Date: October 25, 2013

To: Dr. Jean Pratt, Chair
Academic Policies Committee

Fr: Dr. Michael Carney
Interim Associate Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies

Re: Fulfillment of General Education Requirements for Associate Degree Students from the Wisconsin Technical College System and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System

The Associate Deans Committee, comprised of Associate Deans and Associate Directors from both Academic and Student Affairs, recommends that the Academic Policies Committee consider and pass the following motion:

1. UW-Eau Claire shall accept the liberal arts Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degrees from Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) institutions as fulfilling all requirements of the General Education program at UW-Eau Claire, and
2. UW-Eau Claire shall accept the liberal arts Associate in Arts (AA) degrees from institutions in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system as fulfilling all requirements of the General Education program at UW-Eau Claire.

It should be noted that the liberal arts Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS) degree from the University of Wisconsin System is already accepted as fulfilling all requirements of the General Education program at UW-Eau Claire.

The Admissions office examined the curriculum of Associates degree programs from the top feeder schools in Wisconsin and Minnesota and the office supports this motion. For the MnSCU institutions, the Associate in Arts curriculum is consistent with our General Education requirements; however, the Associate in Science and Associate of Fine Arts degrees do not satisfy all UW-Eau Claire General Education elements and these degrees are excluded from this motion.

The liberal arts associate degrees fulfill the university’s General Education requirements in the following areas: Communications (GE I), Natural Sciences (GE II), Social Sciences (GE III), Humanities (GE IV), and University Wide General Education (GE V). Specific GE courses needed for certain majors or programs are still required if not previously completed. The following requirements are not automatically fulfilled with the liberal arts associate degrees: University Writing, Mathematics/Statistics Competency, Foreign Language/Foreign Culture, Service Learning, and Wellness. Also note that the curricular graduation requirement of three credits of Cultural Diversity is not automatically met by AA and AS degrees from institutions outside of the University of Wisconsin System.

The committee believes that this motion will provide students at these institutions with a more seamless transfer to UW-Eau Claire.

Please contact me with any questions you might have about the motion.