

Chancellor's state budget update

The following e-mail message was sent March 27, 2009, to all UW-Eau Claire employees.

TO: UW-Eau Claire Faculty and Staff

FROM: Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich

Colleagues,

This morning I testified before the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee during its state budget hearing in Haas Fine Arts Center. The time limitation of two minutes necessitated that my message be brief. I conveyed three main points: (1) that the cuts proposed in the governor's budget would have very real negative consequences on our campus; (2) that elimination of the 1 percent across-the-board cuts would help limit (not eliminate) those consequences; and (3) that we need the committee to support inclusion of our top capital project priority, construction of the new education and student services building.

My testimony this morning was the latest in a series of interactions with legislators regarding the proposed 2009-11 budget — and it will certainly not be the last. My administration is fully engaged in discussions with UW System, our local and regional legislators, the business community, the Governor's office and others as we navigate through these difficult fiscal straits.

Next Tuesday, March 31, University Senate will hold an open discussion from 3-5 p.m. in the Tamarack Room, Davies Center, about the status of the university's budget. I urge you to attend this discussion to voice your suggestions about budget reductions and to learn more about the process we have identified for implementing reductions. By March 31 it is expected that all deans and directors will have forwarded their recommendations to the vice chancellors and me.

Once we have gathered and evaluated all recommendations, we will formulate a budget plan and share that plan with the campus for additional comment. In the meantime, to facilitate timely communication about the budget reduction process, a budget update page is being developed that will have a link from the home page of the UW-Eau Claire Web site. Look for that site in the next week.

Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich, Ph.D.