

## Chancellor's budget and PEEQ update

**The following e-mail message was sent Jan. 29, 2009, to all UW-Eau Claire employees.**

Colleagues,

Last night I attended Governor Jim Doyle's annual State of the State address and learned firsthand the challenges currently facing Wisconsin. The governor reinforced what we have been hearing for some time — that deteriorating economic conditions have created one of the most difficult fiscal climates Wisconsin has experienced in at least a generation. While an economic stimulus plan at the federal level could provide some relief, the state is likely to confront a significant budget deficit in the coming biennium. Governor Doyle is not scheduled to make his budget known until Feb. 10 — but it is becoming increasingly clear we must prepare for anticipated budget reductions.

As you know, PEEQ reports are due to supervisors by Monday, Feb. 2. We intend for PEEQ to be a meaningful process that informs our long-term decision making, including budgeting. We had hoped the timeline would allow for a completion of the PEEQ assessments before making any budget decisions. However, given what is happening at the state and federal level now, we will need to make some decisions in the short term before we can incorporate the PEEQ results more comprehensively when the process is complete.

One of the guiding principles of the budget model developed during the past year by the Budget Task Force is that the model needs to be workable if there is more money or less money available. As we begin the budgeting process for the coming year our goal will be to make, where possible, reductions that don't limit our options in the second year of the biennium but rather maintain the greatest degree of flexibility. This approach will enable us in year two of the biennium to use the PEEQ assessments to make decisions in alignment with the priorities listed in our Strategic Plan.

While current circumstances require us to focus on reduction and reallocation, we must also identify and pursue additional resources and budget flexibilities so we are able to continue to achieve the excellence to which we aspire. This will require that we continue to act on the measures identified in our Growth Agenda, namely: enhanced retention and graduation rates; serving adult education needs; and expanding selected graduate education.

As always, we will communicate budget information as it becomes available to us. While the spring semester will bring challenges, I look forward with you to focusing on what is most important: creating a truly exceptional learning community for our students.

Brian Levin-Stankevich, Ph.D.  
Chancellor