



## Budget Message from the Chancellor

*February 18, 2009*

Dear UWM Faculty, Staff and Students,

Following Governor Jim Doyle's budget speech last night, I wanted to update you on how proposed actions will influence the future of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

As expected, all state agencies are facing significant funding reductions as the result of the very serious global economic crisis. For the University of Wisconsin System, the governor has proposed a \$174 million budget cut. It is not yet clear how this cut will be applied to individual campuses, and we await specifics on this matter from the UW System leadership.

There are, however, several key points affecting the UWM campus:

\*The governor's proposed budget includes support for the new School of Freshwater Sciences and School of Public Health. On behalf of the university, I express my deep appreciation to Governor Doyle for this support. The health, welfare, ecology and economy of this region will greatly benefit from these two academic growth initiatives.

\*Funding will continue to UWM for the first phase of the Growth Agenda, which is now supporting the hiring of faculty in strategic areas that would support regional economic development. At this point, funding for the second phase of the Growth Agenda is not in the budget. We are optimistic, however, that as the budget moves forward through the legislature and UW System review, that funding will be made available for at least portions of the Growth Agenda.

\*No layoffs or furloughs of state employees have been proposed in the budget. I believe the governor's desire to proceed without such drastic measures is extremely positive to our state and university workforce.

\*There will be no salary increases for state employees during the 2009-2011 biennium.

\*State workers should expect to make higher contributions for health insurance and retirement.

\*Domestic partner benefits will be provided to all state employees.

\*Moderate tuition increases are expected in each of the next two years. New investments in financial aid, however, will mean that resident undergraduate students with family income up to \$60,000 will not see increased tuition.

As I stated earlier, we still do not have all the details of how the \$174 million budget cut to the UW System will specifically affect UWM. We will share those details as we learn them. In the meantime, we cannot stop doing what we have been doing. Yes, we will need to find different ways to fulfill our mission and achieve our goals. And our progress may be slowed. But this city, region and state need UW-Milwaukee, and we must continue to deliver regardless of the obstacles before us.

Sincerely,

Carlos E. Santiago, Chancellor  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

For more information on the issues addressed in this message:

Text and video links for the governor's address:  
<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/>

Text of the UW System response:  
<http://www.wisconsin.edu/news/2009/r090217a.htm>