

From: Campus Announcements
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:33 PM
Subject: Campus Announcements - Budget Update #11

Dear students, faculty and staff,

During open forums and governance group meetings, many of you have asked important questions about the creation of the University of Wisconsin System Authority. I appreciate your efforts to seek information to better understand this concept.

Last weekend, UW System provided the two attached documents with detailed information about the UW System Authority.

I encourage you to read these documents thoroughly. In addition to sending them to you via this email, we will post them on the [Budget Information](#) Web page.

At public forums, I have voiced my support of a UW System Authority. Here are a few reasons why:

1. The proposed UW System Authority will provide a more predictable and stable budget. A dedicated funding stream would allow for long-term planning beyond the current two-year budget cycle, thus giving students and families long-term predictability in costs.
2. The proposed UW System Authority is a model similar to what has successfully been used by other states. We will need the flexibility proposed in the Authority to streamline personnel operations, modernize purchasing processes, and more efficiently, both in time and cost, manage the building process.
3. Employees of UW-Stevens Point will continue to receive retirement and health insurance benefits through the State of Wisconsin's Employee Trust Fund (ETF) and the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). No changes in the sick leave conversion program are anticipated.
4. Shared governance and tenure—two principles critical to delivering quality higher education—will be managed by the Board of Regents rather than the state legislature.

Change is difficult, especially in an environment where nothing is guaranteed. While some details remain uncertain, we have been presented with a model I believe is the future of higher education in this country.

I look forward to seeing you at our next university Budget Forum on Friday, March 6, at 1:30 p.m. in the Laird Room in the Dreyfus University Center.

Sincerely,

Bernie L. Patterson