Dear faculty and staff,

This week we are having several preliminary conversations with people across the university about potential cuts to units and departments. I know these conversations are painful. Please remember, none of these decisions are final. The budget remains a proposed budget; therefore, any cuts discussed are just the beginning of the conversation, not the end. This is a very fluid situation that may change several times before the legislature and governor finalize the budget, but our discussions must begin somewhere, and we must prepare.

There is a new section of information on the university’s budget page titled Resources. Under this category, you will find information about UW System employment policies and tips for handling news media inquiries. This section will continue to grow. If you have suggestions for additional content, please complete the online comment form located on the budget page.

The budget page also has contact information for legislators and a calendar for the legislative review process. Please remember you may not engage in political activities during work time or with university resources (UW System political activity policy), including sending emails, making phone calls and posting on social media. Be aware that even if you identify yourself as a private citizen in public communication, you may be viewed as representing UW-Stevens Point.

The current conversations are devastating to those who may be impacted. Understandably, people are upset. However, if we want to save programs and personnel, the most successful strategy focuses on fact-based information showing positive impacts to the community and region, and especially the education of our students.

If you have comments, suggestions or questions, about political activities or content on the university’s budget page, please contact Rob Manzke, my chief of staff. If you include your name, we can respond. If you have questions about potential changes within your unit, please contact your supervisor, dean or vice chancellor.

Our next university Budget Forum takes place Friday, March 6, at 1:30 p.m. in the Laird Room in the Dreyfus University Center.

These are tough times — and there are no easy answers. I encourage you to be kind to one another. We have a long hard road ahead.

Take care,
Bernie

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