

Dear UW-Stevens Point Students and Parents,

We are writing to you as classmates and student body leaders at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. As many of you know, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has announced a University of Wisconsin System budget proposal that includes reductions in state support.

We hear students across campus - in classrooms, residence halls, walking through the Dreyfus University Center - discussing the potential budget cuts and the impact they could have on our university.

Under the budget proposal, UW-Stevens Point stands to lose 25 percent of our state support, the largest percentage of any university in the system. As a public university, which by its definition is supported in part by the public through government dollars, managing a cut of this size is challenging.

UW-Stevens Point's potential cut of state funding is \$6.4 million in tax support, plus \$1.4 million in legislative segregated funds (which are different from student segregated fees). In addition, the creation of a UW System Authority would result in an additional reduction of \$1.8 million in state funding for costs to continue, which is primarily employee benefits and city services. To manage a possible cut of this magnitude, UW-Stevens Point is having preliminary conversations about potential cuts to units and departments. Our goal is to maintain the quality of instruction our university offers, while continuing our ability to serve our current students, raise funds and enroll new students.

Many of you are asking about the potential impact to you or your child's education. If the proposed budget passes the legislature, some class sizes may increase. You will likely see changes in the way support services such as study abroad, career counseling and advising are delivered. The hours of the dining halls may be reduced. There may be fewer opportunities for student research and employment. Changes to any of these student resources, services or opportunities could have a direct effect on the current student educational experience.

It is important to note any cuts discussed are just the beginning of the conversation. This is a very fluid situation that may change several times before the legislature and the governor finalize the budget; however, our discussions must begin somewhere, and we must prepare. We implore all students to be involved in these discussions by contacting their deans, department chairs, other UW-Stevens Point administrators and the Student Government Association.

The university has established a [Budget Information Web page](#) where news, campus communications and UW System communications are posted. In addition, the budget page has links to Wisconsin State Legislature information, including one to [help you find your local legislator](#). [SGA](#) has also created a budget tab on their website as a resource for students.

Parents, students, the university, elected officials and the people of Wisconsin must work together for the future of public education in this great state to ensure that you or your child will continue to receive the highest quality education possible for an affordable price. As invested members in the UW-Stevens Point community, we encourage you to be actively engaged in these conversations. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Slattery".

Chris Slattery, Student Government Association President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katie Cronmiller".

Katie Cronmiller, Student Government Association Vice President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lauren Seward".

Lauren Seward, Residence Hall Association President