

**From:** [Summers, Greg](#)  
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Colleagues,

I'm writing today with an update, not on teaching and learning, but on the financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Division of Academic Affairs. Universities across the country are now grappling with this issue, and as you saw from the chancellor's message this morning, UW-Stevens Point is no exception. I don't have firm details to share, and I know the headlines and the many uncertainties are concerning. We are all losing sleep. However, I'm hopeful that you would prefer to know as much as I do at the present time.

There are three categories of financial concern that we face at UW-Stevens Point.

- First, we were already dealing with a revenue shortfall due to enrollment declines, the tuition freeze, and the long-term erosion of campus reserves. With a strong incoming class, we had devised a plan to navigate these issues over the next few years. COVID-19 has now jeopardized this strategy.
- Second, the pandemic has created immediate financial worries in a variety of non-instructional program revenue areas, in which costs continue to mount but little revenue is being generated due to COVID-related restrictions. Although the biggest concerns of this type are in Student Affairs at UWSP, Academic Affairs shares some of these issues.
- Third, there are longer-term worries related to COVID-19. These include questions about whether students will continue to enroll in college if face-to-face classes are disrupted into the fall semester, and whether the likely shortfall in the state budget from the pandemic will result in unexpected cuts to the university's budget.

As the chancellor indicated, we are consulting with governance groups on how best to navigate these issues, including the likelihood that we will need to utilize the furlough policy newly authorized by UW System. I recognize how difficult this is to contemplate. Please know that the deans and directors within Academic Affairs are doing everything we can to balance the need to manage budgets with our genuine desire to protect the jobs, salaries, benefits, and livelihoods of our colleagues. I use that last word with emphasis, now more than ever. We are considering every idea and strategy, and we will keep you informed as discussions continue.

I also want you to know that we are not just assuming the worst, nor are we giving up, especially where recruitment and retention are concerned. The extraordinary work you've all done to serve students in this altered environment will do more than anything to safeguard the financial wellbeing of the university. I thank you again for this effort.

Please have a good weekend.

Greg

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