

From: Campus Announcements

Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 12:55 PM

Subject: Campus Announcements - Budget update # 20: Voluntary Separation Incentive update

Dear colleagues,

Earlier this week, the first of several faculty and staff members who accepted the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP), said good-bye to colleagues and friends at UW-Stevens Point. As of July 8, 32 people have decided to accept this offer, about one-third of those who explored the option.

For many of these faculty and staff members, this was a difficult decision. They have given decades of dedicated service to UW-Stevens Point, and to our students' success. The nine who retired this week served the university an average of 26 years, an admirable commitment of time and knowledge. Additional separations will occur over the next several months, and in January.

We are grateful for their many contributions while here, and also for their help in reducing involuntary separations as we manage the cut in our state support. (See video: <https://vimeo.com/uwsp/chancellor-vsip>)

The 32 who have finalized voluntary separation agreements include:

- 14 university (formerly classified) staff
- 10 faculty
- 8 academic staff members

These 14 women and 18 men all have been dedicated colleagues.

We developed the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program, in consultation with shared governance groups, as one of several cost-containment measures, which also included strategic consolidation of administrative functions, attrition, leaving some open positions unfilled and some contracts not renewed. My stretch goal continues to be no involuntary separations. It's too early to know if that goal will be realized.

Here's what we do know: The annualized ongoing savings at UW-Stevens Point from the 32 VSIP retirements will result in a net of \$914,429 available to be strategically reinvested. We will begin meeting immediately with the UW-Stevens Point Budget Review Advisory Committee and shared governance groups to explore the most strategic investment of these savings and the expected reduction in GPR funding cuts. We expect these discussions to continue for several weeks.

The state budget, being considered by the state legislature this week and pending the governor's review, calls for a reduction of \$5,758,600 in UW-Stevens Point's base funding. Our projected VSIP savings is nearly 16 percent of that amount.

If your colleagues and friends are among those who accepted the VSIP, please let them know you appreciate the important role they are playing in helping us manage this cut and move forward from this challenging time.

Sincerely,
Chancellor Bernie Patterson

Campus Announcements is compiled and published by University Relations and Communications.