



Memorandum

GARY L. MILLER
Chancellor

To: University Community

From: Gary L. Miller *Gary L. Miller*

Date: June 2, 2015

Subject: Budget Update

Last Friday the Joint Finance Committee passed an omnibus motion regarding the University of Wisconsin System. You may find the full motion by clicking [here](#).

The motion reduces the budget reduction to the system by \$50 million (\$25 million in each of the biennial years). The motion also restores the UW System to the compensation pool and provides advances in some of the important flexibilities needed by the system. This would mean our cut, without further modification, would be reduced from \$4.6 million to \$3.1 million. The budget reduction is still large but we have been encouraged by the constructive conversations we have had with legislative colleagues over the past several months about the importance of higher education in Wisconsin.

The motion also includes changes to shared governance statutes and the removal of tenure from the statutes (to now be included in Board of Regents policy). I understand how upsetting these proposals likely are for faculty and staff and I will be working with the UC in the coming weeks to understand the implications of these changes. I want to affirm, as I have in the past, that I am a strong supporter of both shared governance and tenure as is the Board of Regents. I expect to see both of these important features of our culture continue.

We will convene a town hall meeting at 10:00 a.m. this Wednesday, June 3 in the University Theatre to hear comments and continue our community discussion on these issues.

Budget process going forward

The vote of the Joint Finance Committee marks the beginning of the last lap of the semester-long budget reduction process. The JFC will in all likelihood finish its budget work this week and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau will provide its analysis in the next week to 10 days. It is likely that both houses of the legislature will pass the budget sometime in the week of June 15th. Once the budget has passed both houses it will go to the Governor for his review. Between now and July 1, we plan to complete the University's 2015-16 budget.

In the next two to three weeks we expect to receive final information on (1) the way in which the system will allocate the cuts among universities, (2) the level of temporary assistance we can expect from the system (one-time distributions to help manage the cuts) and (3) the final number of those volunteering for separation from the University. We will combine this information with the catalog of potential cuts we have developed with the UPIC and move forward with final decisions. I will communicate those decisions to you as soon as they are made.

Summer Initiatives: Update

In my May 13 memo I mentioned four summer initiatives related to reorganization and the budget reduction process. Let me bring you up to date on where we are with those.

Executive Reorganization – We can reorganize the executive management structure (Chancellor’s direct reports) to save money. I anticipate announcing this reorganization before mid-June.

New Guidelines for Reassignments – We have spent considerable time working on a new set of guidelines for faculty reassignments. Some reassignments will continue to be necessary. Guidelines on reassignments will be issued in the near future from the office of the Interim Provost.

Director-level Reorganizations – Through the summer and the coming academic year, we will continue to closely examine a number of director-level processes throughout the university. These are processes that affect enrollment (undergraduate, graduate and international), financial aid, advising, student services, and other areas of operations that support the academic programs. The Interim Provost has announced that Dr. Tim Sewall will join us in June to lead us through a reshaping of the enrollment services area.

Faculty “Services” Reorganization – Currently, faculty perform significant amounts of work related to important special projects affecting the student or faculty experience. Among these are the GPS and CATL programs. We do expect funding for these programs to be somewhat reduced for the coming year – as with nearly every other program—as they continue to operate. Going forward, we will be considering alternative operating models.

Other Important Summer Activities

In addition to the activities above, we will be working with the UC and the UPIC on two other important initiatives for the future: (1) the reshaping of the Office of Adult Access (OAA) and (2) an institutional-level reorganization. These are related to one another and to the way in which we allocate reassigned time. The UC and the UPIC have expressed their willingness to continue to work closely with us this summer to assure we develop a workable schedule for these changes. At their request, I am preparing a presentation for the shared governance groups and the campus community regarding the rationale and steps toward the reorganization which will both save money and give us the best opportunity for growth.

I am fully aware that many faculty are now engaged in important summer activities and not available for immediate consultation. Nevertheless, the resolution of the budget and our planning for the future must proceed apace during the summer months. I encourage you to contact me or a member of the UC or UPIC if you have questions or suggestions.