



MARSHFIELD

THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION

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As Director of Busi./Educ. Partnerships for the Central WI STW Partnership, I facilitate and coordinate the STW initiative for five school districts and business communities.

We have a strong partnership with many success stories to tell. Our YA program is strong and growing, along with other work-based learning opportunities happening as well. Job shadowing and cooperative education are experiences that we encourage EVERY student to take advantage of.

Thanks to STW, over 80% of our students in the 11th grade have written career plans. 100% have career portfolios. Students are being mentored by business professionals—gaining strong employability skills to make them successful no matter what career they decide to go into it. They are thinking about their futures NOW.

My role at the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry is to provide the link between our schools and our businesses within our partnership's five communities--our primary labor market. STW coordinators at each of the high schools have contact with students, faculty, administrators and parents to promote STW programs. My role is constant contact with the business community--informing them of STW opportunities and keeping them informed of the ever changing policies affecting STW.

Marketing STW is another major responsibility for me. Through weekly articles in the Mtld. News-Herald and monthly editions of The Community Connection, our STW newspaper, we have increased awareness of STW and the critical role that STW plays in preparing students for life beyond high school graduation.

STW is industry-led, education driven. Through constant contact with business and industry, THEY decide the need for STW and new programs being developed. The need is great. Our businesses are facing a crisis situation with the labor shortage, and are looking to our high schools to inform students of the many careers available to them, beyond the traditional.

Tech. Ed. is needed in our high schools, and cannot be short-changed or looked down upon with core academics taking center stage due to the upcoming graduation exam. Core academics are taught in Tech. Ed., too, and many students are only able to learn "hands on".

Thanks to STW, we have over 6,800 students in our partnership alone involved in the WI Career Development Continuum. Starting in kindergarten, students begin Career Awareness, and move on to Career Exploration, Planning, Preparation, and Life-long Learning. With STW, students are prepared for a smooth transition from the school environment, to a career, to life-long learning. They have comprehensive information from which they can make informed choices about their futures.

We are very pleased to see the dollars in the Gov's proposed budget allocated to work-based learning, and encourage you today to fund STW next year at this year's level. The Dept. of Workforce Dev. has told us that time and time again, they hear that there must be someone coordinating work-based learning at the local level, or it just won't happen. This is the #1 thing that they are hearing consistently.

The STW Coordinators in our partnership and throughout the state wear many hats—they're guidance counselors, teachers, etc. It is difficult for them to get out of the building to meet with business and industry. That is my role. Without my role and funding from the state to support it, STW will suffer, with communication between our schools and businesses diminishing, and new STW programs difficult to start.

My position as Director has been funded through STW dollars. We have great support from our school districts and our business community, however, local funding ALONE will be difficult. With declining enrollments and revenue caps affecting school districts, and tightening budgets across the board, we need continued support from the state to keep STW strong and at the high level of quality that has been established over the past five years.

STW is a partnership...a partnership between our schools and business communities. We need you, the state, as a partner as well to ensure a skilled, qualified workforce for the future of WI.

Revenue Cap Calculations
 with Declining Enrollment Adjustment

	ACTUAL 1998-99	PROJECTED 1999-00	PROJECTED 2000-01	PROJECTED 2001-02	PROJECTED 2002-03	PROJECTED 2003-04	PROJECTED 2004-05	PROJECTED 2005-06	PROJECTED 2006-07	
(revised 4/13/99)										
PRIOR YEAR REVENUE CAP	\$33,091,673	\$34,031,504.00	\$34,362,265	\$34,317,143	\$34,217,726	\$34,428,369	\$34,746,805	\$35,756,322	\$36,765,839	
PRIOR YEAR REVENUE CAP (per pupil)	\$5,901.85	\$6,145.09	\$6,353.97	\$6,562.85	\$6,771.73	\$6,980.61	\$7,189.49	\$7,398.37	\$7,607.25	
LEGISLATED INCREASE IN PER PUPIL REVENUE CAP	\$208.88	\$208.88	\$208.88	\$208.88	\$208.88	\$208.88	\$208.88	\$208.88	\$208.88	
PER PUPIL REVENUE CAP (b+c)	\$6,110.73	\$6,353.97	\$6,562.85	\$6,771.73	\$6,980.61	\$7,189.49	\$7,398.37	\$7,607.25	\$7,816.13	
THREE YEAR ENROLLMENT AVERAGE USING THIRD FRIDAY IN SEPTEMBER COUNTS *	5538	5408	5229	5061	4932	4833	4833	4833	4833	
*3yr average using enrollment projections for 1998-99										
NEW REVENUE CAP (e*d)	\$33,841,223	\$34,362,265	\$34,317,143	\$34,271,726	\$34,428,369	\$34,746,805	\$35,756,322	\$36,765,839	\$37,775,356	
DECLINING ENROLLMENT ADJUSTMENT	\$317,758	\$622,688	\$879,422	\$853,238	\$677,119	\$532,022	\$0	\$0	\$0	
TRANSFER OF SERVICE	\$190,243									
TOTAL REVENUE WITH ADJUSTMENTS	\$34,349,224	\$34,984,953	\$35,196,565	\$35,124,964	\$35,105,488	\$35,278,827	\$35,756,322	\$36,765,839	\$37,775,356	
		Revenue Cap Calculations without Declining Enrollment Adjustment								
(revised 4/13/99)										
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Total Additional Dollars from Declining Enrollment Adjustment		\$622,688	\$879,422	\$853,238	\$677,119	\$532,022	\$0	\$0	\$0	

COMPARISON OF REVENUE CAP CALCULATION

(revised 4/13/99)

	ACTUAL 1998-99	PROJECTED 1999-00	PROJECTED 2000-01	PROJECTED 2001-02	PROJECTED 2002-03	PROJECTED 2003-04	PROJECTED 2004-05	PROJECTED 2005-06	PROJECTED 2006-07
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PERMITTED DOLLAR INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR	\$1,257,551	\$635,730	\$211,611	(\$71,601)	(\$19,476)	\$173,340	\$477,495	\$1,009,517	\$1,009,517
% INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR	3.80%	1.87%	0.62%	-0.21%	-0.06%	0.50%	1.37%	2.82%	2.75%

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
Superior

TESTIMONY

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM
CONTINUING APPROPRIATION

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
OSCEOLA, WI., APRIL 14, 1999

Good morning, I am Bob Carmack, Director of Library and Media

Resources and Chair of the Library Science Program at the University of

Wisconsin-Superior. It is a pleasure to appear before you to urge your support for

Governor Tommy Thompson's budget proposal. It is truly a positive budget

package for the UW System. In particular today, I am urging your support of the

proposal that provides the University of Wisconsin System administrative

flexibility through continuing appropriation. This continuing appropriation will

allow the campuses to respond rapidly to market conditions and student demands

for specific programs. More simply put, continuing appropriation will allow the

UW System to spend revenues as received to meet quality goals for students and to

serve students in a timely manner.

The Governor's budget proposal recognizes the UW System's commitment

to expand services to adult students, move aggressively into distance education and

encourage UW institutions statewide to create customized and collaborative

programs. The existing legislative hearing process is simply too slow to enable the

UW System to provide the needed service to students. As Regent President San

Orr, Jr., has observed "the tuition flexibility is essential to our success in the

changing higher education marketplace."

Without continuing appropriation, for example, UW-Superior would be

limited in offering additional class sections even if students are coming in the door,

generating the tuition funds to pay for the classes.

No other Big Ten state limits tuition appropriations and moving to a

continuing appropriation will not remove either gubernatorial or legislative

authority over the tuition appropriation. UW System budgets will continue to be

reviewed via the biennial budget, and expenditure information will be provided

routinely to the State via WIS-MART, the UW System Annual Financial Report,

and through other methods. Further, continuing appropriations is not an entirely

new thing for the UW System in that some Program Revenue activities have been

funded by continuing appropriation without legislative or gubernatorial concern.

With a continuing appropriation, tuition costs will remain reasonable. It will

simply enable the UW System to better manage all the tuition revenue it receives.

Further, in response to student concerns, Regent President Orr has affirmed

Regent's policy that there be no double digit tuition for undergraduates at any UW

System institution.

In closing, let me reiterate, for the UW System to be responsive to the demands placed upon it by students and market conditions, requires the flexibility provided through continuing appropriation. Today's students simply won't wait for programs and courses to be developed, they will go where they are available – very likely outside Wisconsin. Citizens of the state have sent a strong message that the University System is a critical part of Wisconsin's quality of life and one of the ways that this quality can be maintained is providing the flexibility that the System needs to quickly address the needs of Wisconsin's students. I urge your concurrence with the proposal to provide continuing appropriation authority to the University of Wisconsin System.

Thank you.

Topic: Information Technology Student Training DIN
Position: Recommending Approval

Introduction

My name is Gary Smith. I am the Chief Information Officer and Director of Information Technology Services at UW-River Falls. I am also serving on the UW Council of Chief Information Officers planning group for the Information Technology Student Training DIN.

Background

The Information Technology Student Training DIN was initiated by the UW Council of Chief Information Officers. This funding request was brought forward by the UW Board of Regents and has been recommended, as modified, by Governor Thompson.

General Purpose

The idea behind the Information Technology Student Training request is elegant yet simple. The premise is to hire, train and pay 800 IT support students System-wide by the end of the biennium. Once trained, these students would be capable and available to augment permanent IT support staff in providing the much-needed support for these services on our campuses.

Problems and Issues Being Addressed

There are two main problems or issues that we hope to address through this funding initiative. The first is the global problem of there simply not being a large enough, trained information technology support workforce available. It is very difficult to hire such individuals, difficult to pay them competitively and, consequently, difficult to retain them. In example, I have personally had multiple staff members approach me indicating that they had received job offers from the commercial sector that were from 25% to 100% higher than I was currently paying them. It is very difficult to counter such competition and retain our top IT staff. Even at the CIO level, within the UW System the current average tenure of a CIO is only 2 years.

The second issue is that our current students are frequently hired away from the University by other State agencies and the commercial sector. Sometimes, this is only for the Summer but occasionally, such activities result in the interruption or curtailing of our students' education. It is often very difficult if not impossible under current funding constraints to pay students high enough wages to be competitive with what industry can and does offer.

This is a Win-Win-Win Proposition

By aggressively entering into this IT Student Training program, all participants come away winners. The campuses win by having a trained workforce of students to augment our permanent staff. It is our intent that these students will remain in the training program throughout their educational careers. Industry wins by having fully trained and educated workers to hire once these students complete their degrees. The students win by completing their degrees, becoming trained in information technology support, receiving a UW System Certification to that effect and by receiving a better wage during their training and University employment.

Conclusion

In reality, it is the economics of the situation that makes this initiative so very appealing. The University campuses desperately need additional IT support workers. Funding permanent staff positions to meet this need is much more expensive than hiring student workers. This is not to say that we don't and won't need additional permanent IT support staff. However, by utilizing our student resources in such a way that augments their education and skill level both economically addresses the University's needs while simultaneously generating more marketability in our graduating students. Many of these students will go on to work in other State agencies and Wisconsin industries providing a resource to them that is currently unavailable.

Thank you.

Joint Finance Committee Testimony
April 13, 1999
10:30 am to 5:00 pm
UW-Stevens Point
University Center - Alumni Room

Good morning (afternoon). My name is Carol McCart and I am the dean at UW-

Marshfield/Wood County. While I am here to show my support for the Governor's budget

recommendations for the University of Wisconsin including the Student Services/Advising

Initiatives, I would specifically like to focus on the concept of a continuing appropriation for our

campus.

Currently the UW System operates under a specific tuition appropriation that effectively caps the

amount of tuition revenue that can be spent in a given year.

The continuing appropriation would allow campuses like UW-Marshfield/Wood County to spend

revenues as they are earned -- just as it's done in business -- to respond rapidly to market

conditions and student demand for specific programs.

UW-Marshfield has a commitment to expand its service to non-traditional returning adult

students. We offer a popular collaborative bachelor's degree program with UW-Stevens Point

for students who would find it impossible to commute to a four-year campus because of work and

family commitments. Through the technology of distance education, we have expanded the

variety of the courses that we offer.

These options are proving to be very popular with our local citizens -- our enrollment is up 14%.

And increased enrollments are good news at UW-Marshfield. It shows we know how to respond

to the educational needs of our community. But the additional resources to support extra classes shouldn't come at the expense of other program areas.

If we are to continue to meet the needs of the local community and the demands for specific courses and programs, UW-Marshfield needs the flexibility of continuing appropriation. It will be another step in allowing us to be more entrepreneurial.

Thank you for this opportunity to talk with you today on the importance of this management tool for the University of Wisconsin and UW-Marshfield/Wood County.

Joint Finance Committee Testimony
April 13, 1999
10:30 am to 5:00 pm
Stevens Point
University Center – Alumni Room

Good morning (afternoon). My name is Marilyn Hardacre and I am currently the Chair of the University Foundation University Relations Committee at the University of Wisconsin-Marshfield/Wood County. I am here today to speak in support of two particular items in the University of Wisconsin budget that are very important to UW-Marshfield/Wood County:

- 1) UW Colleges' Student Services Initiative for Admissions and
- 2) The Academic Advising Initiative for the UW System.

Providing a University of Wisconsin education at our campus in Marshfield is truly a community effort. The city of Marshfield and Wood County each contributed \$2.5 million toward our recent remodeling and expansion project. We are now able to offer a bachelor's degree at our campus through a collaborative program with UW-Stevens Point. These partnerships have enabled UW-Marshfield to better meet the needs of our local residents – which is demonstrated in a 14% enrollment increase over last year.

We also need the support of another partner – the state of Wisconsin – to continue this success. UW-Marshfield/Wood County would like to increase its focus on meeting the needs of non-traditional students -- those working adults who want to return to college. These students struggle with balancing family, work and study demands. They also bring different experiences, needs and expectations for services to higher education. In other words, this diverse group of students needs specialized support.

The Student Services staff at our campus is stretched to the limit. With a staff of two, they provide a full range of services including admissions, recruitment, testing, advising and financial aid assistance to all students. The Student Services Initiative for Admission would provide additional staff specifically trained in the needs of nontraditional students. Funding provided this initiative would allow all of the campuses of the UW Colleges including Marshfield to expand services targeted at non-traditional students and focus on the specialized counseling they need. In combination with funding for the UW System's Advising Initiative, one additional staff person could be assigned to UW-Marshfield. This help would be invaluable at a campus like Marshfield where the focus is on transfer. Increased academic advising will make the transfer process to UW baccalaureate institutions more efficient. We are proud of the fact that those who complete a freshman-sophomore course of study at UW Colleges and Marshfield have proven to be better prepared and successful in attaining a degree. We want to ensure that this tradition continues. Thank you for this opportunity to talk with you today on the importance of these budget items for the University of Wisconsin and UW-Marshfield/Wood County.

Support Education

I am Cathy Huneke, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I believe that everyone should be able to continue their education by attending college. If tuition goes up this will not be possible. It may not even be possible for me to finish my education. I work at a high paying job during the summer, was granted work study and a full Stafford Loan this year and next fall I plan on getting an extra part time job to help fund my education. If we want higher education to be a priority, the Board of Regents cannot decide tuition. Giving this power to an unelected body is not in the best interest of students. Low tuition has always been something the UW system has been proud of, but by not having checks on tuition, this pride may cease. Raising tuition may also cause a drop in enrollment, which will only hurt the system. Please think about students, families, and the system while considering the budget.

Thank You.

Cathy Huneke
311 Sims Hall
Stevens Point, WI 54481
4-13-99



To the Joint Finance Committee:

My name is Kaylyn Jennik; I am currently a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I am also a Senator of the College of Letters and Sciences in Student Government Association. I hope to one day help protect the environment and leave my mark on the world. I need college to help me do that, and now because of current parts of the budget that opportunity would be made even harder. I know that a lot of voters may back you on the current budget, but it will ultimately crush higher education in Wisconsin.

The largest problem that I have with the budget is the section giving the power of my tuition over to the UW Board of Regents. I am not voting for these members, rather I am voting for one person that appoints them, and I did not even vote for the one doing the appointing right now. There would be no check on my tuition, so almost assuredly it would go up. The surrounding states that have given tuition flexibility to similar boards all have higher tuition. I am sure that this is not new to any of you. There would be no check on this body. My tuition could double, and I would just have to try to stay in school. The other big problem I see with giving the power to the Board of Regents is that it would pit professors against students. A professor wants a raise, so they go to the Board of Regents. The easiest way that they see to fund it would be to raise tuition. Therefore we would not want them to get raises, even though they are deserved. I think it is sad that there are so many people that are trying to make Wisconsin schools the very best, but the very people that should be promoting them are slowly destroying them. I know that maybe you didn't hear many voices on the budget, and that makes me aggravated. Some students care so little until they see something happen. They will still only complain to each other, and even then not with much conviction. It is about time that they were shown that speaking out could do something. I speak for my constituents when I say do not let our tuition rise.

Our school system has so much potential to be the very best. Wisconsin has finally set a standard and taken a noble stand on K-12. It is about time that we set a limit for higher education. The students of the UW system are trying to be something, but for some reason the people of this state want that opportunity taken away. I know that anyone that has children in the UW system would support changes to the budget. People often forget that we are the future, and our future is starting to cost too much. I am sorry that you feel your voters may want tuition flexibility, it is sad that they can not realize how much it really would cost us.

I am not going to give you my sad money story, like just about every college student I am poor, and am paying my own way. I am proud to say that I attend a UW school. My older sister is going to Eau Claire, and will graduate next year. My younger sister will be attending La Crosse next year. My family is proud that we are able to get an excellent education through public schools. I hope that my three jobs this summer will be enough, or maybe I will have to get four. I am trying everything to make sure I succeed, I think that it is horrible that someone wants me to lose that.

Stevens Point could be so much more than it is. Our libraries could be better, our professors could get fair salaries, I could have more opportunities to diversify myself, and I could get the advising I need. The best part about it would be if it were made a priority for those that we helped. I hope to some day make it to graduation without thousands of dollars of loans. I hope that I can take some time this summer to have a good time. I hope that I can enjoy my youth while I can, and not spend time fighting for something that should not even be questioned. Education is key, don't take mine away. I hope that someday I can work to improve this country, and that you will have given me a little help in doing it.

Sincerely,

Kaylyn Jennik

312 Sims Hall

Stevens Point WI

54481

(715) 346-5791

Dr. Paul W. Chase
Campus Executive Officer and Dean
University of Wisconsin-Barton County
Rice Lake, Wisconsin

Testimony before the Joint Finance Committee
Osceola, April 14, 1999

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I will address matters relating to the budget of the University of Wisconsin and particularly that of the University of Wisconsin Colleges. First, I urge you to support the governor's budget as it is proposed for the University System. Areas of direct interest to our campus in Rice Lake are the funds proposed for library and technology upgrades and those proposed to add advisors to assist undergraduate students in course selection.

Effective advisement is essential to most students as they strive to complete their associate degrees at our Colleges campuses and their baccalaureate degrees at Wisconsin's four-year institutions. For students at our two-year campuses who are preparing to transfer to the baccalaureate institutions, strong, easily available advisement is critical at both campuses. Students planning to transfer need good guidance to ensure that they are preparing properly for the major they wish to pursue at the institution they wish to transfer to. Once they have transferred, they need equally effective advisement at their new campus to ensure that they take the right courses to permit them to finish their degrees in a timely fashion.

Related to that, the Student Services Initiative for Admissions proposed specifically for the University of Wisconsin Colleges recognizes one of the Colleges' special missions—that of providing access to the University System to nontraditional students, those over 25 years of age. In the northwestern part of Wisconsin, opportunities to pursue a college education are scarce for place-bound students. Most working adults fit that category. Recent market studies conducted for the Colleges show that potential students in this group lack awareness of the opportunities available to them at the UW Colleges. This initiative would permit our campus to expand services targeted at this population. By combining the funding for this initiative with that of the advising initiative I discussed earlier, we would be able to augment our advising staff at UW-Barton County by one. This professional would be charged with reaching out to the over twenty-five year olds in our region to let them know that they can get started on their UW degrees right in their own region. Once the students are enrolled, this individual would work with them to guide them through course selection and registration to keep them on track to reach their educational goals.

Through these initiatives, all 13 of the UW Colleges would be similarly strengthened. I strongly believe that such enhanced services to all our students will permit us to attract, prepare for transfer, and graduate more students, thereby substantially improving the UW Colleges ability to serve its potential students statewide.

Hello my name is Athiah Rainford and I am a

Freshman at UW-River Falls and a member of African

American Alliance. I am here to discuss with you plan

2008. As you know Plan 2008 only received 10% of its

funding by Governor Tommy Thompson. This amount goes to

precolleg programs but all other programs did not receive

funding. This is a big disappointment because diversity

on campus is very important. As a freshman at River

Falls it is hard to go to school in a community where looking

different is not considered an advantage because I take

away from the homogeneous environment around me.

College is supposed to be an environment that represents

the real world, ^{where} we work and where we live. The

percentage of people of color ^{on the} River Falls campus

is only 4%. With that # people can't experience

advantages given by people of color.

This is a disadvantage for white students on

campus. Past events at River Falls show how people act towards people of color w/ RHR messages.

Even I have experienced problems of racial discomfort. It does not surprise me because the atmosphere on

campus has "feeling of racial tension when people walk

by and stare or move to the other side of the street.

No one should live in this type of community. As

a person of color it can be uncomfortable. ~~It~~ as a

white person it is too comfortable. By 2025 the office

of Multicultural Affairs for WI states that people of ^{color} whom

the ages 18-24 will be above 50%. How are people on

UIW system campuses going to feel about that. They would feel uncomfortable and that is a problem that needs to be

addressed w/ more diversity and education. This plan

should be funded and supported, one important way

to do this is to fund pre-college programs

~~for plan above. Big new~~

as well as the other $\frac{4}{5}$ initiatives for the

plan and the Lawton Grant. By having

sufficient resources to successfully

recruit students of color to the UW system

campuses everyone will benefit. Thank you

Ahlah Rainford
Univ. of River Falls
4/14/98



April 13, 1999

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

From: Andy Franken

Director of Government Affairs

Re: Support for the University of Wisconsin System Budget

On behalf of Dwight Davis, President and Chief Operating Officer of Wausau Insurance Companies, I appear before you today in support of the University of Wisconsin System budget as proposed by Governor Thompson.

As you may know, Wausau Insurance Companies is the number one workers compensation carrier in the State of Wisconsin. Wausau Insurance employs 5,400 people nationwide, with 3,400 jobs based in Wisconsin, of which 3,000 are in the Wausau area. As the largest employer in Marathon County, Wausau Insurance relies heavily upon graduates of the University of Wisconsin System for its work force. In addition, Wausau Insurance has had a very close working relationship with the UW-System throughout the years and that relationship continues to grow.

In recent years surrounding states have invested heavily in higher education. During the past four years, Wisconsin's support for higher education increased by 7%, while inflation rose 11%. The budget before you will go a long way to help the UW-System remain competitive with its peer group institutions. In particular, we support the Governor's recommendation to increase the University budget and its emphasis on Information Technology (IT) and its support staff, international programs, and the management flexibility provision contained in the continuing appropriations proposal.

International Programs

The state's support for international education is very important for the economic growth of the Wisconsin economy and companies across the state. Wausau Insurance has been a sponsor of the Governor's annual Worldwide Export Conference for the past eight years. Last year Wausau partnered with UW-Madison in sponsoring this event. The goal of the event is to assist small- to mid-size businesses with export issues and to encourage the growth of Wisconsin exports. This program's success is shown in the marked increase in exports of an astounding 70% since 1991. The Governor's proposed expenditure in the area of international education will better prepare students for entrance into the global marketplace. In addition, the Study Abroad Program will enhance student understanding of foreign languages and cultures.

Information Technology

Wausau's Vice President and Chief Information Officer serves as the Chairperson of the Learning Technology Advisory Team (LTAT) at UW-Stevens Point. The LTAT advises the University on how it can make more efficient, effective and creative use of educational technology in order to better prepare students for their professional roles after graduation. Through this relationship, Wausau Insurance has hired many UW-Stevens Point graduates. The Governor's proposal addresses the IT staffing crisis at UW while at the same time providing hands-on experience to students. Wausau Insurance strongly supports the increased funding for this IT support staff which will enable the UW-System to make long-term improvements in IT education and prepare students for the high-tech jobs in the private sector.

Continuing Appropriation

Finally, as a business executive, Mr. Davis strongly supports the continuing appropriation provision included in the state budget which will allow the UW-System to expand service to adults, aggressively pursue distant education and create customized programs that better meet the educational needs of students and communities. This is extremely important from the perspective of a business which has to retool, retrain, and reeducate its work force constantly in order to compete in a global marketplace. These initiatives will also assist the UW-System in serving the adult student population which is increasing in Wisconsin, especially in Northern Wisconsin.

As companies in Wisconsin begin to compete both nationally and globally, our ability to draw talented individuals from the state UW-System enhances our ability to cultivate and promote better learning, business and competitive environments. It is clear that it is much easier to recruit talented individuals from within Wisconsin than nationally. In this paradigm, the University System is critical in educating and training business leaders of tomorrow.

Testimony: Bob Williams before the Legislature's Joint Finance

Committee

April 13, 1999, UW-Stevens Point

Open:

I am Bob Williams, owner of Idea Associates, a public relations firm here in

Stevens Point. Mary and I moved here 46 years ago and raised four children, three

of whom graduated from UW System schools. In fact, I met Mary in our senior year

at UW-Madison, married her within a month after she graduated, saving her from

spinsterhood at 21 years of age. (Later, she received her graduate degree in English

here at UWSP.)

So, we are just another UW System family who has tried over the years to pay

back our 1949 debt to the system.

In my four minutes I will briefly address a few reasons for you to support the

Governor's budget as it applies to education - K-12 and UW Systems. Job creation.

skilled employees . . . economic development will be the better for that budget.

Others appearing will enumerate all UW System recommendations and their

financing in the Governor's budget. First, I will deal with a \$3 million item of which I

am familiar via my role as one of the seven chairs in the year-long Governor's Task

Force on Global Education.

You are aware that in the mid-80's, Wisconsin was exporting about \$4 billion in

manufactured products annually. Today, those goods manufactured here and sold

off-shore amount to almost \$14 billion.

The difference in Wisconsin jobs? Each billion dollars of exports means 20,000

jobs in the state -- most of those the well-paid jobs of a skilled workforce. Or, nearly

200,000 new such jobs in 14 years.

Yes, in the 70's many Wisconsin firms thought exporting was shipping their

product to Dubuque. Not so no more!

I toured the state interviewing executives in several exporting firms: Serigraph

in West Bend; The Brady Corporation in Milwaukee; Kimberly Clark in Neenah;

Greenheck Fan in Schofield, in others.

I learned that these firms are looking elsewhere for hundreds of new

employees literate in two or more languages and cultures. They are hiring from

elsewhere. Universities in Arizona, New York, Texas. The quality of export-ready new

hires are often not available here.

Please, honor the proposed funding that will help send Wisconsin students of

modest means abroad to live and study in another culture.

I visited three elementary language immersion schools in Milwaukee where 4th

graders were speaking only in French, Spanish and German each day, all-day in

school. These children are already ahead of the game in preparing for high school

and university courses. Please honor the budgeting for more language immersion

classes.

I interviewed elementary teachers, high school Rotary exchange students, and

college students in Beloit, Stevens Point, Madison and Milwaukee who told me of the

semester or year that mattered most and prepared them best for jobs in multi-national

Wisconsin firms. It was time spend living, schooling, off-shore. Please honor the

monies at the ready for teachers to follow students abroad.

High school language teachers relayed that their years living abroad captured

the culture, the "poetry" of China, France, Germany and vastly improved their quality

of instruction.

As for the U.S. System request for the \$30 million Madison plan and specific

amounts for other state universities, please remember Wisconsin would only be

another Iowa if it weren't for the UW System. That superior faculty, technology and

distance learning need more subsidation.

And that UW system is at work every day serving business, communities,

professionals, farmers in the state. The UW System's boundaries are, indeed, the

state's boundaries.

For example, the cornucopia of vegetable farming in Central Wisconsin -- our

No. 1 industry -- would not be here were it not for UW-Madison scientists. Not only

did the university Ag School scientists show the way to irrigated sand land growing in

the early 60's, but UW professors saved the ground water irrigation rights for the

growers from the misguided DNR staffers and their companion Tree Huggers,

politically correct ideological so-called environmentalists. The legislation to prohibit all

irrigation introduced in the assembly was only defeated because junk science was

exposed by the UW in a long three-year expensive campaign waged by the farmers.

And, for UW-Stevens Point, now with its nationally recognized College of

Natural Resources, the paper and forestry industry is continually grateful. The

president of what is now Georgia Pacific, told me in the early 90's, that over half their

forestry people were graduates here. And, paper science grads are fought for by all

the paper firms.

So it goes in these luxuriant times with most of the UW System's grads.

These are successful young people ready to help Wisconsin businesses, farms,

professions and schools succeed.

UW-Madison ranks with Michigan as the top Big Ten Universities. And at the

bottom or near it in faculty salaries and tuition costs? Buy a Chevrolet - pay the

price; buy a Cadillac - pay that quality price. Works in my world of the private sector.

Why not higher education?

Many have asked you legislators, I am sure, "What is it with Wisconsin that we

reward our failures more than our successes?" Welfare families subsidized better

than university students and faculty relative to their value to our citizens. The catch-up

pay for those successes begins with the UW System budget before you.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you. Take better care of the UW-

System in this budget and you take better care of all of us.

#



University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Student Government Association

Vice-President

Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897 (715) 346-3723
(715) 346-4365

4/13/99

Hello, my name is Jeff Buhrandt and I am the Vice President of the Student Body here at UW-Stevens Point. I would like to thank you for having these hearings at our university today. What I would like to talk to you about today is Tuition Flexibility, otherwise known as Continuing Appropriations, and why it is a bad thing for students, legislators and Wisconsin taxpayers.

The continuing appropriations clause in this budget would, in essence, turn over the power of setting the rate of tuition to the Board of Regents, a non-elected body. This would eliminate legislative oversight, taking power and authority away from you, our elected representatives

Allowing the Board to spend above and beyond what you, our elected legislators have, set as the amounts appropriate for the UW-System is both undemocratic and fiscally irresponsible.

This is not a new part of our budget. Originally, the Board was given a 4 and 7% flexibility for the biennium. Also included in this was a sunset clause that was vetoed. The result was a 13% raise in tuition last biennium, which may be small compared to what the Board could do with this Full Tuition Flexibility.

Personally, I work around 30 hours a week outside of school, while carrying a full load of credits. I receive financial aid in the form of loans and some grants, but the cost of education is still forcing me to spend more and more time delivering sub sandwiches and less time delivering myself a quality education. Here in Point, we have a large non-traditional student population, many of whom raise a family on top of what I just mentioned. We are asking that the UW-System not be funded on the backs of students and their families.

In closing, I would like to ask you on behalf of the 8500 students of this university to remove the continuing appropriations clause from this budget. This can be done by keeping the power of allocating the tax and tuition dollars of my parents, neighbors and fellow students in the hands of those we have elected.

Thank you for you time,

Jeff Buhrandt

2901 Fifth St. Apt. C7
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Written Testimony

To: Joint Finance Committee

From: Seamus M. Wolfe Q.w.

I am writing this testimony to ask the joint finance committee to please recommend to the Governor to NOT cut the Lawton Retention Grant and other Minority Funds. As an older, non-traditional Native American student its difficult enough to go on to school and also add more difficulty by cutting funds. That's not the answer, please retain the funding allotted for minorities. Also please remember where you had to start in a career and its through education

Wausau School District

Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359
 (715) 261-2500 • FAX (715) 261-2580 • T.D.D. (715) 261-2505

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING APRIL 13, 1999

1. PROJECTED 1999-2000 BUDGET DEFICIT
 - When we take the revenue limit increase with the decline in revenue, our District is short \$445,045 of the cost to fund a 3.8% roll-up for salaries and fringe benefits.

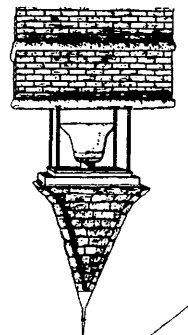
2. REASONS WE ARE FACING THIS DILEMMA SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REVENUE CAPS

- \$1.9 million increase in ESL program cost (state reimbursement has declined to 19%)
- \$3.1 million increase in special education program cost (state reimbursement has declined to 34%)
- \$587,000 in Chapter 220 costs
- Discuss graphs

3. TOTAL COSTS CHARGED AGAINST REVENUE LIMITS LESS REVENUE EXEMPTIONS ALLOWED IS \$3.7 MILLION

4. IN ORDER TO ADDRESS NEXT'S YEAR'S BUDGET DEFICIT, WE HAVE PROPOSED TO OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION THE FOLLOWING:

- Reduce 5 teaching FTE's
- Eliminate our pre-school ESL Program
- Freeze special education hiring
- Reduce our Dream Flight Program
- Freezing and reducing building and maintenance budgets



Charles T. Skurka, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools

Berland A. Meyer
 Deputy Superintendent
 Assistant Superintendent
 Program Development

Cherna A. Gorder
 Assistant Superintendent
 Business

Joy E. Trollop
 Director of Human Resources
 and Employee Relations

5. IF ENROLLMENT REMAINS THE SAME FOR THE 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR, WE WILL NEED AN ADDITIONAL \$910,000 OF CUTBACKS. THIS WILL NECESSITATE A MORE SEVERE RETRENCHMENT OF OUR BUDGET AND ADDITIONAL CUTBACKS IN INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.
6. WE ASK YOU TO CONSIDER INSTITUTING THE 75% RECURRING HOLD HARMLESS LEGISLATION FOR DECLINING ENROLLMENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS LIMITED TO THE NEXT BIENNIMUM. THIS PRESENT SCHOOL YEAR WE LOST 89 STUDENTS WHICH HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED OUR 3 YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE CALCULATION IN THE BUDGET FORMULA. IF WE HAD TO ABSORB THE ENTIRE COST OF THIS LOSS IN ONE BUDGET YEAR, THE RAMIFICATIONS WOULD BE EVEN MORE DEVASTATING.
7. WE ALSO ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER REINSTATING THE INCREASE IN PER PUPIL ADJUSTMENTS AS WAS EVIDENT IN THE LAST BIENNIAL BUDGET. THIS WOULD GIVE WISCONSIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AT LEAST AN INFLATIONARY INCREASE.

Respectfully submitted,
 Charles T. Skurka, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools
 Wausau School District

**1998-99 Report on Unfunded Expenditure Increases Since
Implementation of Revenue Limits**

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT - April, 1999

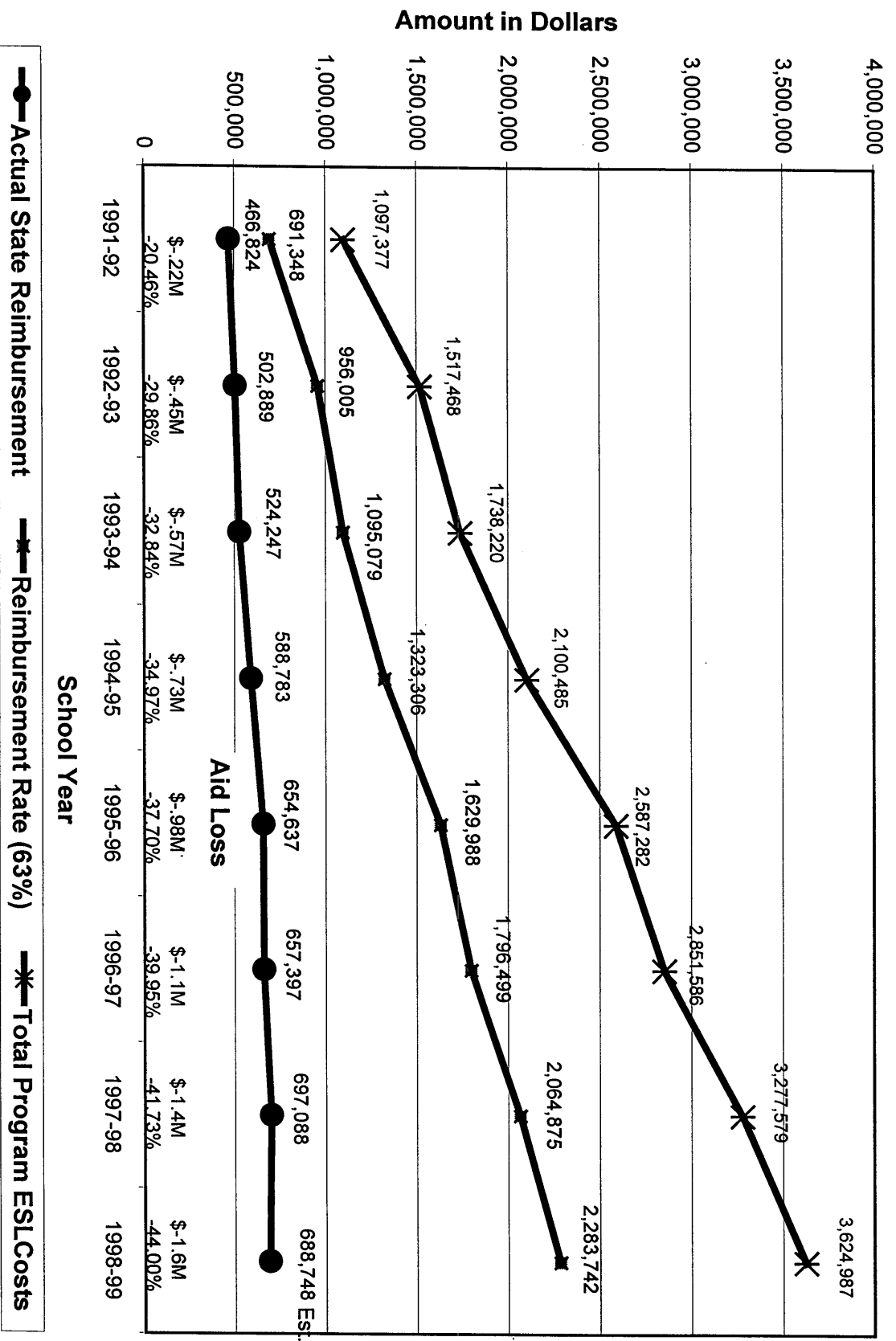
ESL Program Increases

	ESL Expenditures	ESL Revenue	Difference	Net Cost Against Revenue Limit
1998-99	3,624,987	688,748	2,936,239	
1992-93	1,517,468	502,889	1,014,579	
Increase	2,107,519	185,859	1,921,660	1,921,660

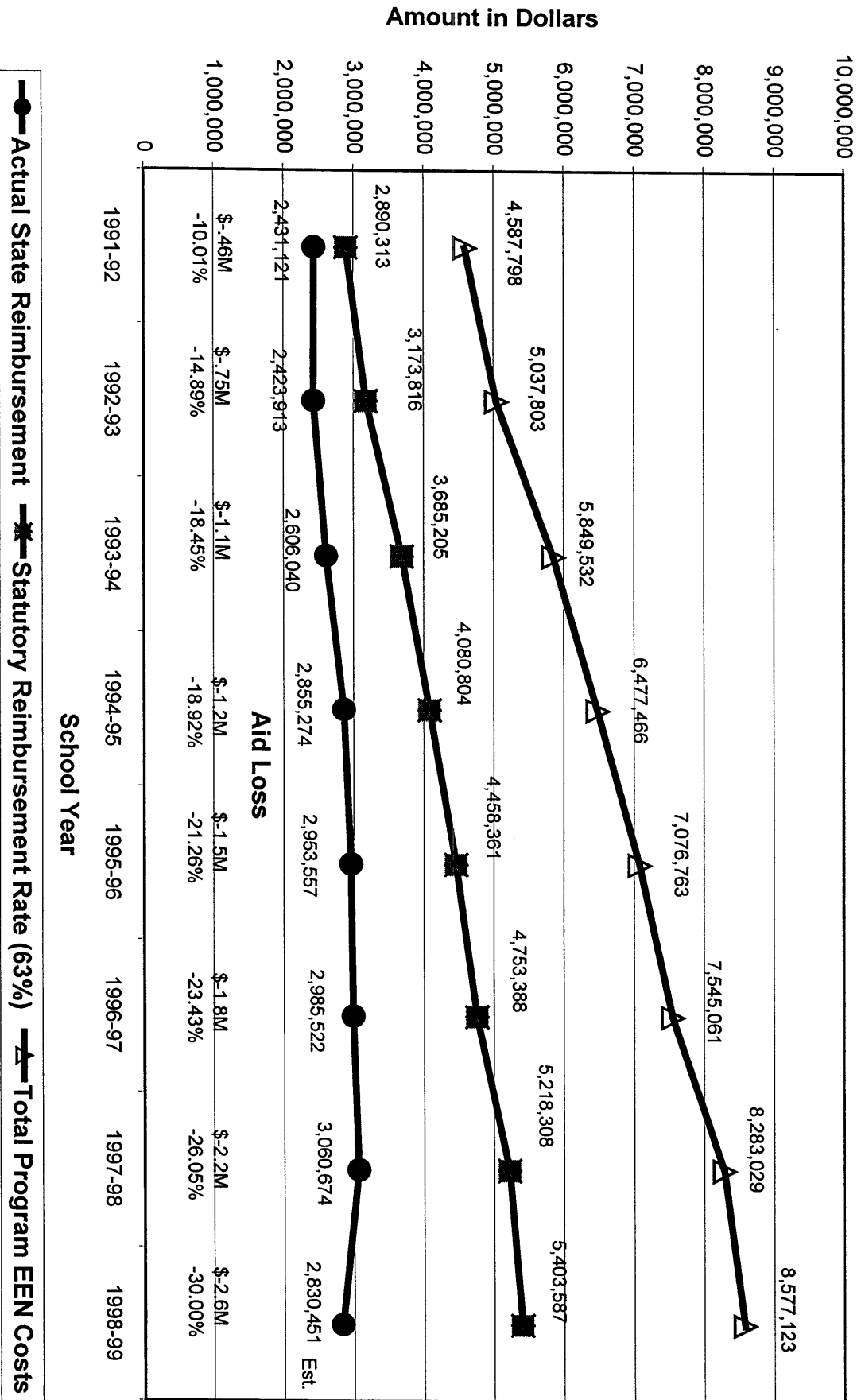
Special Education Program Costs

	EEN Expenditures	EEN Revenue	Difference	
1998-99	8,577,123	2,830,451	5,746,672	
1992-93	5,037,803	2,423,913	2,613,890	
Increase	3,539,320	406,538	3,132,782	3,132,782

State ESL Aid for Wausau School District



State Handicapped Aid for Wausau School District



State Handicapped Aid for Wausau School District

Year	Actual State Reimbursement	Statutory Reimbursement Rate (63%)	Total Program ENN Costs	% Reimbursement	Aid Loss	Abbrev. Aid Loss	% Loss
1991-92	2,431,121	2,890,313	4,587,798	52.99%	459,192	-\$46M	-10.01%
1992-93	2,423,913	3,173,816	5,037,803	48.11%	749,903	-\$75M	-14.89%
1993-94	2,606,040	3,685,205	5,849,532	44.55%	1,079,165	-\$1.1M	-18.45%
1994-95	2,855,274	4,080,804	6,477,466	44.08%	1,225,530	-\$1.2M	-18.92%
1995-96	2,953,557	4,458,361	7,076,783	41.74%	1,504,804	-\$1.5M	-21.26%
1996-97	2,985,522	4,753,388	7,545,061	39.57%	1,767,866	-\$1.8M	-23.43%
1997-98	3,060,674	5,218,308	8,283,029	36.95%	2,157,634	-\$2.2M	-26.05%
1998-99	2,830,451	5,403,587	8,577,123	33.00%	2,573,136	-\$2.6M	-30.00%

Note: 1998-99 Aid % estimated 3/16/99

State ESL Aid for Wausau School District

Year	Actual State Reimbursement	Reimbursement Rate (63%)	Total Program ESL Costs	% Reimbursement	Aid Loss	Abbrev. Aid Loss	% Loss
1991-92	466,824	691,348	1,097,377	42.54%	224,524	-\$22M	-20.46%
1992-93	502,889	956,005	1,517,468	33.14%	453,116	-\$45M	-29.86%
1993-94	524,247	1,095,079	1,738,220	30.16%	570,832	-\$57M	-32.84%
1994-95	588,783	1,323,306	2,100,485	28.03%	734,523	-\$73M	-34.97%
1995-96	654,637	1,629,988	2,587,282	25.30%	975,351	-\$98M	-37.70%
1996-97	657,397	1,796,499	2,851,586	23.05%	1,139,102	-\$1.1M	-39.95%
1997-98	697,088	2,064,875	3,277,579	21.27%	1,367,787	-\$1.4M	-41.73%
1998-99	688,748	2,283,742	3,624,987	19.00%	1,594,994	-\$1.6M	-44.00%

Note: 1998-99 aid estimated 3/16/99

Combined State Handicapped Aid and State ESL Aid for Wausau School District

Year	Actual State Reimbursement	Reimbursement Rate (63%)	Total Program ENN & ESL Costs	% Reimbursement	Aid Loss	Abbrev. Aid Loss	% Loss
1991-92	2,897,945	3,581,661	5,685,175	50.97%	683,716	-\$68M	-12.03%
1992-93	2,926,802	4,129,821	6,555,271	44.65%	1,203,019	-\$1.2M	-18.35%
1993-94	3,130,287	4,780,284	7,557,752	41.25%	1,649,997	-\$1.6M	-21.75%
1994-95	3,444,057	5,404,110	8,577,951	40.15%	1,960,053	-\$2.0M	-22.85%
1995-96	3,608,194	6,088,349	9,664,045	37.34%	2,480,155	-\$2.5M	-25.66%
1996-97	3,642,919	6,549,887	10,396,647	35.04%	2,906,968	-\$2.9M	-27.96%
1997-98	3,757,762	7,283,183	11,560,608	32.50%	3,525,421	-\$3.5M	-30.50%
1998-99	3,519,199	7,687,329	12,202,110	28.84%	4,168,130	-\$4.2M	-34.16%

Note: 1998-99 aid estimated 3/16/99

EEN AID & COSTS - WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARCH 16, 1999

YEAR	TOTAL PROGRAM \$	% REIMBURSEMENT	ACTUAL AID DOLLARS	STATUTORY AID-63%	AID LOSS
1987-88	2,990,312	59.15%	1,768,714	1,883,897	115,183
1988-89	3,285,259	56.26%	1,848,193	2,069,713	221,520
1989-90	3,654,890	58.48%	2,137,201	2,302,581	165,380
1990-91	4,108,358	57.79%	2,374,383	2,588,266	213,883
1991-92	4,587,798	52.99%	2,431,121	2,890,313	459,192
1992-93	5,037,803	48.11%	2,423,913	3,173,816	749,903
1993-94	5,849,532	44.55%	2,606,040	3,685,205	1,079,165
1994-95	6,477,466	44.08%	2,855,274	4,080,804	1,225,530
1995-96	7,076,763	41.74%	2,953,557	4,458,361	1,504,804
1996-97	7,545,061	39.57%	2,985,522	4,753,388	1,767,866
1997-98	8,283,029	36.95%	3,060,674	5,218,308	2,157,634
1998-99*	8,577,123	33.00%	2,830,451	5,403,587	2,573,137
TOTALS	58,896,270		27,444,592	37,104,650	9,660,058

186.83% - Increase in handicapped expenditures since 1987-88

*ESTIMATED

ESL FUNDING FOR THE WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARCH 16, 1999

YEAR	ESL PROGRAM COSTS	PERCENT REIMBURSEMENT	STATE REIMBURSEMENT	UNFUNDED PROGRAM COSTS
1987-88	463,479	58.62%	271,691	191,788
1988-89	479,544	52.92%	253,775	225,769
1989-90	657,413	52.29%	343,761	313,652
1990-91	935,087	48.89%	457,164	477,923
1991-92	1,097,377	42.54%	466,824	630,553
1992-93	1,517,468	33.14%	502,889	1,014,579
1993-94	1,738,220	30.16%	524,247	1,213,973
1994-95	2,100,485	28.03%	588,783	1,511,702
1995-96	2,587,282	25.30%	654,637	1,932,645
1996-97	2,851,586	23.05%	657,397	2,194,189
1997-98	3,277,579	21.27%	697,088	2,580,491
1998-99*	3,624,987	19.00%	688,748	2,936,239

TOTALS 21,330,507

6,107,004

15,223,503

682.13% - Increase in ESL expenditures since '1987-88'

*ESTIMATED

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ALLEN CURTIS
UW-Fau Claire
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ROGER WALL
UW-Cadott
Legislation
JAMES SIMMONS
UW-Oshkosh
Salary and Fringe Benefits
RAY SPOTO
UW-Platteville
WFT, AFL, AFL-CIO

On behalf of the UW-SP chapter of TAUWP, I'd like to testify in support of two items.

First is the six month waiting period before the state picks up health insurance premiums for new employees. This is a tremendous burden for new employees, many of whom are already starting at salaries that are below their peers. For those with families, this is an even greater burden. Two new UW-SP employees with whom I've recently spoken indicated this was rather a negative way to start a new position. A third suggested that he hopes the six month wait doesn't adversely affect his search and screen for a vacancy created by a departing faculty member.

The second item of concern is faculty salaries. Data from the American Association of University Professionals show that UW full professors in our comprehensive institutions are paid an average of 9.6 percent less than their peers at 371 public universities nationwide. Data from the College and University Personnel Association suggest a gap nearly twice as large. Associate and assistant professors in the UW comprehensive institutions are also paid less than the average of their peers nationwide. To remedy this situation, TAUWP supports the resolution passed by at least ten UW Faculty Senates. That resolution calls for increases of 6 and 8 percent over the two years of the upcoming biennium.

The importance of restoring equitable salaries and benefits in the UW system is becoming increasingly important. A report shared with the UW regents last week suggested that 30 to 40 percent of faculty system-wide will be retiring in the next decade. If these data reflect any nationwide trends the UW system will be needed to be more competitive than ever in order to attract and retain quality faculty.

The University of Wisconsin system is still recognized as one of the finest in the nation. However, with the dismal budgets of the past two biennia it seems that Wisconsin state government is determined for us to slip to the ranks of mediocrity. While the neighboring states of Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, and Michigan have increased GPR spending on their universities by 17 to 25 percent during this time, the increase in GPR on Wisconsin universities was two percent!

I hope that the legislature and the governor have turned the corner in declining support for higher education. Perhaps with your help, we'll soon be able to say once again that we spend more on educating adults in Wisconsin than we do on imprisoning them.

Thank you.

To: Joint Finance Committee

From: Dan Sivek, President
Dan Sivek
UW-SP Chapter of The Association of the University of Wisconsin Professionals (TAUWP)

Subject: Two items of concern to UW-SP faculty and staff - insurance and salaries

April 13, 1999

UW-SP CHAPTER



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Student Government Association

·President

Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897 (715) 346-3723
(715) 346-4365

4/13/99

Good Morning! My name is Michael D. Snyder and I am the President of the Student Body here at UW-Stevens Point. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Stevens Point, in particular to the University. There are a couple of issues that I would like to discuss with you today on behalf of the students at UWSP; Faculty Pay Increases and Academic Advising in the Biennial Budget.

The Faculty of the UW System currently are underpaid and have not received adequate pay increases in the previous budgets. Two years ago, I followed the 97-98 Biennial Budget process and was displeased to see the much needed Faculty Pay Raises come entirely on the backs of students. I don't believe that it is in the best interest of any member of the University Community to levy the students tuition dollars directly against the Faculty Pay. I am asking you to fund the requested Faculty Pay Increase through GPR dollars and not put the burden entirely on the students of the system who are already facing enormous tuition hikes.

The second issue that I would like to discuss with you is Academic Advising. In the past three and half years I have fought for better advising for the UW-System at two separate UW Campuses. The Governor's proposed 99-00 Biennial Budget finally is financially supporting Academic Advising, unfortunately it is being supported almost entirely by tuition dollars. One of the goals of Academic Advising is to help students get the classes needed to graduate in a timely manner. Students will not be able to effectively complete their classes in the desired four years if they are working multiple jobs in addition to their studies. It is imperative that the monies supporting Academic Advising be balanced between the State GPR dollars and the Student Tuition dollars.

At the heart of both of these issues is the need for the State of Wisconsin through GPR dollars to show their support for the UW-System. As the budget currently stands, the State is not showing support for either the equitable pay of our Faculty nor is it supporting the students' need for quality advising. I encourage you, the Joint Committee on Finance, to rectify this oversight and show the true support Wisconsin has for State Higher Education.



April 12, 1999

BIENNIAL BUDGET

I am writing this testimony to represent my self and students signed below who are currently enrolled in Anthropology 390: "Ethnic Diversity in Wisconsin." This class, which fulfills a minority studies requirement, is one that is unique and crucial to the quality of education that each student of higher education deserves. During this class, speakers are brought in from different ethnic groups in Wisconsin, such as Native American, Hmong, and African American. There is opportunity for students to ask questions and make comments throughout the class. This class provides an experiential type of education because students are not simply reading about an ethnic group in their text books or hearing lectures about what happened to a certain people. In this class, we are able to hear first hand what happened.

Adequate funding to encourage a diverse education for all students is necessary and demanded by UW students. Plan 2008 is a plan that is essential to providing scholarships and pre-college initiatives. It is important to increase the retention and recruitment of students and faculty of color as well as increase awareness of various backgrounds via ~~enrollment~~ ^{retention} and programs throughout the System. We must fully fund Plan 2008 at \$6.9 million for a diverse education for all students. The Governor's budget funds Plan 2008 at \$732,000, only 10% of the System's request.

We will not accept an education that has been watered down by greedy political agendas. We demand a diverse education. We demand a Governor and a Board of Regents that will listen to student concerns validly. As we enter into the new millennium, it is essential that we continue to make strides towards increasing awareness and diversity on UW campuses. We hope that you will take our concerns seriously. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dana Churness

Josephine Nelson
Dana Churness

James H. Johnson - Professor of Anthropology 390

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STEVE BELL
PRESIDENT

April 12, 1999

Senator Kevin Shibliski

Room 401
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Shibliski:

I am an ardent supporter of technical education and strongly endorse the Wisconsin Technical College System in its pursuit of additional state aids. Wisconsin's dynamic economy and the demographics of an aging work force have created a critical shortage of labor, particularly in highly skilled technical fields. Wisconsin's Technical College System helps employers meet their workforce needs by providing state-of-the-art training with curriculum tailored to the needs of business and industry.

Here at Wood County National Bank, many of our employees continue to upgrade their skills through the excellent services and quality training offered at Mid-State Technical College. In addition, we hire technical college graduates because they're prepared to enter the labor force with the skills and attitudes we seek.

While Wisconsin had traditionally been a strong partner in technical education, a recent trend to significantly reduce state aid to the WTCS must be reversed. It is extremely important for state policymakers to understand the degree to which the state percentage of support toward the cost of the technical college systems has declined, especially during the last three years. The state share declined to the 30 percent level by the mid-1980s and remained at that level until 1990-91. Since then, the state's share has declined to the point where it is now below 25 percent. If the trend of minimal growth in general aid continues through the 1999-2001 biennium, the state share could reach the 20 percent level.

In closing, I wish to reiterate my support of the WTCS request for additional state aids. It is essential that the State resume its traditional role with WTCS in the creation and maintenance of a technically trained workforce.

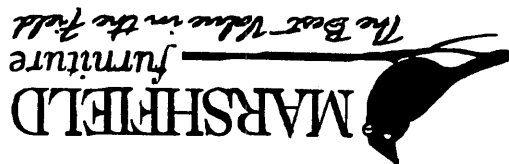
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Steve Bell
President & CEO

P.O. BOX 8000, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN 54495-8000 715-423-7600



April 9, 1999

Senator Kevin Shibilski

Room 402

100 North Hamilton Street

P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Shibilski:

It has come to my attention that the State Finance Committee is considering proposals for the current biennium budget. My position today is to encourage you and your fellow committee members to strongly consider increasing state aids to the Wisconsin Technical College System.

As President and CEO of a medium-sized furniture manufacturing company in Marshfield, I have had direct training and development needs met by our community's technical college, MSTC. I have utilized MSTC to help employees upgrade their technical, customer service, and management skills.

I have read that eighty-eight percent of WTCS graduates stay in Wisconsin to work. I find it easy to conclude that WTCS graduates, as a result of their increased earning power, return significantly more taxes to the State than the State invests in their education. I hope you view the WTCS's request for additional financial support as an investment in all of our futures.

The State of Wisconsin has a key role in investing in the State's workforce for the future. The demand for technology training requires Wisconsin Technical Colleges to deliver flexible and appropriate training and education. More assistance from the State to WTCS is an investment that will produce solid returns.

Sincerely,

William J. Mork

President & CEO

Modern of Marshfield, Inc.
137 West Ninth Street • Marshfield, WI 54449-4185 • Phone 715-387-1181 • Fax 715-387-1182
Web Site: www.marshfieldfurniture.com • email: modernm@wctc.net

JUDGES



2400 INDUSTRIAL STREET WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54495 (715)423-4640 (800)472-4807 FAX (715)423-4681

April 9, 1999

Senator Kevin Shibilski
Room 402
100 North Hamilton Street
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

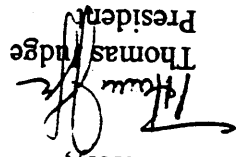
Dear Senator Shibilski:

Through this correspondence, I seek your assistance in supporting an increase in the State's general purpose revenues for the Wisconsin Technical College System. Historically, Wisconsin has been an avid supporter of and a strong partner in technical education. Until 1990, the State provided at least 30% of the WTCs operational costs. However, the state share fell to less than 23% in the 1998-99 budget, and is proposed to provide only 20.8% for the upcoming 1999-2001 budget, reflecting a zero percent increase. This reduction in the percentage of State financial support is in sharp contrast to the increased responsibilities the technical colleges have been given.

As president of a small (40 employees) business, I can personally attest to the fact that technical colleges provide invaluable resources to business and industry. Judges Cleaners has become a computer literate company because of Mid-State Technical College. As the college is the local provider of technical education, I have used its services for several training needs.

Like its 15 counterparts throughout Wisconsin, MSTC is highly effective in training current and future employees. I understand that 88% of WTCs graduates stay in Wisconsin to work, and 95% of employers of these graduates say they are either satisfied or very satisfied with the technical education received by their employees. I believe this record speaks highly as to how WTCs helps Wisconsin businesses maintain their national and global competitiveness. I hope you agree with me and consider an increase in general revenue funds for WTCs as an investment in our state's future.

I appreciate your considerations of this request. If you wish to discuss this matter with me directly, you may reach me at (715) 343-1769.

Sincerely,

Thomas Judge
President

TJ/ss

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April 9, 1999

Senator Kevin Shibiski
Room 402
100 North Hamilton Street
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

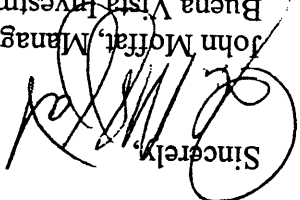
Dear Senator Shibiski:

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Manager of Buena Vista Investment Management LLC. In addition, I am also the President of the Mid-State Technical College Foundation and have served in this capacity for nearly five years.

I seek your assistance in increasing the State's general purpose revenue funds for the Wisconsin Technical College System. As a key senator in the education and finance arenas, I am confident you are well aware that the WTCS has an unblemished record of workforce training. The need for technically trained workers continues to escalate as we approach the 21st century. These increased demands come with a significant price tag. Unfortunately, over the past fifteen years, State support of the WTCS has decreased dramatically. To assure a technically trained workforce in the future, this trend must be reversed.

I firmly believe this proposed enhancement of State aid would be a sound investment in education, business, and industry, not an unnecessary expenditure. WCTS graduates, as a result of their increased earning power, return significantly more income taxes to the State than the amount the State invests in their education.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and letter of support for the WTCS.

Sincerely,

John Moffat, Manager

Buena Vista Investment Management LLC

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
RESTORING WTCS FUNDING IN
THE STATE BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed 1999-01 budget recommends no increase in Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) general aid funding; and

WHEREAS, the WTCS received no increase in general aid in 1995-97, and a 1.5% increase in general aid per year in the 1997-99 budget; and

WHEREAS, with no increase in the state aids, Technical Colleges will be forced to rely more heavily on local tax levies, to raise tuition and other user fees, and potentially to cut classes and services; and

WHEREAS, the state's share of funding for Technical Colleges has declined from more than 30% to less than 23% in the last ten years alone; and

WHEREAS, the WTCS cannot train the future workforce and respond to the needs of Wisconsin citizens and business unless it has the resources to provide state-of-the-art curriculum, equipment, facilities, and access to its programs; and

WHEREAS, the WTCS Coalition, representing the WTCS Board, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association, WTCS Administrators Association, Wisconsin Education Association Council, Wisconsin Federation of Teachers, Wisconsin Vocational Association, and Wisconsin Student Government, proposed an increase in funding of 4.4% in fiscal year 2000 and 4.8% in fiscal year 2001; and

WHEREAS, realization of a 4.4% and 4.8% general aid increase in 1999-01 will stop but not reverse the decline in state support for Wisconsin's Technical Colleges,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mid-State Technical College reaffirms its support for the WTCS budget request of 4.4% and 4.8% increases in general aid funding in the 1999-01 biennium budget.

Public Hearing Testimony on biennial budget-- financial aid programs

I would like to offer my support for the increases in the biennial budget for the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant and Wisconsin Tuition Grant programs. The budget contains increases of 6% for each year of the biennium for each of these programs, and I find that level of increase to be entirely justified.

Nationally, college tuition and fee costs have risen between 40% at 4 year privates and 50% at 4 year public universities in constant dollars (after adjusting for inflation) during the ten year period from 1987-88 to 1997-98. During this same period, disposable personal per capita income has increased only 10% in constant dollars. Thus family income increases have been far outpaced by rises in college costs, leaving families less able than ever to meet college costs.

The percentage share of overall grants versus loans for college students nationally has gone from over 54% in 1981-82 to less than 39% in 1997-98. Most alarming is the fact that students have almost tripled the level of their borrowing in that same period and our nation's students are now borrowing close to \$34 billion annually.

Clearly the federal government has repositioned itself to no longer be a dominant provider of grants for students, expecting that it is the job of the states to do this. Thus in the last 12 years in Wisconsin we have seen the proportion of total aid devoted to Federal Pell Grants drop from 21% (1985-86) to only 9% (1997-98). The percentage of Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grants has likewise dropped from 4% to only 2%. During the same period, Wisconsin kept its WHEG program funded at a constant 4% percentage. There does not appear to be a commitment in Wisconsin to make up for the slack in federal grant support, and that is a foreboding signal for children that will want to attend college in Wisconsin in future years.

The bottom line is that we need to assess both the importance of higher education for our populace and what we as a state are prepared to do to insure that it is a real opportunity for our children. It is not difficult to make a case that Wisconsin benefits greatly when its citizens are better educated--that is true at all levels, and it materializes in less need for public support services as well as in more revenue generated in a stronger tax base. We need to ask ourselves whether we really want to promote college attendance or whether we just want to offer a little encouragement. It is hard to see a 4% share of the overall aid pot as much more than just a little encouragement.

So, even though I am rising to support the 6% increase each year of the biennium for the WHEG and WTG programs, I would be remiss in not pointing out that this does not at all address the severe disproportion that now exists between grant and loan aid for our students. I am very concerned that, unless we make a major commitment to massively increase funding for these programs in the future, high college cost and forbidding debt will take away college as an affordable option for many of our citizens. This will be a national phenomenon that only the healthiest and most conscientious states will overcome. It would be grand if Wisconsin were to lead the way on this score with a strategy to insure college is kept as an affordable opportunity for all that could benefit from it.

History teaches us that educational opportunity has been provided when it appeared to be in the interest of society to make it available. We moved from a country that offered a college education to only the privileged few to one that understood it as the key to productive

assimilation into our culture. We created the GI bill after World War II to do just that, and when we became threatened by Russian superiority in space, we created the Higher Education Act as a way to insure that our country could compete globally. It always seems to have been a national initiative.

However, some states have discovered that economies can be stimulated and prosperity generated through education. That is the Wisconsin story. That we have had the label "progressive" is testimony to our penchant for producing new ways of thinking about things, new solutions. It is no accident that this was undergirded by our advanced educational system. This is an appeal for us to make decisions today that will insure Wisconsin's preeminence as a provider of higher education for its citizens in the future. This is too precious to lose.

My feeling is that we are approaching the funding of our state grant programs in an incremental, rather than rational, way. It's like trying to win a war without a goal in mind, at each stage just sending in some more troops, but never enough to win. Each year we have been adding a small percentage of funding to our state grant programs to try and keep up with, or catch up to, inflationary pressures, while completely ignoring the fact that federal grant support has been steadily diminishing. We have not even established a base upon which we should target our funding for the state grant programs. *I think it is time that we choose a funding "formula" that ties the allocation for the WHEG and WTG programs to what it would take to fund 50% of the portion of UW tuition and fees not covered by the assessed estimated family contribution (EFC).*

The UW Board of Regents has now suggested such an approach for WHEG awards, setting the percentage to whatever is possible for the given program appropriation. However, we need to establish a sensible way to know just how much revenue we need in the budget to appropriately meet the portion of student need that should be covered by a grant. My belief is that our funding target should always be set at 50% of direct educational cost less EFC as described above. For a student with such limited means that there would be no EFC, that would mean that the state grant when tuition and fees was \$3,100 would be set at about \$1550 (about 18% of the overall \$8,800 public institution budget for an undergraduate student). The student's Pell grant would be approximately double that of the state grant, bringing the total percentage of cost met to about 53%. Schools with the ability to do so would add some campus-based grants (perhaps another \$800) to try and bring total grants to about 62% of the overall cost, leaving 38% to be met with self-help aid (work and loans). Thus the highly-need student would have to come up with \$3,344 in part-time earnings and loans each year. This seems reasonable in today's economy. I appreciate the opportunity to present these views at this public hearing, and I hope that my remarks are seen as both supportive of current efforts and encouraging that we can do better in future years.

Phillip C. George
President, Wisconsin Association of Financial Aid Administrators
Director, Student Financial Aid
UW-Stevens Point

Phgeorge@uwsp.edu

Web site: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuser/v/finance/wastaa>

226 Baldwin
Stevens Point, WI 54481

April 11, 1999

Dear Joint Finance Committee:

RE: Tuition flexibility

Thank you for approving about two-thirds of my university education. For the 1998-99 academic year the Legislature and the Governor have authorized \$877,247,900 of state funds for UW System students. This is a tuition subsidy of \$6,996 per student from Wisconsin taxpayers.

Please remove tuition flexibility from the budget. Since the 1997-99 biennial budget did not include a faculty pay raise, the Regents proposed a partial tuition flexibility plan to allow faculty a pay increase. The plan was supposed to be a one-time deal, however the Governor removed that clause, making partial tuition flexibility indefinite.

The Legislature has had the power to set tuition, and as a result Wisconsin's resident tuition has remained low. Let us keep low tuition a reality by removing tuition flexibility from the budget.

Thank you for your time,



Fredrick Heider, Student Government Association Senator of UW-Stevens Point