May 8, 2014

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

From: David P. Rainville, Chair [Signature]
   Faculty Senate
   University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Re: UWRF Faculty Senate Motion 2013-14/75

At the May 7, 2014 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, motion 2013-14/75 was passed and is effective immediately. The motion is forwarded to you for your action.

A motion from the Executive Committee to approve the following motion:

Motion Regarding International Student Recognition in a Certificate of Academic Merit

Faculty Senate moves for the creation of a letter each semester that constitutes a Certificate of Academic Merit to acknowledge meritorious academic achievement on the part of international and exchange students taking courses at UWRF. These students often come from recognition-heavy cultures. International Student Services has been approached by students inquiring about such recognition. The letter would be sent from the college dean’s office to students who met academic criteria similar to what students meet who receive notification that they have made the dean’s list.

Rationale

Non-degree seeking international and National Student Exchange students are not eligible for the dean’s list. After inquiring with Faculty Senate Academic Standards and the Registrar’s Office, we do not wish to change this policy. However, due to inquiries for recognition that Shelby King has received from students (many of whom come from recognition-heavy traditions), we would like to institute a parallel process of recognition for non-degree seeking students in the university and not-yet-degree-seeking students in the English Language Transition (ELT) Program.
Form
The recognition would come in the form of a letter on college letterhead signed by the pertinent dean. The letter itself would constitute the "Certificate of Academic Merit," the paper award or electronic copy presented to students.

Recipients
The letter would go to any non-degree seeking student who met the current criteria for making the dean's list in CAS: minimum 3.5 gpa, minimum of 12 credits (these credits may include ESL courses), no incompletes. Since students do not have majors, identification of the appropriate dean will be more problematic than if they had. Some students know they will major in business and some even have a CBE advisor; some students, such as those from ZISU, should flow to CEPS; most students in the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program should flow to CAFES. The International Student Services Coordinator and Director of the ELT Program can advise on the best flow. Probably, without intervention, most students would flow to the CAS dean (since ELT is in CAS).

Implementation
Once the list of eligible students is generated, the Coordinator of International Student Services and Director of the ELT will flow students' names to the appropriate dean. The deans' staff would merge the names into letter that the deans would sign. The letters can be emailed in pdf format to the recipients.

Timeline
Given the go-ahead, UWRF could implement this process for the Fall 2014 semester for letter to be distributed in January of 2015.

Approved ✓

Disapproved

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor 5/09/14