February 20, 2014

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

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

Re:       UWRF Faculty Senate Motion 2013-14/49

At the February 19, 2014 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, motion 2013-14/49 was passed and is effective immediately. The motion is forwarded to you for your action.

The Academic Standards Committee recommends replacing both policy 8.2.33 and FS 95/96 – 24, with the revised policy 8.2.33 attached below.

**Background:**
The Academic Standards Committee reviewed and modified the policy on how grades of D are handled for incoming transfer students (8.2.33). The proposed changes in 8.2.33 are noted in red underline in the copy below. The following points clarify the intent of the revisions:

- Current practice is to allow a D to transfer into General Elective Credit but not into the major.

- Proposed change is to allow all D grades to be transferred in. A grade of D will be allowed to transfer into the major as part of the student’s academic record.

- As per existing policy, transfer courses in the major count in the major GPA calculations, but do not count in overall GPA. This practice will not change under the revised policy.
• Remedial courses and some technical college courses are not listed / brought-in to the student’s UWRF academic record. This practice will not change under the revised policy.

• Students, in consultation and approval from their advisor, department or Dean, will still be able to request that a course be moved out of the major and placed into General Electives.

• The revised policy is more aligned with the practices at the majority of UW campuses.

• Limiting the student’s ability to have courses with D grades count as transfer courses (old policy) is frequently viewed by the transfer student as a disadvantage to enrolling at UWRF. Students may choose to attend a different UW campus where more of their credits will be counted.

The Registrar’s Office, Admissions Office, Dean’s Offices and faculty on the Academic Standards Committee all participated in the discussion leading to the development of these revisions. The new policy would begin on April 1, 2014, and be applied to any student admitted to the University after March 31, 2014.

Proposed Revision for Policy 8.2.33:

8.2.33 Evaluation and Application of Undergraduate Transfer Credits

Credit is awarded for college-level course work completed at institutions accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Transcripts issued by a non U.S. institution that do not have either a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or an articulation agreement with UWRF in place need to be evaluated by a third-party transcript evaluation service. The purpose of the transcript evaluation service is to provide UWRF with an English translation of courses, credits and grading systems as they appear on the foreign transcripts, as well as to verify the foreign institution's accreditation. It is the responsibility of the student to request this service and pay any fees associated with the third party evaluation service.

Perspective and enrolled students are required to use one of the approved third-party transcript evaluation services. A list of approved third-party transcript evaluation services is available from the Registrar. As of Fall Semester 2012, the list is comprised of the following organizations:

• Educational Credential Evaluators: http://www.ece.org
• World Education Services, Inc.: http://wes.org
International Education Research Foundation: https://www.ierf.org/
AACRAO International Education Services (IES): https://ies.aacrao.org/

Upon receipt of an official transcript or a third party transcript evaluation, an internal evaluation will be completed for all coursework with a grade above an F. In order for courses to be transcribed, they must be similar in nature, level, and content to a course in our undergraduate curriculum and applicable to one of our academic programs; this includes courses that are technical or vocational in nature. Continuing education courses, graduate-level courses, and courses that are remedial, or doctrinal in nature, are not transferable without the approval of a Dean. Courses which do not match with specific degree requirements will be accepted as elective credit, but may be allowed to substitute for specific requirements with approval of the appropriate Academic Department Chair and/or Academic Dean. All transferable courses will be included on the student’s record. Faculty Advisors, Department Chairs and Academic Deans will work with transfer students to help them best apply their credits toward the UWRF degree.

Once an internal evaluation has been completed, accepted transfer credits and grades will be recorded on the student’s UWRF record as they appear on the transcript from the host institution or according to the MOU/articulation agreement or as provided by the transcript evaluation service. Transfer grades will not be used in calculating the cumulative GPA. However, grades will be calculated in the major GPA if transfer credits are awarded to meet major requirements. The application of transfer credits and the calculation of cumulative and major GPAs affect eligibility for academic honors and awards.

Approved ✓

Disapproved

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Dean Van Galen, Chancellor

3/2/14
Date