

From: [Summers, Greg](#)
Subject: Academic Affairs Update, 04-24-20 (Furloughs)
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Colleagues,

Following the chancellor's announcement on Wednesday of an initial round of furloughs at UW-Stevens Point, I know many of you have questions about what comes next and when. I'm writing to provide an update on where things stand.

As the chancellor indicated, the furloughs announced this week were "consecutive day" furloughs as defined under the new [UW System policy](#). In addition, the chancellor is likely to implement "intermittent" furloughs which will be applied across the entire workforce. I don't know when these decisions will be made, but there are good reasons to imagine that it could be several days or even weeks before we have more news, especially for our nine-month employees including faculty.

For example, because the furlough policy was crafted quickly, many questions remain about its implementation and whether other strategies may be available. UW System's Office of General Counsel is exploring policy options such as FTE reductions and temporary base salary adjustments, which might accomplish the same spending reductions as intermittent furloughs but with less cumbersome administrative requirements. Because the employment of faculty members is regulated differently than other staff members under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, the issues are complicated. In addition, we expect to learn more about how the economic shutdown has affected state revenue estimates by early May. This could inform our thinking about the longer-term financial impact of COVID-19 on UW-Stevens Point.

I recognize that these uncertainties are frustrating. It's also worth saying explicitly that contemplating furloughs and salary reductions of any kind is terrible. I am sorry. Nevertheless, please know that lots of people both on campus and at UW System are working quickly and diligently to provide clarity on these issues. I will continue to keep you informed as I learn more.

In the meantime, I hope that everyone can enjoy a bit of sunshine and warmth this weekend. Take good care, and thank you.

Greg

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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)



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