

Chancellor's state budget update

The following e-mail message was sent June 12, 2009, to all UW-Eau Claire employees.

TO: UW-Eau Claire Faculty and Staff

FROM: Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich

Colleagues,

As the State Legislature is working to enact the 2009-11 state budget, many of you have questions about what will happen regarding human resources matters, particularly compensation and employee furloughs, at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I realize these developments regarding your compensation are difficult and that not having definitive answers is unsettling. I hope that the outstanding questions are resolved soon so we all can plan effectively for the salary reductions that will result from mandatory furloughs. Although additional clarifications could come at any time from Madison, I wanted to end this week by giving you the best information we have at this time.

First, what we do know:

- Phase 2 of the 08-09 pay increase for unclassified staff and nonrepresented classified staff (i.e., the June 1 increase) will not be implemented;
- The June 7, 2009, pay increase will be implemented for classified staff represented by collective bargaining, presuming that all bargaining units yet to respond to the governor will retain the salary increase;
- A total of 16 days furlough (work hour reduction) will take place over the next two fiscal years (8 days per year), prorated for nine-month contract employees (6 days per year), part-time employees, and limited-term and project employees based on the percent of appointment. (This is fundamentally a 3 percent salary reduction over the course of the coming biennium, July 1, 2009–June 30, 2011, but base salaries remain on the books as a point to which we should return and on which we can build beginning in 2011.)
- Furloughs would apply to all employees, including new employees, regardless of funding sources.

Now, what we do not know:

While UW-Eau Claire human resources administrators have been receiving regular updates from UW System, at this point there are no definitive procedures in place for implementation.

Be aware this is a very complex and fluid situation that will likely continue to change until final implementation procedures are set. UW System is working with the Office of State Employment Relations to maintain maximum flexibility in how the furloughs are implemented, but there is no guarantee that will happen.

Once we do know what furlough procedures have been established, we will communicate them to you.

Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich, Ph.D.