

UW-Madison chancellor concerned about funding for building projects

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UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank says she is “really, deeply worried” about funding for the university’s building projects.

“It is a budget year this coming year, but nobody’s doing much of anything until the election is over,” Blank said yesterday at a Wisconsin Technology Council luncheon in Madison. “We’ll see who it is we’re negotiating with and for what.”

She’s concerned because the state has funded “very, very little” in the last two bienniums compared to historical levels. Projects funded by UW-Madison that require several million dollars or more need the approval of the entire state Legislature and the governor.

That means these projects end up as “political footballs,” which she believes are “incredibly damaging” to the university.

“The constraints I have on capital projects are unprecedented compared to any of my peers... and almost unworkable at this point in time,” she said.

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