RETIREE ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR MILLER

FEBRUARY 19, 2015

8:00 A.M, ES 307

Attendance: Jim Wiersma (president), Randy Christopherson, Ginny Dell, Tracy Heaser, Michael Kraft, Frank Madzarevic, Pat Przybelski, Lee Schwartz, Roger Vanderperren

Guest: Chancellor Gary Miller

The Retiree Association Board and Standing Committee Chairs met with Chancellor Miller to review the budget timetable and process. Board members are open to more discussion if you have any questions. Please feel to call or e-mail any one of them if you want more information.

The following is a handout the Board received on “Budget Talking Points”

- The proposed $300 million cut to the UW System in the Governor’s 2015-17 budget would be the largest in System history and do serious harm to the UW-Green Bay.

- The cut to UW-Green Bay will be over $4 million annually or over 15% of UW-Green Bay’s $25 million annual appropriation from the State of Wisconsin.

- Our remaining $21 million state tax dollar appropriation would account for only about 17% of our total operating budget.

- This reduction comes on the heels of significant cuts over the past decade. Including this cut, since 2003 UW-Green Bay’s base budget reductions would total $10 million.

- A cut this sudden and deep will in all likelihood lead to a reduction in faculty and staff levels by not filling positions as they become vacant. Students would suffer as the number of course offerings is reduced, making it more difficult to graduate in timely fashion.

- It is likely some of our best faculty and staff would leave UW-Green Bay.

- UW-Green Bay’s role as a talent magnet should not be underestimated: about 75% of alumni remain in Northeast Wisconsin and almost 90% stay in Wisconsin after graduation.

- Our alumni are successful. Over the past several years our 95% of our graduates who responded to our survey are either employed or in graduate school.

- As UW-Green Bay Alumni, we:

- Urge the Govern and legislature to halve UW-Green Bay’s base cut, to $2 million;

- Support the Governor’s proposal to make the UW System a separate budget authority, providing greater flexibility and efficiency for institutions including UW-Green Bay;

- Request the CPI adjustment begin year 3 instead of year 4 of the new budgetary authority;

- Request the fringes and cost-to-continue be moved into the base budget. (This will save UW-Green Bay $600,000).

The last time the UW System won a battle with the Legislature was in 1992, so we have our work cut out for us. We encourage you to contact your senator and representative and encourage them to half UW-Green Bay’s base cut to $2 million. We are a state agency and we have to do our part for Wisconsin, but this is just too big a cut and will damage the University of Wisconsin System.

**A link to the Wisconsin State Legislature Joint Committee on Finance:** [**http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/jfc/Pages/default.aspx**](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/jfc/Pages/default.aspx)

**A link to the Wisconsin State Legislature to find your district senator and representative:** <http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>

The Chancellor’s planning timetable has three phases:

- Phase I: soliciting innovative ideas from across campus to respond to the budget challenge;

- Phase II: meeting of the Regents early March to April 9, as the UW System and its campuses fine-tune their strategies and incorporate any new information into their planning;

- Phase III: the period from the April Board meeting through the end of June, with Legislative action on the 2015-17 budget expected during that time.

The Retiree Board encourages former employees and retirees to join alumni and others in support of UW-Green Bay in its response to this new budget challenge.