The direction of Gov. Scott Walker’s proposed budget is consistent with what UWM has been requesting and what will benefit our students, faculty and staff and the state of Wisconsin.

Campus priorities:

MAINTAIN THE REINVESTMENT IN THE UW SYSTEM THAT GOV. SCOTT WALKER HAS PROPOSED. Universities provide skilled workers and new knowledge and tools to drive the state economy. As one of America’s top 115 research universities, we are optimistic about the return to the UW System of the $50 million lapse and a proposal for $42.5 million in new funding, which would help implement relevant strategic plans at all UW System campuses and support critical research activities. We also believe any decrease in tuition should be offset by an increase in state support for public universities.

FULLY FUND THE CAPITAL BUDGET. The State Building Commission approved the governor’s recommendations in the 2017-19 proposed capital budget including $33.5 million for the Sandburg Residence Halls and $52 million for the Northwest Quadrant (NWQ). While we appreciate the support of the proposal, there is a critical need for UWM’s entire capital budget request to be funded. In addition to the $33.5 million for Sandburg, we respectfully request the full NWQ project cost of $69 million, as $52 million will require a significant portion of the NWQ to be left uncompleted, $7 million for safety and mechanical repairs and renovation of the Chemistry Building, $11.4 million for lab renovation and repairs in the Engineering, Math and Science (EMS) Building, and $5.1 million to update UWM’s 25 year-old IT infrastructure, which is the fiber optic cabling serving the main campus. A fully funded capital budget will allow UWM, including health, nursing, and information science programs, to occupy about 470,000 square feet in the NWQ that is not currently up to code, and will provide functioning classroom, lab, research and other academic space in the NWQ, Chemistry and EMS buildings. The renovations are critical to support UWM’s ability to continue to educate students and grow the number of graduates across the STEM fields, most of whom who remain in Wisconsin to live and work.

NO MANDATED STUDENT WORK EXPERIENCE. UWM has been a leader in providing students with work experience and internship opportunities. While we support the spirit of Gov. Walker’s proposal and believe internships and work experience are a critical part of education, we would like to see flexibility for the unique needs of our students – many who work part- or full-time. A mandated work experience for these students could lengthen their time to graduation, which increases the cost of their degree.

STATE UNIVERSITIES SHOULD NOT BE PITTED AGAINST EACH OTHER. We support performance-based funding; however, we are requesting that the criteria for awarding the funds be based on the progress each campus makes in their own improvement efforts versus having the 13 UW System campuses compete against one another, as the state budget currently proposes.

KEEP EMPLOYEE SALARY INCREASES SEPARATE FROM HEALTH INSURANCE CHANGES. We strongly support an employee compensation plan to help retain the excellent faculty and staff across the UW System. A 2 percent increase is proposed for September 2018, with another 2 percent in May 2019. However, for greater certainty of funding, this plan must be funded outright and not tied to estimated savings generated by a proposed self-insurance model for health insurance.
Southeastern Wisconsin has a 100,000 employee shortage, with a substantial number of jobs that require higher education. UWM also plays a critical role in fueling the region’s economy with investment and innovation.

Why Wisconsin needs UW-Milwaukee

UWM produces 5,000+ graduates annually:

85% of UWM graduates are from Wisconsin
75% of UWM graduates are employed in Wisconsin

Wisconsin’s Workforce Needs: Jobs in Demand

Health
- Nurses/Nurse Practitioners
- Physical Therapists
- Audiolists
- Health Services Managers
- Medical Scientists
- Social Workers
- Clinical, counseling and school psychologists

Business
- Accountants
- Actuaries
- Business Analytics
- Financial Examiners
- Human Resources Specialists and Managers
- Marketing Researchers and Analysts
- Supply Chain Managers

Computer Science
- Software Developers/Applications
- Computer Systems Analysts
- Systems Software
- IT Project Managers

Engineering, Science and Related Fields
- Biomedical, Electrical and Other Engineers
- Biochemists and Biophysicists
- Architects

What UWM Delivers Each Year to Meet the Needs*

800 UWM graduates in the fields of:
- Nursing
- Biology and Biomedical Sciences
- Kinesiology
- Health Care Administration
- Psychology
- Nursing Educators

1,000 UWM business graduates in the fields of:
- Accounting
- Finance
- Information Systems
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Supply Chain

175 UWM graduates in the fields of:
- Information Science
- Information Technology
- Computer Science
- Computer Engineering

290 UWM graduates in the field of:
- Engineering

50 UWM graduates in the fields of:
- Biochemistry
- Biophysics

100 UWM graduates in the field of:
- Architecture/Urban Planning

* Data reflects the 2015-16 school year and includes 50% of graduates; the remaining 50% includes entrepreneurs, journalists, teachers, artists, and others who address regional job needs.

For more information visit uwm.edu/budget