CAS BUDGET CUTS 3/22/16 K. GALARNO

The UW-River Falls College of Arts and Sciences has been the subject of much debate recently after suddenly having to trim 1.5 million dollars from its budget. Katie Galarno has the story.

CAS-AUDIO MP3 RUNS 1:17 O/C: STD

KATIE GALARNO: THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AT UW-RIVER FALLS HAS MET ITS SUDDEN BUDGET REDUCTION OF ONE-POINT-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. IMPACTS OF THIS REDUCTION WILL INCLUDE LARGER CLASS SIZES, FEWER FACULTY AND MORE LIMITED COURSE AVAILABILITY. C-A-S DEAN BRADLEY CASKEY (CASS-key) SAYS THAT OVER SPRING BREAK, APPROXIMATELY 90 SECTIONS OF GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES WERE ADDED TO THE FALL SCHEDULE. HE SAYS THAT THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE ENROLLMENT NUMBERS FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN THIS FALL ARE PROJECTED TO BE HIGHER THAN IN RECENT YEARS.

BRADLEY CASKEY: THE GOOD NEWS IS, MORE STUDENTS PAY MORE TUITION. THE POTENTIAL DANGER IS, IF YOU DON’T HAVE SEATS FOR THEM, YOU HAVE SIGNIFICANT P-R ISSUES AND RETENTION ISSUES.

KATIE GALARNO: WITH ONE OF THE CHANGES BEING LARGER CLASS SIZES, SOME FACULTY ARE WORRIED ABOUT A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON STUDENTS. ENGLISH PROFESSOR GRETA GAARD (GUARD) SAYS THAT IT’S HARD TO TEACH WRITING TO A LARGE COURSE BECAUSE IT’S DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED FEEDBACK.

GRETA GAARD: WITH A CLASS SIZE THAT MIGHT BE INCREASED, WE CAN’T DO THAT. SO WHAT DO WE DO? WE END UP PASSING PEOPLE, OR EXEMPTING THEM, FROM WRITING CLASSES, AND THEN WE START GRADUATING PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT COMPETENT IN WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.

KATIE GALARNO: CASKEY SAYS THAT MORE SPECIFIC IMPACTS CAN BE MEASURED AFTER THE FALL COURSE SCHEDULE IS FINALIZED. HE SAYS THAT IT WILL BE EASIER TO SEE HOW MANY FACULTY AREN’T COMING BACK AND HOW MANY COURSE SECTIONS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED AFTER EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M KATIE GALARNO.

In an email sent to students over spring break, Chancellor Dean Van Galen (GAL-len) said that the fall course schedule will be available before registration begins on April 8.

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