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

From: Marshall Toman, Acting Chair  
Faculty Senate  
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

March 1, 2012

RE:  UWRF Faculty Senate Motion 2011-2012/90

At the February 29, 2012 meeting of University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, motion 2011-2012/90 was passed and it is effective immediately. This motion is forwarded to you for your action.

Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Marshall Toman, Chair) to approve the strategic planning draft initiatives. (Note: The Mission, Vision, Values, Preamble to the Goals, and the Goals have already been approved by Faculty Senate and the Chancellor.)

1. Global Scholar Certificate. Entered onto the DAR of every UWRF student would be the requirements for the credential of a "Global Scholar Certificate." Such requirements might include an education abroad course, language competency, course work in international issues and perspectives, and co-curricular activities. Every student would be given cause to wonder why the possibility was listed there, and perhaps every advisor would need to address it.

2. While maintaining the number of students who engage in short-term education abroad, increase the proportion of students who engage in long-term (semester-length) education abroad.

3. Partner with the campus community, alumni and friends to successfully launch the "Rising to Distinction" fundraising campaign. The campaign is expected to be publicly announced in 2012 and for two campus priorities: the health and human performance building and Falcon Scholars. It is envisioned to be a five or six year campaign.


5. Develop a full-semester education abroad program in Central and South America called the UWRF International Traveling Classroom – Central
6. This initiative proposes to reconstitute the Masters Program in Sustainable Community Development as a university-wide, multidisciplinary program with contributions from faculty in all colleges. This program would directly involve departments and faculty across all colleges at UWRF. Sustainability is based on an understanding of the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of almost any issue and strives to develop answers to questions that can address these issues.

7. Increase URSCA by: Creating a central URSCA office (including faculty director & coordinator); promote URSCA across UWRF; continue and increase support to students, both during the academic year and summer sessions. Enhance support for faculty, as described in the URSCA task force report, to encourage broader and deeper engagement in URSCA. Increase the infusion of URSCA in the curriculum.

8. Support, expand and develop dynamic, high-quality nature-connected education for all ages, multiple disciplines throughout the university and community.

9. This initiative aims to place even greater distinction on UW-River Falls as an incubator for sustainability efforts. In close partnership with the City of River Falls and the River Falls School District along with our local economic development organizations, UWRF will offer its undergraduate and graduate students even greater research opportunities in a broad range of sustainability efforts ranging from economic, social, and environmental. An important element of the initiative is the further development of the SCISCJ Fellows and the newly created Sustainability Faculty Fellows program. The goal would be to provide funding for student research grants for individual or team efforts on an annual basis. Guided by faculty and staff in the respective Fellows program, successful applicants will focus their work around a broad-base of sustainability issues with a regional focus.

10. In support of strategic innovation and distinctive academic excellence, the University will establish and support an Ideas and Innovation Incubator (I3) to provide small groups of UWRF faculty and staff the time and resources, including during the summer, to develop ideas and proposals in key areas to support the university’s strategic plan, Pathway to Distinction. This approach will enable the University to thoughtfully plan and catalyze innovation that is visionary, information based, and fiscally sustainable. The I3 will respect and work in concert with established shared governance and resource allocation processes.

11. To foster distinctive academic excellence via implementation of current best-practice engaged learning with 21st century innovative active learning classrooms.
12. Develop and institute an ongoing leadership program to train and inform all UWRF personnel who are responsible for managing academic departments, units, and colleges of their responsibilities, duties, the responsibilities of those whom they supervise, and the personnel policies of UWRF and UWS.

13. Building enrollment through distinctive academic programs. Rationale: UWRF has a compelling desire to build student enrollment and to do so through high quality programs that reach new and different student audiences, contribute to our institutional identity/brand, and help the university develop an even more diverse, international, and higher academic profile student body. This initiative encourages pursue to new curricular programs and pathways to support the initiative and Goal 1: Distinctive Academic Excellence. To that end, faculty from different colleges have forwarded the following academic program ideas to be developed and reviewed, and, as appropriate, pursued during the course of the first year of the plan. (This initiative combines five program initiatives into one):

- Development of the Sustainable Community Development master’s degree program.
- Addition of Montessori program focus to the MS in Education
- Development of MS in Computer Science
- Full-time/Day-time MBA
- Companion Animal Care and Management

All program concepts are subject to the rules of UWRF governance, the review and approval of UW Board of Regents, and, when necessary, the review and approval of the Higher Learning Commission.

14. Internationalizing the UW-River Falls Learning Environment. Rationale: Pulling from tactically oriented submissions in rounds 1 and 2 of the strategic planning process this year, this initiative focuses on reinforcing and enhancing the international and global focus of our learning environment as outlined in Goal 2: Global Education and Engagement. To quote from the description of that goal: Global learning and comprehensive internationalization will serve as a distinctive feature of UW-River Falls.

In meeting that goal, this initiative focuses on four areas of the campus academic experience and learning environment:

- Building the capacity of our faculty and staff to teach content courses in a language other than English and
attract and support students who are non-native English speakers. At the outset the focus should be on a limited number of languages (e.g., Mandarin and Spanish).
- Developing and deploying signage, web page content and print or web publications, particularly in those campus service areas focused on student recruitment (international and domestic) and retention, in languages other than English (e.g., Mandarin, Spanish, Hmong, Korean, Japanese, Arabic).
- Developing a university wide “Year of . . .” focus on a nation to highlight course content related to the nation, organize workshops and seminars, cultural events, and visiting lecturers. This activity should highlight UWRF’s global engagement and partnerships and tie the curricular and academic co-curricular programs closer together.
- Growing out of the Internationalization Laboratory develop expanded course content that is globally engaged and internationally focused. This is primarily aimed at degree programs as we academically develop our students to be prepared for the global realities of the next generation.

Approved

Disapproved

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor

3/4/12

Date