Minutes of the Athletic Committee Public Forum
October 28, 2009
6:30 PM – Kinnikinic Theater – Student Center

The Athletic Committee’s fourth meeting for the 2009-10 academic year was a public forum on the continuation of the swimming and diving team. It was brought to order at 6:30 pm in the Kinnikinic Theater at the Student Center. Those committee members in attendance were:

Brian Huffman – Chair
Richard Bowen – Athletic Director
Melissa Wilson
Kevin McLaughlin
Kenneth Ecker
Victoria Houseman
Craig Morris
Kathy Olson

There were also about 130 noncommittee members in attendance.

Brian began the meeting with a brief explanation of how we got to this point. He went over details related to the swimming and diving program in the 7-Year Review of the Athletic Department (dated January 22, 2008), the subsequent pool failure, and the Athletic Director’s recommendation to the Chancellor.

Brian then explained the Committee’s task as making a recommendation to the Chancellor regarding the future of the swimming and diving program based on 8 considerations spelled out in the University’s Procedures for Terminating or Suspending a Varsity Sport. Brian let the audience know that the committee had no position at this point since it have not gathered all the facts or done all the analysis. He pointed out that this necessarily meant that the committee could not answer specific questions such as “Why not just keep the program at the River Falls High School?”

Finally, Brian said that the intention of the forum was to let people have their say. He outlined a few ground rules to keep the discussion moving forward and to avoid

Formal Statements
Copies of formal statements are in the attachment to these minutes. The order is as follows:

- Statement from Coach Henderson
- Statement from Rellen Hardtke (V.P. River Falls Board of Education)
- Statement from UW- Eau Claire Swimming & Diving Team
- Statement from Andrew Sisulak (Sophomore on Swim Team)
- Statement from Ryan Hawke (Head Coach – Hudson Area Swimming Assn.)
- Statement from Roland Pomfret (Swimmer on River Falls High School Team)
Others who spoke without submitting transcripts of their presentations included:

- A psychiatrist from the community who enjoys swimming and recommends it to her patients
- Lori Gardalai (a mother of a swim team member)
- John Smiths (community member)
- Eli Eshenbach (swim team alumnus)
- Mary Smith (former swimmer)
- A softball team member
- Stephanie Heizer (a swim team member’s roommate)
- Chad Ernst (men’s cross country team captain)
- Alisha ? (roommate of a swim team member)
- Carol Skinner (President of HASA)
- Tia ? (former swim team member)
- Maggie Watson (UWRF Swim Club Board Member and swim parent)
- Jacob Kavanaugh (former cross country team captain)
- Tony Kashi (UWRF Senior on cross country and track teams)

The speakers all supported the continuation of the swimming and diving team. Each spoke for a few minutes.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Huffman
Chair, Athletic Committee