Governor’s Proposed Budget - Impact on WSU

February 16, 2011

On Feb. 15, Governor Dayton released his proposed budget for the next biennium. The budget package contains a six percent reduction from the “current law funding level” of $630 million projected for MnSCU in the next biennial budget. In practical terms, the proposal represents a two percent reduction for MnSCU’s share of the higher education budget, which would drop from this year’s appropriation of $605 million to a proposed $592 million for FY 12. At Winona State University, we have never used the “current law funding level” in our budget planning. Instead, we have used the actual appropriated level of $605 million in FY11. Our planning assumptions are based on a best-case scenario of a $150 million cut to our system.

The Governor’s budget reflects a commitment to the role and importance of education for the state’s future. For more detail on the Governor’s budget please see the presentation materials and narrative on the higher education component of his budget.

Most observers consider this initial budget statement as a very unlikely best-case scenario. The release of the Governor’s budget is simply the next step in a lengthy process of negotiations and counterproposals that will take place throughout the spring. The next piece of important information will be the release of the February economic forecast on March 2, 2011.

For a listing of all of the steps to come, please review the Budget Trigger Dates document. We will continue to prepare for the next biennium using our current planning assumptions. For updates on our approach to the next biennium, please visit our Budget Tool Kit site. We will track the information that we gain at each key trigger date and will revisit our approach, if needed.

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