

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Fall 2005

Key dates and actions relating to resident assistant (RA) issue

Oct. 17

- Interim Chancellor Vicki Lord Larson receives letter (dated Oct. 10) from Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. The letter questions a university policy that places certain restrictions on RAs when they are in their rooms or in the residence halls in which they live.
- Larson consults with several UW-Eau Claire administrators.

Oct. 18

- Larson meets with members of the Chancellor's executive staff to discuss the concerns raised in the letter.
- Larson shares FIRE letter with UW System legal staff.
- Larson initiates internal review of university policies and practices.

Nov. 7

- Article regarding the policy and FIRE's concerns are published in the University Bulletin, a weekly electronic newsletter sent to all faculty and staff.
- Internal review of policies and practices continues.

Nov. 8

- UW System attorney Patricia Brady prepares a response to FIRE on Larson's behalf.
- News Bureau creates Web page containing information related to the RA issue.
- University officials begin referring people who contact the university with questions or comments related to this issue to the Web site.
- Internal review of policies and practices continues.

Nov. 9

- A memo is sent to the news media regarding the review of policies and practices, along with a fact sheet containing information about what's included in the policy in question.
- Internal review of policies and practices continues.

Nov. 14

- UW System President Kevin Reilly informs Larson that he asked the Wisconsin Attorney General for a legal opinion on the issue.
- UW System distributes news release about its request for a legal opinion.
- Internal review of policies and practices continues.

Nov. 15

- News Bureau distributes memo correcting inaccurate information that was posted on FIRE's Web site relating to UW-Eau Claire's policies and practices.
- Internal review of policies and practices continues.

Nov. 17

- Information relating to Reilly's request to the Wisconsin attorney general is sent to all members of the UW-Eau Claire community, including students, faculty and staff.
- Internal review of policies and practices continues.

Nov. 21

- The deputy attorney general informs Reilly and the news media that the attorney general will not provide a legal opinion on the RA issue.
- Internal review of policies and practices continues.

Nov. 23

- Faculty, staff and students are informed of the attorney general's decision via an all-campus e-mail.
- Internal review of policies and practices continue.

Nov. 28

- UW-Eau Claire administrators learn via the media that area legislators will host a listening session in Altoona regarding the RA issue. University Communications Executive Director Mike Rindo attends the session to listen to concerns, answer questions and clarify information.
- Internal review of policies and practices continue.

Nov. 29

- Reilly informs Larson that he will form a systemwide committee to examine RA policies on all UW campuses.
- After reviewing the information gathered to date in the ongoing campus review, Larson makes the decision to suspend the policy while the review continues. Her decision is based on information found in the review that indicates there is confusion among some RAs regarding the policy, which is communicated verbally but not in writing during RA training.
- Larson begins informing UW System and UW-Eau Claire administrators of her decision to suspend the practice. She tells them she will make the announcement during a Chancellor's Roundtable with students, which is scheduled for 4 p.m. Nov. 30.
- Larson asks the university News Bureau to draft a news release for the media and a memo for the campus community announcing her decision to suspend the practices.
- Internal review of policies and procedures continues.

Nov. 30

- Throughout the day, Larson continues informing campus leaders and others of her decision to suspend the practice.
- UW System distributes a news release announcing the creation of a committee that will help develop systemwide policies to guide RA activities.
- Larson announces her decision to suspend the practices at UW-Eau Claire during a Chancellor's Roundtable with students at 4 p.m.
- The News Bureau distributes the news release and a message to the campus community about the suspension shortly after the roundtable begins.
- Information about the suspension is posted on the UW-Eau Claire Web page.
- Internal review of policies and practices continues.

Dec. 1

- Two outside organizations representing a UW-Eau Claire resident assistant announce to the news media via a press release that a lawsuit has been filed in federal court on the student's behalf.
- UW-Eau Claire learns of the lawsuit in the afternoon via the Web and the news media.
- To date, UW-Eau Claire has received no formal communication regarding a lawsuit.
- Internal review of policies and procedures continues.

Dec. 2

- News Bureau distributes a memo to the news media correcting inaccurate information contained in the outside organizations' news releases and Web postings.
- To date, UW-Eau Claire has received no formal communication regarding a lawsuit.
- Internal review of policies and practices continues.

Dec. 12

- UW-Eau Claire is served with notice of a federal lawsuit regarding its policy, suspended Nov. 30, placing certain restrictions on RAs when they are in their rooms or in the residence halls in which they live and work.