What is URFW’s response to the budget reductions?

• Continue to provide a student-centered academic program.
• Remain committed to 2012-2020 strategic plan goals:
  - Distinctive Academic Excellence
  - Global Education and Engagement
  - Innovation and Partnerships
• Implement strategic new programs:
  - agricultural engineering, data science, criminology, neuroscience, Master of Science in computer science.
• Recognize the excellence of faculty and staff
  - by providing some (modest) merit compensation.
• Prioritize pursuit of innovative opportunities such as
  - the URFW Hudson Center
  - the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator.
• Advocate widely for public investment including
  - no more reductions in state funding, and the creation of a reasonable tuition policy.

How can you support URFW?

Visit campus! As a public university, URFW belongs to you. You are welcome to enjoy the events and many other resources open to the public.
Engage with campus leadership to learn more about the impacts of budget reductions.
Sign up your high school junior or senior for a campus visit. If they aren’t considering URFW for their college education, encourage them to think again!
Hire interns or employ our graduates. Business owners can contact URFW Career Services, the Center for Innovation and Business Development, or our Small Business Development Center to learn more.
Contact your legislators and local legislative candidates to let them know what URFW means to you.
Speak about the value of URFW to you at your civic or community organization.
Write a letter to the editor or contact your local media to make a statement.
Students attend UW-River Falls from all corners of Wisconsin

Each pin on the map represents a high school that provided anywhere from one to 124 incoming freshmen for the fall 2015 class.

43%
of incoming UWRF freshmen are the first in their families to attend college.

18,275
UWRF alumni reside in Wisconsin.

UW–River Falls is:

• an essential component of local innovation, talent development, and entrepreneurship that fuels economic growth in one of the most rapidly developing parts of Wisconsin.
• important to the cultural vitality of this community, fostering a dynamic and inclusive relationship with local citizens.
• made up of hardworking, award-winning faculty who are committed to the university’s core mission of teaching and learning.
• characterized by its genuine concern for students, a place where students have hands-on educational experiences and valuable professional opportunities, while developing critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Impacts of the 2015-17 Reduction in State Funding on UWRF

$2.87
million base budget cut (share of $125 million UW System cut)

11.2%
reduction in base state support

55
deduction in state/tuition supported positions (equivalent 38 FTE full-time equivalent)

18
permanent layoffs/non-retentions

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FAQs

Q: Can’t you just raise tuition to make up for state budget cuts?
A: No. Wisconsin government has mandated a resident undergraduate tuition freeze throughout the UW System. We are entering the fourth consecutive year of this freeze. We have no option for implementing modest tuition adjustments to help cover state budget cuts. A tuition freeze may look like a savings to UW students and families, however, in this context, it translates into fewer class offerings and larger class sizes, which means less personalized attention and possibly increased time to obtain a degree.

Q: Aren’t you building a new $63 million facility?
A: Yes. State funding for capital such as the UWRF Falcon Center project cannot be used to address shortfalls in operational funding due to the 2015-17 budget cuts. The Falcon Center is supported by capital funds from the state, student fees, charitable gifts, and parking user fees.

Q: Didn’t I just hear about a successful $20 million fundraising effort?
A: Yes, and we are proud of our success! However, charitable gifts can only be used for the purposes intended by the donor. Therefore, most of these funds are destined to support our students directly and may not be used to pay for items such as faculty and staff salaries, educational supplies or equipment. Scholarship funding, instructional space improvements and program support are the most commonly chosen charitable designations.

Q: Doesn’t the university have a lot of money in reserves?
A: No. The university’s current tuition reserves could support faculty salaries and other educational costs for less than two months. Other fund balances in areas such as housing, parking, construction projects, and dining services are committed for specific projects or uses, and cannot be used to fund faculty positions or support basic teaching and learning activities.

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Impact of 2015-17 Reduction in State Funding on UWRF

Over recent decades, the funding for core educational costs at UW-River Falls has shifted from the state to the student. Salaries of faculty and staff at UW comprehensive universities such as UWRF are significantly lagging. For example, faculty earn on average 18% below national peers. Employee pay plan increases have been minimal, while their cost of benefits has increased.

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