



Dear Alumni,

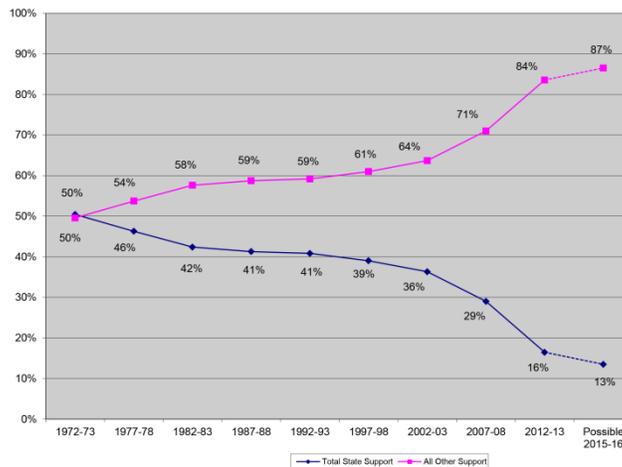
As many of you know, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has announced a University of Wisconsin System budget proposal that includes reductions in state support. The budget proposal also includes the proposition for a UW System Authority, which is a positive move toward a more stable and predictable budget. While there are many unanswered questions about the Authority, similar models are already successfully operational in many other states.

Under the budget proposal, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point stands to lose 25 percent of our total state funding. As a public university, which by definition is supported in part by the public through government dollars, managing a cut of this size is challenging. While we welcome the creation of a UW System Authority, the new flexibilities will not be in place until July 1, 2016, a full year after the proposed budget cuts take place.

State support of UW-Stevens Point has declined since the 1970s, when it was 50 percent of the university's funding. This academic year, total state support is 16 percent of the university's funding. Under the new proposal, state support would be 13 percent. As the state's total support of the university declined, other support has risen proportionately. Other support includes student tuition and fees, auxiliary operations such as housing and dining, federal financial aid, grants, and other program revenue.

UW-Stevens Point's potential cut of state funding is a total of \$9.6 million. This includes cuts in general purpose funding, legislative segregated funds (which are different from student segregated fees), and state funding for the ongoing costs to continue, which include employee benefits and payments for city services such as fire protection, water and sewer services and waste removal. For details, click [here](#).

**UWSP Operating Budget All Funds  
Total State Support vs. Other Support**



To manage a possible cut of this magnitude, UW-Stevens Point is having preliminary conversations about likely cuts to units and departments. Our goal is to maintain the quality of instruction our university offers, while continuing our ability to educate current students, recruit new students, serve our alumni, raise funds and be a strong economic partner for our communities. It is important to note any cuts discussed are just the beginning of the conversation. This is a fluid situation that may change several times before the legislature and the governor

finalize the budget; however, we must begin to prepare.

Many of you have asked what you can do to help and for that we are truly grateful. First, stay informed. The university has established a [Budget Information Web page](#) where news; campus, parent, alumni and UW System communications; and employee resources are posted. In addition, we have posted links to Wisconsin State Legislature information, including one to help you [find your local legislator](#).

Second, stay engaged with your university. The [UWSP Alumni Association](#) has many ways for you to become active in the promotion and support of your university. Please reach out to them.

Finally, remember we are all part of the Pointer family, and Pointers stick together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernie L. Patterson".

Bernie L. Patterson, Chancellor