



Date: June 9, 2020  
To: Faculty Senate and University Community  
From: Mialisa Moline, Faculty Senate Vice Chair (interim Chair)  
Subject: Agenda for Faculty Senate June 10

The 2020-21 Faculty Senate will meet on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. at <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/a8d90a21dfaf4635bbc35fb7670e8a38>

Call in access: +1-571-392-7650 PIN: 738 276 9490

Faculty Senators who cannot attend should arrange for a substitute and notify Natasha Rayne at [Natasha.rayne@uwrf.edu](mailto:Natasha.rayne@uwrf.edu)

## **Agenda**

**June 10, 2020**

### **Call to Order**

### **Seating of Substitutes**

**Approval of minutes (vol. 44, no. 13) and (vol. 45, no. 1) and (vol. 45, no. 2)**

### **Officer Reports**

### **Other Reports**

**Report from Chancellor Van Galen**

### **Consent Agenda**

(none)

### **Unfinished Business**

(none)

### **New Business**

- 1. Motion from the Executive Committee (Doug Margolis, Chair) to approve the following resolution:**

**Resolution of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate**



**on the Naming of Dr. Jim Johnsen as  
Finalist in the UW System President Search**

*Whereas on June 2, 2020 the UW System President Search Committee unanimously agreed to advance Dr. Jim Johnsen, President of the University of Alaska System, as a finalist to replace President Ray Cross,*

*Whereas the UW System Search Committee presented a singular and unqualified candidate for consideration;*

*Whereas the UW System Search Committee operated without full transparency, in a process that gives the appearance of lacking integrity;*

*Whereas the UW System Search Committee itself in its own press release stated: “Amid the search, the pandemic posed unanticipated and unprecedented circumstances and obstacles. Several candidates removed their names from consideration near the end of the process, with some expressing concern over being named publicly as a finalist during the pandemic.”;*

*Whereas while President of the University of Alaska System two faculty senates at Fairbanks and Anchorage respectively both voted “No Confidence” in Jim Johnsen, in 2017 [i][iii] and again in 2019 due to his leadership resulting in the loss of accreditation for the University of Alaska Anchorage’s teaching program and complaints that he had mislead the Board[iii][iv];*

*Whereas even the student government at the University of Alaska voted no confidence in Dr. Johnsen's continued leadership, suggesting that his vision was not in the best interests of the student body[iii]*

*Whereas under Dr. Johnsen’s leadership the University of Alaska dropped graduation rates for four-year students to less than 10% and drove enrollments down[v]—results that the University of Wisconsin System should want to avoid;*

*Whereas Dr. Johnsen’s business acumen led to Moody’s Investor Service downgrading the University of Alaska at least five times during his tenure[v];*

*Whereas the presentation of only one candidate for one of the most prestigious university systems in the world shows a clear dereliction of duty on the part of the search committee, particularly given this candidate’s record at the University of Alaska;*

*Whereas the presentation of only one candidate, especially one so poorly qualified for consideration, makes a mockery of the UW System’s stated goals of diversity and inclusivity;*

*Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of River Falls declares that it rejects the candidacy of Jim Johnsen, asks all faculty and staff and Chancellor Dean Van Galen to state opposition to Jim Johnsen’s candidacy, and asks Johnsen to withdraw his name from consideration.*



*Be it further resolved that we ask the Board of Regents to declare this search failed and begin a new one with a more open and transparent process that includes faculty and other members of shared governance groups and all stakeholders.*

[i] <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2017/02/09/second-vote-no-confidence-u-alaska-president>

[ii] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/07/23/alaska-president-offers-new-plans-following-vote-financial-exigency>

[iii] <https://www.ktva.com/story/39954905/we-failed-you-ua-board-of-regents-absorbs-uaa-student-wrath>

[iv] <https://www.ktva.com/story/41143425/uaa-faculty-senate-executive-board-pushes-for-removal-of-ua-president-johnsen>

[v] <https://mustreadalaska.com/is-jim-johnsen-the-right-leader-for-the-university-system/>

**2. Motion from the Executive Committee (Doug Margolis, Chair) to approve the following resolution:**

**Resolution of the UWRF Faculty Senate in  
Response to the George Floyd Murder**

*Whereas on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, George Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer and the racist system that has permitted more than 260 killings of African Americans in 2019 alone;<sup>[1]</sup> and*

*Whereas African Americans are three times more likely to be killed by the police than white people;<sup>[1]</sup> and*

*Whereas 99% of killings by police, between 2013-2019, have not resulted in the officers being charged with a crime;<sup>[1]</sup> and*

*Whereas when systemic racism challenges the safety and well-being of any group within our society, we must join to denounce it with all our collective strength and resolve; and*

*Whereas our students and colleagues of color, their families, and their friends continue to be harmed by racism, discrimination, and xenophobia; and*

*Whereas, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”;*

***Therefore, the UWRF Faculty Senate resolves that we demand justice for George Floyd and all victims of police brutality; and***

*We call for an end to the militant nature of police forces across the country and an end to the policies and practices that disproportionately criminalize people of color; and*

*Call upon political leaders to look for ways to unify and bring people together to fight racism; and*

*Call upon white people in our community to learn about their white privilege and prioritize this work to cultivate a safer and more inclusive community for students and colleagues of color; and*



*Call upon UWRF administration to prioritize anti-racism policies and programs in our strategic plan.*

[1]Source for police killing statistics: <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**