

Campus Suggestions for Addressing the Budget Challenge

Early in February, the Chancellor invited faculty, staff and students to submit their ideas for how UW-Eau Claire can respond to the anticipated budget cutbacks as a result of the State's \$5.7 billion deficit. More than 270 people responded, including 175 students. These ideas have been shared with the Chancellor and his executive leadership and will inform budget decisions in the coming weeks.

Many thanks to all those in the campus community who responded with thoughtful ideas.

To protect the anonymity of the respondents, a summary of the comments appears below:

Preserve resources by becoming more energy efficient

Ideas to enhance energy efficiency were by far the most numerous. Ideas include:

- Adjust lighting by installing sensors in rooms, turning off lights on evenings and weekends
- Consolidate printers and reduce number
- Monitor heating, especially in the residence halls
- Install hand dryers instead of paper in restrooms
- Use low-flow toilets to save water
- Reduce paper and packaging in dining halls
- Eliminate flat-screen TVs in buildings and residence halls
- Expand trayless Tuesdays
- Limit number of energy-consuming vending machines
- Reduce use of campus trucks
- Shut down computers; reduce number of computer workstations (*more than 30 comments addressed reducing computer power use*)
- Consider shutting down the campus over extended holidays

Save resources

Frequently mentioned ideas include:

- Do more online; less paper: *More than 70 comments suggested that campus notices and much of the mail could be eliminated to save paper and time*
- Put forms online and reduce paper and workload
- Create a centralized calendar
- Expand computer rotation to 5 or 6 years instead of current 4
- Do Winterim online, not face to face
- Eliminate the environmental responsibility account paid for by student fees
- Eliminate free recreational services
- Stop PeopleSoft Conversion

Academic changes

Ideas include:

- Merge or cut departments and programs and services; One suggestion proposed eliminating some campuses across System (*Almost 40 comments were received in regard to cutting, merging, realigning or preserving departments and units*)
- Reduce or cut support for athletic programs and clubs
- Reduce “oversized budgets” in some departments and units
- Streamline General Education
- Reduce degree requirements
- Expand online learning opportunities
- Increase class size
- Make faculty teaching loads more equitable
- Put non-essential programs on hold
- Use academic staff and administrators to teach some classes
- Support faculty to increase use of D2L instead of paper
- Streamline and eliminate duplicate courses
- Examine and eliminate low-enrollment courses/majors
- Remain competitive with faculty salaries
- Reduce orientation program

Physical Plant Strategies

There were many comments about postponing the new student center to use the money for other needs. Dollars generated for that project, however, are restricted to funding a new building and cannot be used for other needs.

Other ideas include:

- Stop or reduce renovation projects, especially in Davies
- Stop the Hobbs renovation
- Cut back on groundskeeping: water and cut lawns less frequently, salt and shovel less frequently
- Reduce numbers of flowerbeds
- Go keyless (use programmable cards instead)
- Consider not staffing visitor center

Personnel strategies

- Reduce the number of administrators/department chairs
- Impose a 5% pay cut for all university employees
- Impose a 5% pay cut but in exchange offer free System tuition for employee’s children
- Impose a pay cut for administrators only
- Hire from within
- Ask for voluntary employee reductions in working hours

- Freeze salaries
- Cut employee hours, not positions
- Provide incentives for early retirement
- Freeze all new hiring; cancel all open searches
- Contract out services now provided by UWEC staff
- Model our cafeterias after UW-Stout's student-run food service

Change current work practices

Ideas include:

- Reduce discretionary travel
- Encourage more efficiency and productivity in how we work
- Hire more students and work study students
- Partner with UW-Stout and/or CVTC on services like ID cards, event ticketing, etc.
- Examine charge-back and payout processes for units
- Streamline hiring process
- Reduce number of committees

Suggestions for enhancing revenue:

- Raise tuition (*Other comments asked NOT to raise tuition*)
- Increase fees for services
- Sell advertising throughout buildings/hallways/signage (*Other comments suggested NOT selling advertising*); sell naming rights to buildings
- Charge per credit; reduce time allowed to drop classes to free up more classroom space; charge a fee to drop a class
- Charge more for parking; develop more parking options
- Install wind turbines on buildings or water turbines in the Chippewa to generate energy for campus
- Expand international student recruitment
- Increase number of graduate programs
- Increase numbers of certificates and short courses, especially for adult learners
- Increase fund raising and special events to generate resources
- Partner with local businesses for needed services
- Raise fines for smoking/littering
- Open facilities for use by outside groups (for a fee)
- Eliminate reserve seat ticketing