

UW-Eau Claire March 2009 administrative reorganization

The following e-mail message was sent March 4, 2009, to all UW-Eau Claire employees.

TO: UW-Eau Claire Faculty and Staff

FROM: Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich

Following an evaluation of the university's administrative structure undertaken in light of significant budget challenges facing the university and state, I am eliminating the position of Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Facilities. I have decided to proceed with the search for Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs with the intention of filling the position.

Continuing the search for Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is essential as we move forward with implementation of the strategic plan and other important initiatives including creation of an academic plan. Candidates for the position will continue visiting campus in the coming days and I urge you to participate in the interviewing process and provide feedback on all of the candidates.

In line with Academic Affairs issues, I assure you that Interim Provost Marty Wood and I are working to make determinations regarding individual faculty searches as quickly as possible. It is critical that we have our academic program in place for fall and the guiding principle on hiring decisions will be to fulfill our commitment to student instruction and degree completion.

Eliminating the Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Facilities will result in realigning the offices and units within the division, reducing the number of administrative divisions from four to three. The three remaining divisions are: Chancellor, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs.

Under the reorganization, the vice chancellor position will be redefined as a chief financial officer who will work closely with the chancellor and vice chancellors to ensure the university's budget will support the goals of the strategic plan and core mission of our institution.

To that end, I have appointed Dave Gessner, director of Business Services and budget officer, as Assistant Chancellor for Budget and Finance. In his new capacity, Dave will report to me and will serve as the university's chief financial officer, oversee the university's budget, act as a key liaison with the UW System, and provide leadership for the Business Services unit. Dave joined UW-Eau Claire in 1981 as chief accountant after serving seven years as an internal auditor for UW System. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from UW-Eau Claire in 1971 and his master's of business administration from UW-Eau Claire in 1976.

Dave's more than three decades of experience crafting, reviewing and administering budgets at UW-Eau Claire and UW System will be invaluable as we work through the fiscal challenges we face.

Dr. Tom Dock, who has been serving as acting vice chancellor for administration and finance, will return full-time to his duties as dean of the College of Business. I wish to thank Tom for his dedicated service and wise counsel over the past several months. He assumed the additional duties on a temporary basis while continuing as dean of the College of Business — no small task — and his efforts helped pave the way for this reorganization, which will result in additional administrative efficiencies within the university.

Other units within the Division of Administration, Finance and Facilities will be permanently moved into the Academic Affairs or Chancellor divisions and will be supervised by current administrative staff within those divisions. The individuals who will be assuming these additional supervisory responsibilities have agreed to do so for no additional compensation.

This is the second reorganization of senior level administration I have undertaken in the past 14 months to increase administrative efficiencies. In December 2007, I announced a .5 net reduction in senior-level administrative positions. These reductions reflect the realities of the current fiscal environment which requires us to examine all avenues of cost savings while remaining true to our core mission of educating students.

Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich, Ph.D.