March 18, 2011

UW-Eau Claire Colleagues,

Over the course of the past week, several UW-Eau Claire offices have received telephone calls, e-mails and other communications raising concerns the University is involved in organizing a boycott of businesses because of their alleged contributions to certain political candidates.

I want to be very clear where my administration stands on this issue. UW-Eau Claire does not and will not engage in political campaign activities.

As a reminder about what is and is not appropriate activity for individual employees, I refer you to the UW System's "Guidance on Political Campaign Activities at University of Wisconsin System Institutions," which reads in part: "(1) You may not engage in political campaign activities during your work time; (2) You may not use state resources to engage in political campaign activities at any time; and (3) You may not solicit contributions or services for a political purpose from other university employees while they are engaged in their official duties."

The full guidance can be reviewed at http://www.uwsa.edu/govrel/camprule.htm.

While I understand these are difficult times and that passions continue to run high, I urge you to review and follow all guidelines pertaining to campaign activities associated with the use of state time or resources.

You also should refrain from using your title or affiliation with the University in a way that suggests your private political campaign activity is somehow officially related to, or sanctioned by, the University.

Finally, I want to state in the strongest possible terms that, as taxpaying citizens of Wisconsin, you are in no way prohibited from exercising your constitutional rights, and I encourage you to do so in a way that complies with all applicable state law and policies.

Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich, Ph.D.