



GARY L. MILLER  
*Chancellor*

## Memorandum

**To:** University Community  
**From:** Gary L. Miller *Gm*  
**Date:** May 29, 2019  
**Subject:** Recent State Budget Developments

I want to bring you up to date about recent developments with the state biennial budget. Yesterday's vote by the Joint Finance Committee to send forward to the legislature a much reduced budget recommendation for the UW System was a surprise and a disappointment. Our discussions with legislators prior to late last week suggested while we could not expect approval of Governor Evers' \$150 million budget request for the UW System, we could expect a healthy increase in funding from previous years. Coming after years of budget restraint and frozen tuition and at a time when the Wisconsin economy is strong, this seemed reasonable. A change of position late last week resulted in yesterday's budget recommendation, which provides the system with roughly \$45 million in additional funding (an amount below inflationary increases). In a separate action two weeks ago, the Joint Finance Committee approved a compensation increase of 4% over two years for every state employee. As a reminder, the UW System is required to fund 30% of any salary increase—the only government agency in the state required to fund its salary increase, further limiting the dollars for students and programs.

It is not yet clear how the budget recommendation will affect UW-Green Bay. A feature of the budget resolution passed yesterday requires the UW System to present an allocation plan for approval by the Joint Finance Committee prior to the expenditure of funds. It is my expectation that planning for a UW System-level proposal will begin in the near future.

We have been resourceful and innovative over the past five years and because of that, we have built a strong foundation for the future. If we continue our good work in enrollment, student support and program delivery, continue to be creative in building partnerships and nurture even further our deep commitment to our students, we will transcend this recent setback.

Provost Alexander, Vice Chancellor Van Gruensven, Chief of Staff Joniaux and I will continue to work on this situation and be available for discussions with you as we move forward.

Thank you all for your work and your continued resilience.

cc: Council of Trustees  
Chancellor's Cabinet

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