

Dear UW Colleges Colleagues and Board of Visitors Members,

I'm writing to you today with another important message on how we will be addressing our budget cut.

On May 15, I [communicated](#) to you a list of budget-related decisions that involved the consolidation of a number of functions. Those decisions set into motion a series of planning events overseen by the Budget Implementation Steering Committee (BISC).

BISC worked exhaustively over the summer months, and commissioned a series of 18 task groups to carefully study the functional units that would be impacted by these decisions. Over 100 of our colleagues from across the UW Colleges volunteered their time and expertise to these task groups. The timeframe was aggressive and the work at times was daunting. All of these groups, and our colleagues who served on them, deserve our heartfelt thanks.

Reports and updates from BISC have been distributed regularly throughout the summer and can be accessed [here](#).

Provost Greg Lampe and Vice Chancellor Steve Wildeck, who are overseeing budget implementation, have forwarded their recommendations to me. Based on those recommendations, I now inform you of the following:

1. UW Colleges will immediately begin to implement the Student Services "One-Stop-Shop" model and consolidate Student Services operations, as described in the task group reports. This implementation is complex and affects a large number of staff members who dedicate all or a portion of their jobs to admissions, recruiting, financial aid, veterans' services, accessibility services, and student conduct and compliance. Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Rich Barnhouse has been assigned to lead the implementation effort.
2. UW Colleges will immediately begin implementation of the "Second Stop" Center for Academic Success and Engagement (CASE) as described in the task group reports. This implementation is also complex and affects a large number of staff members serving in UW Colleges libraries, information technology, and instructional technology areas. Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Werner Gade have been assigned to lead the implementation effort.
3. UW Colleges will suspend for the time being any final decision regarding Academic Departments. We have not had sufficient opportunity to review and discuss the report and its recommendations.
4. The Course Options Coordinator position has been eliminated and coordination has been transferred to existing staff in academic affairs. There is no further action that needs to be taken on this decision.
5. UW Colleges will temporarily suspend any further action to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for custodial and grounds keeping services. I concur with the task

group's conclusion and the vice chancellors' recommendation that this action should be taken after the regional framework for facilities planning and management has been appointed. At this time, we cannot clearly articulate our vendor requirements and an RFP would not prove useful until more information is known.

6. UW Colleges will conduct additional research on alternatives to student computer labs. The task group did not have sufficient data upon which to make specific recommendations and more work needs to be done. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Werner Gade has been assigned to lead that effort.
7. The budgetary allocations for construction support, the FY15 contingency, and the fringe benefit liability have been eliminated. There is no further action required on this decision.

The original estimated budgetary savings of Round 1 budget reduction decisions was almost \$2.6 million. These recommendations will fall somewhat short of that goal, and total approximately \$2.2 million. BISC was charged with achieving budgetary savings while recognizing that plans and recommendations should not present unacceptable levels of risk for our institution and for our ability to serve students. Once BISC and the task groups began their work, they soon realized in more detail what changes would be possible at this point in time. Their recommendations are the result of thoughtful and careful deliberation weighing many factors. We will continue to look for other ways to achieve the required savings.

Now we will launch an intense implementation phase. The Office of Human Resources will work closely with the leaders in charge of each of the implementation areas to make sure that our employees receive timely communication about these changes. That communication process will begin immediately. As we all know, unfortunately many of these changes will require job losses. Wherever possible, our goal is to offer those affected at least three months notification.

I fully realize the impact of my announcement today on a number of our dedicated employees. These decisions are difficult and wrenching for everyone as we work together to address the large budget cut imposed upon us. This year will be difficult for us. There is no doubt about that. I appreciate the degree of understanding, mutual support, and professionalism I have witnessed within the UW Colleges. That—and our focus on our important access mission—will continue to be our touchstone as we move forward through these and other changes.

Very sincerely yours,

Cathy Sandeen

Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Extension/UW Colleges
432 N. Lake Street
Madison, WI 53706

Phone: 608-890-0181

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

