BUDGET 12/13/2016 M. CLARK

Earlier this year, the U-W-River Falls College of Arts and Sciences was forced to trim its budget, which resulted in some larger class sizes, fewer course options, and some staff being let go. As Falcon News Service reporter Matt Clark tells us, the college is prepared to move on.

MP3 R/T: 1:37 O/T: STD

MATTHEW CLARK: LAST SPRING, OFFICIALS WITH U-W-R-F’S LARGEST COLLEGE, THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, WERE FORCED TO TRIM OVER 1 POINT 5 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THEIR BUDGET. BECAUSE THE COLLEGE PROVIDES THE UNIVERSITY WITH MOST OF ITS REQUIRED GENERAL EDUCATION CLASSES, OFFICIALS WERE NERVOUS THE REDUCED BUDGET WOULDN’T PROVIDE ENOUGH MONEY TO OFFER ALL THE CLASSES NEEDED DURING THE NEXT SEMESTER. C-A-S DEAN BRAD CASKEY:

BRAD CASKEY: “AT THAT TIME, WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD GENERAL EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ABOUT THREE OR FOUR HUNDRED STUDENTS AND WE HAD 1,200 COMING IN.”

MATTHEW CLARK: AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH U-W SYSTEM OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE U-W-R-F ADMINISTRATION, CASKEY WAS ABLE TO SECURE ENOUGH MONEY TO PROVIDE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES FOR THE 20-16 … 20-17 SCHOOL YEAR. THIS SUMMER, SYSTEM PROVIDED THE UNIVERSITY WITH A BASE BUDGET ALLOCATION WHICH IT USED TO CREATE MORE SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE COLLEGE. ALTHOUGH THE MONEY WILL GO SOLELY TO C-A-S, U-W-R-F INTERIM PROVOST FAYE PERKINS SAYS IT WILL BENEFIT THE ENTIRE CAMPUS.

FAYE PERKINS: “GENERAL EDUCATION AFFECTS EVERY SINGLE STUDENT ON CAMPUS, SO THIS WAS NOT JUST A C-A-S PROBLEM. THIS WAS A CAMPUS-WIDE PROBLEM”

MATTHEW CLARK: THE COLLEGE DID INCREASE CLASS SIZE FOR INTRODUCTORY CLASSES, CUT SOME COURSES, AND EVEN ELIMINATED THE GERMAN AND FRENCH PROGRAMS. CASKEY SAYS STUDENTS WILL NOT NOTICE A DIFFERENCE.

BRAD CASKEY: “THE UPSHOT FOR STUDENTS IS YOU’LL REALLY SEE NO DIFFERENCES IN THE SCHEDULE. YOU WOULD NOT REALLY NOTICE ANY OF THESE SMALL CHANGES THAT’LL TAKE PLACE AND WHEN PEOPLE COME FOR NEXT YEAR, CLASSES WILL BE SITTING THERE,”

MATTHEW CLARK: CASKEY SAYS MORE CHANGES MAY COME TO C-A-S NEXT SPRING ONCE A LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY ARE RELEASED BY THE U-W-R-F STRATEGIC TASK FORCE. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M MATTHEW CLARK.

Caskey says he has made it a point to make sure no student is enrolled in more than two of the larger classes.

###