

Mar. 30, 2015

Dear colleagues,

Spring break is over, and let's hope winter weather is, too. I wish you all the best on your campus as you focus on the next several weeks remaining in the semester.

My focus largely has been talking about the value of UW Colleges. In discussions with legislators, media and community leaders, I have been describing UW Colleges as already lean, with low tuition, high quality staff, heavy teaching loads and a vital mission that contributes to an educated Wisconsin workforce. These are messages I'll reinforce during the Board of Regents meeting April 9 and 10 at UW-Waukesha.

This also is a critical time in the budget process. The Joint Committee on Finance has completed its listening sessions, including one hosted by UW-Barron County, and now will comb through and edit the governor's proposed budget. That includes the UW System cut of \$300 million, with additional cuts to targeted programs and unfunded costs to continue pushing the impact to \$360 million.

While we're hoping cuts will be reduced, we must plan for a potential cut of \$6.5 million to UW Colleges. Our budget planning task force led by Greg Lampe and Steve Wildeck is reviewing the earlier Repositioning Task Force and Huron reports and will share cost-savings options related to consolidation and regionalization -- short of closing a campus -- with me the week of April 13.

Like your deans, I continue to advocate for reduced cuts, increased flexibilities and a guaranteed funding stream.

If you want to help, here are a few ways:

- Write letters to the editor and/or your legislators on your own time and with your own resources. Our [internal budget blog](#) "How to" section provides tips and links for submitting a letter to the editor via online forms.
- Post on Facebook or tweet using the #BecauseofUWC hashtag with positive news about UW Colleges, like this example from UW Colleges Online: #BecauseofUWC Sarah could follow her dreams of becoming a teacher (with photo and [link](#)).
- Submit impact story ideas through: <http://stories.uwex.uwc.edu/>
- Save the date of April 20 for a noon-1 p.m. budget town hall (details to come)

Thanks for your continued support.

Cathy

Cathy Sandeen, PhD, MBA

Chancellor

University of Wisconsin Colleges

University of Wisconsin-Extension

432 N. Lake Street

Madison, WI 53706

608.262.3786

<http://www.uwex.uwc.edu/>