Members present: Arunendu Chatterjee, Tricia Davis, Andriel Dees, Terry Ferriss (chair), Darryl Miller, Brian Schultz, Mike Martin, Daniel Vande Yacht

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm.
The committee reviewed and responded to a proposal from Brian Ritchie, UWRF Student Senate Military Veterans Representative, to permit military veterans with a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher to wear red, white, and blue honor cords at the commencement ceremony.

Points of discussion:

- Campus recognition of all veterans and active military personnel is a respectful and appropriate action to take. The question is what is the appropriate forum or venue to do so.
- Commencement is a ceremony designed to acknowledge ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.
- Current UWRF policy (see attached reference policy) on cords is to permit national academic honors programs to display cords. Other groups are not permitted to display cords or any other memento as part of the graduation attire (no sashes, pins, ribbons, etc). The Registrar’s Office receives requests every year from non-academic but university affiliated groups (Greek organizations, student clubs, student/staff interest groups, etc) to wear things on the graduation gowns. The current university policy is consistent with national guidelines from the American Council on Education (ACE).
- The committee acknowledges that the veterans are not a group based on academics and therefore they do not fit the current guidelines for wearing graduation cords. It also seems inappropriate to recognize only a sub-set of veterans. If veterans are to be recognized it would be more appropriate to recognize ALL veterans and probably the current active duty military as well.

Based on the discussion the committee agreed to deny the request for veterans to wear cords at graduation. However, the committee will send a memo to the Provost and Chancellor recommending that a suitable forum or venue be considered at which all military veterans and active duty military men and women could be recognized. For example, perhaps veterans and active duty military personnel could all be asked to stand to be recognized during the graduation ceremony.

The committee chair will send a response to Brian Ritchie and the memo to the Chancellor and Provost.

Meeting adjourned 3:50 pm.
Reference Background Policy:

Academic Standards Committee has passed the following motion and recommends its passage to the Faculty Senate to replace the existing language in 8.2.23

8.2.23 Academic Honors Regalia

a. Seniors who graduate cum Laude, Magna cum Laude, and Summa cum Laude may wear honor cords at the Commencement ceremony. These honor cords will be bestowed at the individual college honor ceremonies.

b. Graduating seniors who have completed the Honors Program may wear honor cords at the Commencement ceremony to symbolize their achievement. The bestowing of the honor cords will be left to the discretion of the Honors Program Director.

c. Graduating seniors who are members of national honor societies that have a chapter on the UWRF campus may wear the organization’s honor cords at the commencement ceremony. The bestowing of the cords will be left to each organization’s local advisor.

Honors regalia may include cords, ribbons, pins, and medallions. The Provost makes administrative decisions with respect to the type of honor regalia that may be worn.

Policy effective: Fall 2007