Date: October 19, 2016

To: Dr. Bob Hooper, Chair  
Academic Policies Committee

Fr: Dr. Mary Hoffman  
Interim Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Re: Fulfillment of Liberal Education Core Requirements for Associate Degree Students from the University of Wisconsin System, 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 and Sciences (AAS), Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Sciences (AS) degrees from University of Wisconsin institutions as fulfilling all requirements of the Liberal Education Core at UW-Eau Claire, and

2. 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 Liberal Education Core at UW-Eau Claire, and

3. 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 Liberal Education Core 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.

Specific LE courses needed for certain majors or programs are still required if not previously completed. The following degree requirements are not automatically fulfilled with the liberal arts associate degrees:

- Foreign language for the BA in A&S
- Math for the BS in A&S

UW System gives guidance on accepting these degrees:

**UW System Administrative Policy 135 — UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy**  
(https://www.wisconsin.edu/uw-policies/uw-system-administrative-policies/uw-system-undergraduate-transfer-policy/)
C. For Students Transferring with a UW Institution Associate Degree

For purposes of facilitating transfer between UW institutions, Associate Degrees awarded by UW institutions should include the minimum general education/breadth requirements defined by UW System policy. In recognition of these common requirements, the following principles apply:

UW baccalaureate-granting institutions shall consider transfer students holding such an Associate Degree to have satisfied the university-wide general education/breadth requirements of the receiving institution.

D. For Students Transferring From the Wisconsin Technical College System

Credit transfer between the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) and the UW System is based upon the following principles:

In cases where WTCS liberal arts/collegiate transfer programs award associate of arts/associate of sciences degrees that specifically align with the associate degrees awarded by UW institutions, the UW baccalaureate-granting institutions shall consider students holding such a degree to have satisfied the university-wide general education/breadth requirements at the receiving institution.

Acceptance of Associate Degrees across the UW System (based on a question sent to the UW Transfer listserv)

- UW System Associate Degrees = all campuses accept for university-wide general education/breadth (per policy)
- Wisconsin Technical College System AA and AS = UW-Green Bay, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, UW-Superior, UW-Whitewater
- Minnesota AA = UW-La Crosse, UW-Parkside, UW-River Falls, UW-Stout, UW-Superior, UW-Whitewater

Advantages to accepting the associate degrees as fulfilling the breadth for the LE Core:

- Transfer friendly – these students have completed 60 or more credits prior to enrolling at UWEC.
- Beneficial when recruiting students – students completing an associate degree want to know how the 4-year university will accept it, and they expect it to fulfill their generals.
- Relieve pressure on LE courses, since these students will not need to take any unless specifically required for their major/degree. Per the LE Dashboard, as of 10/17 we are below our enrollment capacity goals in K4 and K1.
- Students will likely still take some additional LE courses as part of their major.

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.