

Copies to:
Provost
Vice Chancellor for Admin & Finance
Deans
Outreach and Graduate Studies
Faculty Senate Chair
Faculty Senate Secretary
Registrar's Office (2)
Personnel Office
Date: 5-2-07



Faculty Senate • http://www.uwrf.edu/faculty_senate/welcome.html

Senators: Chair – Wes Chapin, Vice Chair – Ogden Rogers, Secretary – John Heppen, Executive Committee – Brenda Boetel and Glenn Potts

TO: Don Betz, Chancellor
116 North Hall
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

FROM: Wes Chapin, Chair
Faculty Senate
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

RE: UW-RF Faculty Senate Motion 2006-2007/108

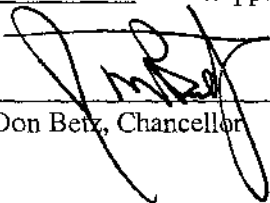
At the May 2, 2007 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, motion 2006-2007/108 was made, seconded, and passed. This motion is forwarded for your action

A motion from the Disabilities Advisor Committee (see attached)

Motion 2006-2007/108 passed on May 2 2007. This motion will take effect immediately.

X Approved

_____ Disapproved



Don Betz, Chancellor

5/30/07
Date

Introduction

The current law and University of Wisconsin System policy requires that academically qualified students with disabilities must be reasonably accommodated in instruction. Faculty have an important role to play in securing such accommodations because at UW-River Falls they have primary and statutory responsibility for academic and educational activities.

The Disabilities Advisory Committee is therefore seeking Faculty Senate endorsement of the following motion.

UW-River Falls Faculty Senate Policy on Access and Accommodation in Instruction

We believe in the right of all students who are enrolled at UW-River Falls to full and equal educational opportunity. Disability should not be the basis for exclusion from educational programs. All students are entitled to an accessible, accommodating, and supportive teaching and learning environment. Responsibility for shaping the teaching and learning environment and maintaining the highest academic standards rests with the faculty. Responsibility for implementing legislation regarding persons with disabilities rests with faculty, deans, and the Chancellor through the campus Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator. Shared governance and cooperation between faculty and college and campus administrations is necessary to ensure that reasonable and timely accommodations exist for students with disabilities. Instructional content, pedagogy, assessment, environment, and individual difference must all be taken into account. The UW-River Falls Faculty Senate adopts the following principles:

Principles

Implementation of policies requiring reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty, in a timely manner, of their need for special instructional accommodations. Faculty, either directly or in coordination with the Disability Services, are expected to work with students to provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Such accommodations may be provided by the Disability Services in concert with faculty, directly by faculty, or through other arrangements mutually agreeable to the student and faculty member. If the suitability or venue of a proposed accommodation is uncertain, the instructor should provide the best possible accommodation until the situation has been reviewed through an established appeals process.

Recommendation to the Chancellor and Provost:

Deans or their designees shall regularly provide faculty and instructional staff with appropriate training and information regarding the provision of reasonable accommodation, and about appropriate and available technical assistance.

Deans shall designate a member of the faculty to serve a liaison to Disabilities Services, with the responsibility to inform faculty, staff, and students within the college about accommodation issues and policies, and appropriate responses to student disability accommodation requests.

Directors of support units shall designate a staff member to serve as a disabilities contact and shall establish policies and procedures to address ADA requests.

Clear appeals procedures need to be established for Disabilities Services, departments via their Colleges, and for support units.

The ADA Coordinator shall be charged with conducting periodic needs assessments of students with disabilities and those faculty and staff who provide services to them.

Resources shall be made available for efforts in universal design across the domains of university activity. Specific attention should address the following areas:

- 1) Policies and procedures to support universal design strategies and shall be implemented
- 2) planning on all levels shall deliberately include universal design as a consideration and
- 3) the identification and support of architectural, information, and curricular experts on campus to serve as consultants in these respective areas.