Resolution regarding proposed budget reduction actions which affect the School of Graduate Studies

UW-Platteville Graduate Council

Whereas:

UW-Platteville faces an unprecedented structural budget deficit, potentially compounded by a pending massive budget cut to the UW-System; and

Whereas:

The aforementioned cuts could pose an existential threat to UW-Platteville jobs and programs, and ultimately could diminish the quality of education for our students and the reputation of the institution; and

Whereas:

Strategic growth is essential to mitigating the effects of cuts, and one of the few areas where such growth is likely to continue is in graduate studies. Growth opportunities exist both in the online environment and on-campus, using the cost recovery funding model which generates positive revenue variance that directly benefits the campus; and

Whereas:

A team comprised of UW-Platteville senior leadership, college deans, and the faculty senate chair proposed eliminating the director of graduate studies position without a plan for those responsibilities. As a strategic area with ample opportunity for growth, diluting and dispersing the director’s leadership of the graduate programs will lead to underserved students and lost opportunities, and will leave the existing programs with no central leadership, focus, and direction; and

Whereas:

A team comprised of UW-Platteville senior leadership, college deans, and the faculty senate chair proposed transfer of graduate processes to the Distance Learning Center (DLC). The DLC is not authorized to confer degrees, post grade changes, administer on-campus graduate assistant processes, and prepare transcripts. The proximity of the graduate office staff to the registrar’s office leads to some efficiencies that would be lost if those duties are moved elsewhere.

Therefore be it resolved:

The Graduate Council opposes the proposed elimination of the Director of Graduate Studies position and the transfer of graduate processes to any other entity aside from the office of the School of Graduate Studies.

Approved by the Graduate Council on 19 February 2015 by voice vote of the member quorum present.

Deanna Dunbar, recording secretary