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 2013-14/50

At the February 19, 2014 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, motion 2013-14/50 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 four initiatives that forwarded by the Strategic Plan Progress Committee as part the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan (Pathway to Distinction). There were nine initiatives submitted for consideration. The SPPC recommends that the Falcon Scholars Program Director and Honors Program Improvement Initiatives be fused from a budgetary as well as programming perspective. These initiatives as well as those which were not recommended maybe found on the Strategic Plan Web Page under 2013-14 Initiatives.

A. First Year Seminar

Develop a one-credit First-Year Seminar (FYS) course that challenges and supports all first year students - both inside and outside the classroom. The FYS will be designed to develop first-year students as learners and scholars, build their skills for success, and connect them with the campus community

B. STEM GTC with optional Master's degree

This initiative will create a self-funding STEM graduate teacher certification (GTC) program, with an optional master's degree in the CEPS in collaboration with the CAS and Outreach. The program will provide STEM degree holders a focused and efficient route to an initial secondary teaching certification. The initial target candidates will include STEM degree holders who are recent graduates, career changers, and retirees. Approval
through the WI DPI will be sought. This proposal seeks funding for curriculum and partnership development.

C. Falcon Scholars Program Director

This initiative proposes to create the position of Falcon Scholars Program Director through a one-quarter time release to a current UWRF faculty member (to be named). UWRF has admitted two classes of Falcon Scholars. In the Fall 2012, Nan Jordahl served as the program director. Since her retirement, there has not been a clear director and the task of coordinating Falcon Scholar activities has been shared by the Provost, Foundation, Admissions and AVC for Enrollment and Student Success.

D. Honors Program Improvement

This initiative will improve the Honors Program by supporting the hiring of a half-time Honors Program Director and beginning the implementation of suggestions from the report issued by the Ideas and Innovation Project committee in December 2013. In the past, the Honors Program Director was just one of multiple unrelated roles assigned to an administrator. A half-time Honors Program Director will focus on improving both the administrative processes and the curricular structure of the Honors Program, potentially leading to upgrading the program into an Honors College in 2-5 years.

Approved ✓

Disapproved

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor 3/2/14 Date