

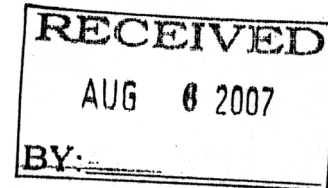


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie".

Serving Wood, Portage, Adams
Waushara, Marathon & Marquette

JULIE LASSA

STATE SENATOR



Copy to Nelson

August 9, 2007

Senator Judy Robson and Conference Committee Members
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Robson and Conference Committee Members,

I write to you today with great concern for the University of Wisconsin System Budget. I am sure that you are well aware of the concerns the UW System has expressed on behalf of all the campuses about the budget as voted out of the Assembly. Critical aspects of the reductions in the Assembly Budget for the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point are the following.

The impact of these drastic cuts for UWSP:

- **\$4 million base cut on top of \$7 million in past years for a total of \$11 million**
Cripples UWSP's effort to grow the economy of our state
- **\$4 million base cut could eliminate 22 faculty positions**
Reduces the number of classes so that students will take longer to graduate
- **\$4 million base cut could eliminate advising and career services**
Reduces graduation taxes
- **Funding UWSP's growth request (\$300,000 for a new Health Sciences Major)**
Is appreciated but it is a false compromise for a \$4 million permanent reduction in their base
- **Cuts in WHEG (Wisconsin Higher Education Grants) hurt their most needy students**
80 % of UWSP students, nearly 6,900, qualify for financial aid
22%, nearly 2000, rely on state grants (WHEG)
- **Cut of Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund**
Prevents recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty members and those in high demand areas such as natural resources, business, education and science

Eliminates a \$36 million project that would be completed at no cost to the taxpayer and still leaves students options for lower cost housing if they prefer. The construction project would be vital to the local economy.

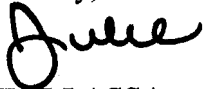
UWSP has reached a fork in the road.

A return to the JFC/Senate Budget will help **connect UWSP to the bright future** they have outlined in Vision 2015, which improves the quality of education they offer students and commits to work to strengthen the economy of our region and state. USWP can and will provide more baccalaureate graduates for our region and **build a stronger economy** for Central Wisconsin that will strengthen the tax base for the entire state.

Accepting the \$4 million cut in exchange for a \$300,000 addition to their budget leads UWSP to a **dead end**. They cannot sustain the quality of education they offer much less move ahead to support economic development.

Thank you for the time and commitment you have dedicated to giving the State of Wisconsin the best budget possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



JULIE LASSA
State Senator
24th Senate District