April 24, 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 2013-14/70

At the April 23, 2014 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, motion 2013-14/70 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 faculty and academic staff to First Year Seminar Task Force. In addition, the description of the initiative and more information about the task force membership is included for informational purpose only.

Kathleen Hunzer  
Brian Schulz  
Holly Dolliver  
Crystal Lanning  
Tyler Koepke  
Rellen Hardtke

First-year Seminar at UW-River Falls  
Submitted by Kris Anderson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Student Success

This I3 initiative proposes the creation of a task force to develop a first-year seminar proposal for all new students that would proceed through our campus governance process. The concept of a first-year seminar was approved by the Strategic Plan Progress Committee, and this I3 would represent the next phase in our planning process.
The FYS task force will:

- Assess/document current high-impact practices available to students in their first-year.
- Conduct review of “best practice” and innovative first-year seminars, especially among leading masters-level comprehensives.
- Develop potential elements of and models for a distinctive first-year seminar that would provide a strategic advantage to UWRF for student recruitment and success.
- Consider relevant institutional goals/activities such as Pathway to Distinction.

It is proposed that the group be formed as soon as possible. The primary work of the task force will be accomplished in May through early fall. The task force would provide a preliminary draft plan to Cabinet and Deans by October 1, 2014.

Proposed Committee Members:

- Kris Anderson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Student Success (co-chair) (limited)
- Kathleen Hunzer, Professor of English and Director of Written Communication (co-chair) (faculty)
- Brian Schulz, Assistant Dean, College of Business and Economics (limited with faculty backup, I assume)
- Holly Dolliver, Associate Professor of Geology and Soil Science (faculty)
- Tyler Koepke, Retention and Recruitment Coordinator, College of Education and Professional Studies (academic staff)
- Crystal Lanning, Assistant Athletic Director (academic staff)
- Karla Thoennes, Director of Residence Life (limited)
- Brittney Hoff, Graduate Student/NSFP (student and LTE)
- Rellen Hardtke - Representative from RAR committee of Faculty Senate (faculty)

Budget:

Expenditures for the task force will be no more than $10,000 to support professional development and $5,000 for faculty stipends. Copies of the “2012-2013 National Survey of First-year Seminars” will be provided to all committee members.

Approved ✓

Disapproved

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor 4/25/14 Date