diving part of their competitions (since they had no diving boards at the university pool); their respective win/loss ratios without diving would have been 23/10 (winning 69.7% of the time) and 13/17 (winning 43.3% of the time). These records are on par with the overall win/loss records of all UWRF teams over that same time period: 613/580 (or a winning percentage of 51.4%).

The UWRF swimming and diving teams are small, competitive for their size, and growing (there are only 3 seniors versus 18 freshmen on the teams). There are 17 men and 22 women on the teams making them the second smallest men’s team and the smallest women’s team in the WIAC.

**Item 4: Coaching**

The Athletic Director maintains that the coaching staff is first rate.
**Item 5: Financial Implications**

The following budget numbers were taken from the Athletic Director's Report:

- Swim S & E: $15,000
- Assistant Coach: $3,000
- Coach (50%): $21,574
- RFHS Pool Rent: $15,000
- Total: $54,574

It costs the university less to rent the High School pool than it did to own a pool. The savings are to the university as a whole (not necessarily to individual departments); Facilities Management (which had paid to maintain the old pool) has seen a large decrease in its expenses. The Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance (whose office pays for the rental) has seen an increase in expenses.

Tuition income is expected to drop somewhat as the potential loss of undergraduate students is estimated to be between 30 and 35 (see Item 8). Thus, the cost to retain the program would be $54,574/year. The cost to suspend the program would be the loss of tuition income.

**Item 6: Contribution to a Broad Based Program**

**a. Balance between team and individual sports**

UWRF offers 11 women's and 7 men's sports. If swimming were dropped that would be 10 women's and 6 men's sports. The women compete in golf, soccer, volleyball, tennis, basketball, softball, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, hockey, cross country, and swimming and diving. Five of those are more team-oriented (soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, and hockey) and six are more individual sports (golf, tennis, indoor and outdoor track, cross country, and swimming and diving). Thus the elimination of swimming and diving evens the balance between team and individual sports.

The men compete in football, basketball, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, hockey, cross country, and swimming and diving. Three of those are more team-oriented (football, basketball, and hockey) and four are more individual sports (indoor and outdoor track and field, cross country, and swimming and diving). Again, the elimination of swimming and diving would even the balance between team and individual sports.

**b. Other opportunities for competition**

The swimming and diving team members would have no reasonable opportunity to compete should the teams be suspended. Participation in club swimming (USA Swimming) and AAU events would be prohibitively expensive and very inconvenient.

**c. Availability of intramural alternatives**

There are no intramural opportunities for swimming and diving.

If the teams are suspended the balance between individual and team sports is improved, but opportunities to compete for the present team members to are eliminated.

**Item 7: Effect on Community Involvement and Service**
The following is a partial listing of community involvement and service by the swimming and diving team members and alumni.

**Lifeguarding and Volunteering for Area Swim Meets** – HASA’s head coach reports that members of the swim team serve as lifeguards and generally help run area swimming competitions at the high school and club levels.

**Hudson Area Swim Club (HASA)** – 5 members of the present and former UWRF swim teams coach the Hudson Area Swim Club.

**North Suburban Aquatic Club** – One alumni member of the swim team coaches the North Suburban Aquatic Club.

**Roseville Area High School** – One alumni member of the swim team coaches at the Roseville Area High School.

**River Falls Swim Club** – 3 members of the swim team coach the River Falls Swim Club.

**Charities/Community Spirit/Service** – Swim team members have participated in the Relay for Life, Trick-or-Treating for Canned Goods, were the only team to march in the last Homecoming parade, and the design of the Frisbee Golf Course at Hoffman Park in River Falls.

**Service to the Team Itself** – Graduating and 5th year students have stayed to help coach the team on a volunteer (non-paying) basis.

**WIAC Conference** – Loss of the UWRF Swimming & Diving team would reduce the number of such teams in the conference to 5 which is the minimum for competition. The WIAC competitors would also lose the opportunity to swim at the world-class facilities on the University of Minnesota campus (the UWRF team holds for profit invitacionalts at that University’s natatorium).

**Alumni Giving** – It is likely that alumni who swam for UWRF will cut back in their giving. Many have said as much in emails to this committee.

If the team is suspended the community involvement and service by team members and alumni would eventually cease.

**Item 8: Enrollment Implications**

The swim team consists primarily of underclassmen/women (there are only 3 seniors on the team). The men had a 3.18 GPA last season while the women had a 3.00. It is estimated that between 15 to 20 of these 37 student athletes would leave UWRF.
The enrollment implications extend to incoming freshmen as well. The team coach is in contact with 29 recruits. In a normal year he could expect to get about 15 of those to come to UWRF. It is likely that all of those would go elsewhere.

Thus, the total potential loss of undergraduate students is estimated to be between 30 and 35.

Appendix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>SPORTS</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>ENROLLMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OSHKOSH</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAU CLAIRE</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITEWATER</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA CROSSE *</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST POINT</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STOUT</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATTEVILLE</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIVER FALLS</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPERIOR*</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: WIAC Sport Offerings by Institution

☑ Approved

☐ Disapproved

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor

Chancellor’s Note: On December 2, 2009, I communicated my decision to retain the UWRF Swimming and Diving Team (see attached). I appreciate the work of the Athletic Committee and the report and recommendation forwarded by the Committee, which was accepted by Faculty Senate.
Statement Concerning the UW-River Falls Swimming and Diving Program
Issued by Chancellor Dean Van Galen, December 2, 2009

In light of the closure of the Karges Pool and at the request of UWRF Athletic Director Rick Bowen, earlier this semester I initiated a process to review the future of the UW-River Falls Swimming and Diving program. As part of this process, the Athletic Committee reviewed the program based on a set of criteria established in consultation with the UWRF Faculty Senate. The Athletic Committee conducted a thorough review and heard the perspectives of many individuals.

On November 13, the Athletic Committee issued its report which recommended by a 6-1 vote, with one abstention, that the UWRF Swimming and Diving program be retained. In its report, the Athletic Committee did note that “it was reasonable to consider the desirability of retaining a team when their primary facility fails,” and I am grateful to Athletic Director Bowen for asking that the review be initiated.

After reviewing the report of the Athletic Committee as well as additional information, I have decided that the intercollegiate Swimming and Diving program at UW-River Falls will not be terminated or suspended for the 2010-2011 academic year. Furthermore, although it is important that the University conduct periodic and on-going review of its NCAA Division III sports module, I do not anticipate the need for a special review of the UWRF Swimming and Diving program in the near future, unless new factors emerge that would warrant such a review.

I am grateful to everyone who participated in this review, which I believe to have been a fair and transparent process. I especially appreciate the work of the Athletic Committee (ably chaired by Brian Huffman), the Faculty Senate, Athletic Director Bowen, Coach Henderson, current and former members of the UWRF Swimming and Diving Team, and those friends of the swimming program who expressed their perspectives in a civil and thoughtful manner.

I know that I join the entire UW-River Falls community in wishing the members of the UWRF Swimming and Diving team the best for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year, both in the classroom and in the pool.