

June 22, 2015

Dear UW Colleges colleagues,

If you have been following budget deliberations, you know we are still waiting for the final budget to be approved by the legislature and signed by the governor—and we are also waiting for the UW System to allocate the portion of the budget cut to the UW Colleges. This is taking a very long time and the waiting is difficult. I remain committed to waiting for our final number before making any decisions about our Round 2 budget cuts.

I know this whole process is causing a great deal of pain and anxiety for so many of us. We have been living with uncertainty for months now. I know what that's like. I experienced cut after cut over a decade myself at previous institutions. I also realize this round of budget cuts at UW follows on the heels of many years of substantial cuts. It's not fair, but it's the environment we are in.

I sincerely appreciate your patience. I will provide you with concrete information as soon as I have something to report.

We are continuing with our implementation planning for Round 1 decisions and you have received detailed emails from Budget Implementation Steering Committee (BISC) members. Various committees and work groups consisting of over 100 faculty, staff, and administrators from across our institution are meeting regularly to design a system that ensures we can provide necessary services to our students under a new model. I am grateful for everyone's commitment to this process. I want to dispel the rumor that there will be no student services staff on our campuses. That is not true. There most definitely WILL be such staff on our campuses. The staff and services will be configured in a different way.

Again, thank you for your patience as well as your comments, suggestions, and kind words of support. I am grateful for them all. I wish I had more to report at this time. We will continue to provide you with updates regularly as the process moves forward.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy

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