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Provost
Vice Chancellor for Admin & Finance
Faculty Senate Chair
Faculty Senate Secretary
Date:10-18-06

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 Resolution 5

At the October 18, 2006 meeting of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, a motion to adopt the attached resolution was made, seconded, and passed. This constitutes notification to the Chancellor of the resolution passed by the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate Resolution
Regarding President Reilly's Growth Agenda for the University of Wisconsin System

Whereas, the University of Wisconsin System was rated by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems in 2006 as one of the five most productive public university research systems, and as one of the five most effective public baccalaureate and master's institutions in the country; indicating that we have been very effective and efficient managers of investments made by the citizens of Wisconsin in its state university system; and

Whereas, while the number of students enrolled in 4-year public institutions universities in Wisconsin expanded by more than 8,000 students between 1990 and 2006, state appropriations for higher education decreased from \$262 per capita in 1990 to \$204 per capita in 2006 – in contrast, Minnesota's expenditure per capita was identical to that of Wisconsin in 1990 (\$262) but rose slightly to \$266 by 2006; and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Census only 25 percent of Wisconsin citizen's over the age of 25 had completed at least a bachelor's degree as of 2005, making our state 33rd in the nation – we are substantially behind our sister state, Minnesota, where 31 percent of adults have bachelors' degrees; and

Whereas, in today's knowledge-based economy, access to higher education is increasingly an imperative for continued economic prosperity as illustrated by the fact that household income, as reported in the U.S. Census, stood at \$52,024 in Minnesota in 2005 compared to only \$47,105 in Wisconsin – in 1990 Minnesota's gross state product was \$2.1 billion greater than Wisconsin's and by 2006 Minnesota had a \$16.8 billion advantage; and

Whereas, studies confirm that not only do college graduates boost their own incomes and the tax receipts for the states in which they live, but they are also engaged citizens, lead healthy lives, and serve the public good in myriad ways; and

Whereas, Wisconsin, like most states in the U.S., received a grade of "F" in a recent U.S. Department of Education report on affordability of higher education in the state – in 1990 Wisconsin received a grade of B+ and between 1990 and 2006 average tuition at public 4-year universities in the state increased from \$2,960 to \$5,665; and

Whereas, the proportion of students enrolled in higher education who come from lower-income families has declined during the past decade and, according to the National Center for Public Policy in Higher Education (NCPPE), Wisconsin's "investment in need-based financial aid is very low compared to top-performing states" – the percentage of children living in poverty in Wisconsin was 14 percent

in 1990 and remains at that level today while in Minnesota this percentage has fallen from 14 percent to 11 percent; and

Whereas, many states benefit from the in-migration of people with bachelor degrees or higher, Wisconsin does not – in 2006 data compiled by NCPPE indicate that the state had a net out-migration of 834 people with college degrees – so the University of Wisconsin System will be the primary supplier of the knowledge workers the state will need to prosper in the future, therefore,

Be it resolved that the University of Wisconsin at River Falls:

- stands ready and willing to work with the State of Wisconsin to mobilize additional taxpayer investments in the University of Wisconsin System; and
- enthusiastically endorses the University of Wisconsin System's Growth Initiative to use these additional investments by the taxpayers to increase the access of the citizens of Wisconsin to the first-class educational experience we offer; and
- is excited about the prospect of expanding the positive role that this campus plays in the life of this region, the state, and the national and international community.