**All University Budget Update – 2/8/18**

Let me begin by saying how much I appreciate the members of our campus community for coming together and working to explore solutions to the budget situation we are currently facing. Our top priorities are to preserve excellent experiences for our students and, to the extent possible, avoid impact to our employees. I feel these priorities have been met because our budget reduction plan has no program closures, no retrenchment, and no layoffs. This does not mean the plan is without pain and challenge.

Each division was asked to reduce its budget by the same percentage, and follow the [Budget Principles](https://www.winona.edu/fiscalaffairs/Media/Budget%20Principles%202017%20Final.pdf) approved by the All-University Finance and Facilities Advisory Committee. However, we recognize that within the divisions, budget cuts were not distributed equitably. Some units have been dramatically affected, making it difficult for them to serve students as well as they have done in the past. So, although we can be relieved that, overall, we are minimizing the impact on students and avoiding layoffs, we must recognize that for many of us there will be hardships. Time is on our side, however, and we believe after FY19 we will have the opportunity to rebuild capacity and invest strategically in areas that are under-resourced.

Our FY19 budget reduction plan reflects a “worst case” scenario. There are a number of factors that are outside our direct control that will impact our budget—for example, settlement and passage of bargaining agreements, legislative funding levels, and final enrollment numbers. As these various pieces fall into place, our FY19 budget will gradually become clearer. In an ideal situation—the one we’re all hoping for—there will be room for strategic reinvestment next year, well after the Legislature has concluded its work and our final enrollment numbers are tallied.

Please join me for our upcoming Campus Budget Forums to learn more and ask any questions you might have:

* Rochester - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 - ST110 and Broadway 303 ([Acano link](https://workspace.vgconnectus.com/invited.sf?secret=9eG8O90dO_srAWYGOMiT6g&id=434991505))
* Winona - 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15 - Haake Hall 175
* Winona - 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16 - Haake Hall 175

As the spring semester unfolds, we will remain true to our course: we will strategically invest in our future, focus on excellence in serving students and on those things that make us distinctive, take good care of our people, and trust in the goodwill and creativity of our community of learners.

Sincerely yours,

Scott R. Olson

President