Feb. 11, 2011

UW-Eau Claire Colleagues,

This morning Governor Scott Walker introduced a budget repair bill to balance the State budget for the remainder of the 2011 fiscal year (through June 30). Based on what the Governor has indicated, I want to relay to you the direct impact the bill will have on UW-Eau Claire employee benefits. If approved by the Legislature, these proposed changes will have an immediate and significant impact on all of us.

We know the following:

- Pension contributions for all employees will increase from the current 0.2% to 5.8% of gross income in 2011.
- Employees will be required to make health insurance contributions of 12.6% of annual premiums (not wages), an increase over the current 6% contribution.
- Limited Term Employees will be prohibited from being eligible for health insurance or participation in the Wisconsin Retirement System.
- Collective bargaining will be changed to limit bargaining to wages. Employers would be prohibited from collecting dues and members of collective bargaining units would not be required to pay dues.
- The repair bill repeals authority of UW faculty and academic staff to collectively bargain.
- Unions will need to take annual votes in order to maintain certification.

Below is an example of how the Governor’s proposed changes would affect an employee at UW-Eau Claire:

Sample 12-month annual salary: $40,000
Current pension contribution (0.2% of wages): $6.67 per month; $80 annually
New pension contribution (5.8% of wages): $193.33 per month; $2,320 annually
Current healthcare contribution (Family Tier I): $89 per month; $1,068 annually
New healthcare contribution (Family Tier I): $235 per month; $2,820 annually

Governor Walker and UW System President Kevin Reilly and Board of Regents President Charles Pruitt have also sent messages for all employees. See UW-Eau Claire’s dedicated webpage, www.uwec.edu/news/statebudget.htm, to provide the campus with updates as we know them. I will continue to advocate for this University with UW System, our legislators, the community and the Governor’s office.

Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich, Ph.D