

**From:** [Summers, Greg](#)  
**Subject:** Academic Affairs Update, 07-24-20  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 10:46:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [Guidance to Faculty and Instructors Regarding Face Coverings in the Classroom \(Final\).docx](#)

---

Colleagues,

We received some budget news earlier this week from the governor's office. As you likely saw, Governor Evers unexpectedly announced an additional \$250 M lapse (or one-time budget reduction) to the state budget for the current fiscal year, something we did not expect to happen until later this fall. Although UW System had been telling us to plan for a 10% reduction (which would have been \$95 M across all institutions), the amount we have currently been assigned is \$69 M, which equates to 7.4% of the System's budget. It's worth noting that the UW System overall still appears to be shouldering an oversized portion of these state reductions, given that we've been asked to pay roughly 34% of the \$320 M the governor has lapsed thus far due to the pandemic. (Recall that there was an initial \$70 M lapse this past spring, of which the UW System paid \$40.7 M; UWSP's share of that initial lapse was \$2.1 M.)

Despite what feels like some modestly good news, Vice Chancellor Gandhi and I have agreed it would be wise to continue planning for a 15% lapse across all units within Academic Affairs. First, the fact that the state moved proactively to assign a lapse before the analysis of tax revenue is complete is an indication of just how significant the pandemic's impact on state revenues has been. There could still be additional budget repair needed this year, and of course, we do not yet know the impact of the pandemic on enrollment and tuition.

Discussions about how best to manage this reduction are just underway among the deans and directors, and the chancellor is still consulting with governance to finalize a furlough plan for the academic year. I will keep everyone informed as planning continues. I know this is troubling news, and I ask for your patience as we work together to formulate strategies.

In addition to this budget news, I have a few brief updates related to planning the fall semester:

- There have been no changes to the syllabus language and recommended script for enforcing the face covering requirement in classrooms. I have attached the final version so that instructors can insert this language into their course syllabi.
- The university has found a vendor able to deliver disposable sanitizing wipes, which seems like a major victory these days. So, the cleaning procedures for classroom spaces will be updated accordingly. All classrooms should have both disposable wipes and the spray bottles and paper towels that I described last week.
- I hope that folks saw the MOD yesterday from CITL regarding their August Online Course Development Institute. UW-System received an anonymous donation which

they are allocating to campuses to support professional development related to online teaching and learning. A limited number of \$500 stipends are available for participants, and the deadline for applying is July 31. (You can register [here](#).) Special thanks to April Pierson, our new Online Campus Director, for helping to coordinate the allocation of this funding to UW-Stevens Point.

- The next [Virtual Town Hall](#) for faculty and staff members will be Thursday, July 30 from 1-2pm. We will cover some basic information related to our face covering policy and our building cleaning and sanitizing practices before addressing more general questions.

Thanks very much. Take good care and enjoy the weekend.

Greg

~~~~~

Greg Summers

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs | [UW-Stevens Point](#)

202D Old Main | 2100 Main Street | Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: (715) 346-4686 | [gsummers@uwsp.edu](mailto:gsummers@uwsp.edu)



(This message is being sent to the Academic Affairs Faculty/Staff List.)