



Cost Savings Ideas as of 8/11/2010

Area for Improvement		Submitted By	Date
Energy use	Turn up the AC temps in Wimberly, Graff. Staff in each complain about the cold all summer long. Additionally, as has been mentioned on many occasions in previous years, the outer doors in Wimberly do not close tightly, and heat and cooling loss are issues all year long. I'm not looking for/don't want recognition. I have raised these issues with buildings and grounds and custodial services in the past. I would just like to see UWL be more responsible with energy use in these buildings. Thank you!	Classified Staff	8/2/2010
Save on Water Consumption and Sewer Bill	One way for the UW to save on water and sewer bills would be to install flush free urinals in the men's bathrooms. These work good and you never have to flush them. Hope this will help you.	Visitor	8/12/2009
Cartwright Center	Turn off the sign above the north entrance. This will save energy and eliminate an eyesore.	Classified Staff	7/31/2009
Temperature Control in Cowley Hall	Adjust the air conditioning so the building (4th floor at least) is not maintained at 66-67 degrees: a waste of money. Also, turn off the radiator heat, which is on year-round.	Faculty	6/29/2009
	Recently, someone informed me that for some services, non-GPR entities are required to use university services and will be charged a surcharge. Because this will cost more money this person asked if they can go elsewhere if it is cheaper. The office charging said that they were required to go through the university, and could not bid out to another company even if it was less expensive. This extra cost will be an added burden after its funds have already been cut.	Student	5/11/2009
Travel	Require receipts for meals. There are folks, who should know better, behaving unethically and claiming the full amount for meals even if they skip a meal or get something less expensive. We shouldn't need this to be this petty with our recordkeeping, but padding the TER has got to stop.		4/29/2009
Communication/Voice Mail	How much does this campus pay for voice mail? Services like PhoneTag are about to be jolted by Google, which plans to introduce a competing free service, Google Voice, in a matter of weeks. The service will ring each phone a person uses at once — cell, home, office — and centralize all the messages received. Most important for the voice-mail-averse, Google Voice will also transcribe voice mails at no cost. Full article (NYT) at http://bit.ly/4uAm1	Faculty	4/2/2009
Administration	Why do we need so many chancellors? such as vice, assistant, title roles that cost the education system more money than needed. I think your admin is		3/25/2009
Increase Profits	I studied abroad in Denmark at Copenhagen Business School and they allowed companies to sponsor their classrooms and other areas of their university. I	Student	3/24/2009
	SEI's are done twice a year and our department alone goes through over 1500 scantons (red bubble sheets) which cost over \$15 per ream. My suggestion is to make SEI's available to be done on-line. Give IT financial funding and allow them to hire extra personal to hurry along this process which will save us money immediately upon implementation. It will also help the environment by saving on paper-both using and discarding.	Classified Staff	3/11/2009
Investigate How Google Apps Might Save Us IT Money	The Joint ITS Committee should investigate this URL and see if there are ways for us to save money with our email http://www.google.com/a/help/intl/en/edu/sell.html	Academic Staff	3/6/2009
An Outside the Box Idea	My understanding is that there is a deep concern at the HSC about continued financing by the consortial partners at an adequate level to repair the roof, upgrade/repair lab areas and repair failing and aging classroom technology, etc. Building reserve funds may be used for some of that but that source is not that large and could be quickly depleted. It is my sense that the other four partners might not have the money nor the desire to continue funding the building at the level necessary? My sense is that they feel UW-L is the 65% partner and manages to "get its own way" so they might be receptive to stepping away from the building? Let's assume for a moment that I am not too far from reality with my assumption. What if UW-L took over the HSC 100% and then downsized the Centennial Building project to perhaps two floors. Would money be saved overall by such a move? Would there be some PR value in the community? Would it look like we were utilizing existing and future buildings more efficiently and effectively at less of an overall cost? Does this idea or some variation hold any merit? I realize that I don't know very much to be making such assumptions, but I don't see any harm in sharing this idea. Thanks for the platform to explore	Academic Staff	3/5/2009
Energy Efficient Lighting	The easiest and fastest way to cut operating costs is through your lighting system. We help universities and school districts all over the Midwest with energy efficient lighting. When you work with Energy Performance Specialists you work with Lighting Certified professionals who know lighting, controls, maintenance and how to get you money to keep your costs low. Please call and set up a free no obligation audit of your current lighting systems. Check out our website at energypformance.net	Visitor	3/4/2009
Budget	1. What if everyone on campus would give back one day's pay? This would be one day in a calendar year. I would do it if it meant saving our budget reserve. It's always amazing that when we learn how to wise/fruitful and saved, we get penalized for our actions. I know it would/might be a hardship for some of us, but if EVERYONE from the top on down would agree to do this, just think of the savings and the money that would be in our reserve. But EVERYONE would have to buy into this, but it could work if everyone worked together. Thank you	Classified Staff	3/3/2009
Close Down Day After Thanksgiving	Close the University the day after Thanksgiving. Only a handful of offices are open with limited staff. This would save on utilities, heat, light, etc. Employees could use vacation, personal leave, or they could choose to take leave without pay to help with the budget. If implemented soon, employees who can't afford to take leave without pay, could budget time off appropriately.	Classified Staff	3/3/2009
Work More Custodians During the Day.	Do a study in each building to see if it better time and money wise to have custodial work day time hours instead of nights. it may not work in every building, or not everyone, but i'm sure it can work in some, saving shift differential, and smarter cleanig. get the classes done at night asap and get the lights off, or try to move night classes to days. check all hours of operations for every building.	Classified Staff	3/2/2009
	I heard there was a pretty good chance the bookstore may be sold. I did not go to UWL to purchase items from a store that is not university owned and operated. As a graduate of LaX and living a distance from here, I am upset the regents and admin. can't come up with cost cutting ideas so as to keep the bookstore from getting the axe. Have you spoken with congressmen in your district, the mayor, have you reached out to the community? Or do you even care about the students or alumna who purchase items from there? Make it anything else but the university owned store and you won't have my dollars EVER!		2/25/2009



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Administration	Reading that people are doubling up on duties, does that mean they are getting double pay? I think you need to be open as to salaries your admin. is getting, and if you want to help with debt, give up much of your salary as I am sure you are 6 figures or more, and save jobs. I also think you need to forget about a new building and fix what you have now. I know there is a need for new computers all over campus. Plus, what about the students if there are no dorms to put them nor parking areas for visitors/students and the like. I thought you all were suppose to be SMART! I don't see it.	Student	2/25/2009
Regional Unviersity Pilots	I see that shared faculty between campuses was determined unlikely, perhaps this has already been explored. My idea is selecting one high-potential program area and explore feasibility of shared faculty (or combined low-enrollment classes) with Winona State University - such as river studies or business - to preserve service to students but have efficiencies with faculty.	Academic Staff	2/25/2009
Encourage Retirement	Offer an incentive package to encourage faculty/staff to retire to gain some salary savings.	Faculty	2/24/2009
ITS/Library	have both the library and ITS headed by one administrator.	Faculty	2/24/2009
	Eliminate all (or most) of the budge for copies. Whether they want to believe it or not, most faculty are simply being lazy to not get all of their worksheets and handouts prepared prior to the start of the semester. If they can get their worksheets/handouts prepared prior to the start of the semester, faculty can have those worksheets bundled and put in the bookstore and students will have to pay for them (it's not that expensive in most cases). Secondly, faculty need to be pushed to use technology to a greater extent. When you can link readings on D2L and students can either read at a computer or choose to print out themselves, this would be a cost saving to a department. Outside of a textbook, it would be more effective for faculty to have a central location to provide all information. I cannot believe the waste of paper I see for "meetings" which will have Agenda, the date and about 6 other words and then there are copies passed around to everyone there with extras--it's a waste of paper. Right now my copy card has \$1000 listed. I don't think twice about going to copy something. If you told me I had \$75 a semester, I would be much more prudent about what I'm going to copy. I feel I would make better use of power points and centralized information on D2L and work with the students on their note taking abilities, rather than simply handing over information. It's probably not an all-or-nothing deal, but I think there is a lot of wasted paper.	Faculty	2/24/2009
Wimberly Hall outside	The 3 doors facing the Wimberly Hall parking lot do not close properly. The heat or air conditioning is being wasted.		2/23/2009
RESTROOMS ACROSS CAMPUS	I would like to inquire as to how I would be able to get a "foot in the door" with the UW Lacrosse for a product that I feel would be great in all of the UW campuses across the state. We are a Wisconsin based company located in Green Bay that focuses on janitorial supplies. I would like to know what process we would need to take in order to give a presentation on our BluStorm high-speed hand dryer that would not only save UW systems money each month on paper costs, but it is also Green Seal Approved and can help qualify for LEED credits. I truly feel it would be an asset to each campus and save thousands of dollars from the budget. We have shown this to other colleges and high schools and received fantastic responses. Check us out at www.palmerfixture.com and you can see the power of the BluStorm in action. Please let me know if I should be contacting another person or if we can take an hour of your time for a presentation. Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter. Wynter Maxey Sales Assistant Palmer Fixture Company	Vistor	2/19/2009
	Don't cut hours for classified staff in academic departments - most of us work less than 100% already. If you must look at us then look at those who are 100% and cut their appointment.	Classified Staff	2/19/2009
	Get more faculty to put things out online or D2L instead of copying things. Copy charges in academic departments is excessive!		2/19/2009
	Cut travel expenses - stay here and teach		2/19/2009
Salaries/Benefits	I know that some classified staff with appointments less than 100% (such as 92%)work 40 hours a week and then collect unemployment for approximately 4 weeks when they take "cut back". I just wonder if it would save some money if classified staff was not allowed to collect unemployment	Student	2/18/2009
	Being a resident of LaX I read in paper 2 Admin. people have taken on a second position at UWL. With the economy being as it is and with the university building a new building which I think is irresponsibe at this time, does that mean these people receive a second salary along with the added responsibility? If so, you are adding to the financial problems not helping to solve it.		2/15/2009
ITS Software	I do not know all of the implications involved, but what about switching to open source software? http://ask slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=09/02/08/1627242&from=rss	Student	2/11/2009
Bookstore/textbook rental	I am an alumni and heard monies were spent last year for someone to evaluate the bookstore/rental. Could not common sense and conversation with the personel be reached without this expenditure? Could not you have used this money to put into the pot to save the store/rental? Why are you so intent in outsourcing these university businesses? The money I spend there I want to go to helping UWL, not to make a big business enterprise get bigger.	Alumni	2/11/2009
Bookstore/rental	I wrote a suggestion the other day and did not put in 'area to improve'...Was my comment deleted because of that error, or was my comment 'deleted' because of my comment? Area to improve might be the right to free speech regarding any subject, esp. the bookstore/rental. (Note: this suggestion is listed below)		2/10/2009
Restructure DES/SOE	DES has hemorrhaged faculty for many years and now faces a devastating DPI report that has, in part, been cleaned up for public relations reasons. UW-L needs to stop hiring faculty into this department and move to a more efficient and content heavy 4+1 program. It is time to stop pretending that bandage approaches will fix this gaping problem. UW-L has thrown good people and good money at this problem and it is time to consider much more radical surgery. It is embarrassing for a former normal school to have teacher education in shambles. It could once again be a source of pride but it will take real change not hopeful hiring and administrating on the backs of people who already have full-time jobs.	Faculty	2/10/2009

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	#1. Save the bookstore!!!! Barnes and Nobel have more than enough. When is enough enough?! Keep it in the University's hand. Where there is a will there is a way. Why do we need a 44 million \$ building now, with the economy in such a downturn. Use these funds for needed expenditures now. The bookstore and rental are part of the university, not a bargaining chip due to past ADMIN. mismanagement of funds, putting the blame on the shoulders of the bookstore. The store HAS been \$\$ over the course of years. Their funds were taken to pay other bills! Why have you expended dollars to pretty up offices, have new furniture if you are intending to build a new building. What a WASTE of those funds! How about getting rid of ADMIN jobs of people who can come in here and decide that the bookstore is a viable entity to be sold to pay a debt we didn't make! This is NOT a decision of the student population, but of one who says this is what will be done. The bookstore and rental could remain w/the university if you really wanted it to remain so. What else is on the chopping block? When will this madness end? Is there no loyalty to the university anymore, to the students past and present who have walked these halls? If you can find funds for buildings, for a stadium, surely you can find sense of keeping books within these walls in a bookstore and rental, two entities which CARES about the students and NOT to have it taken over by a business which has more than enough here in the USA and in Canada. Can't you work with the bookstore/rental to reach a compromise w/o selling it. Have a heart. Save the bookstore!!!! Save rental!!!! There are no easy answers, but selling is not, should NOT be an option.		2/9/2009
	Consider laying off individuals with fewer than five years service.	Classified Staff	2/9/2009
	Three days off without pay	Classified Staff	2/9/2009
Conference call costs	This site was recommended by a friend. It has a few small catches, but considering that conference calls can cost \$50-75+ each time, it might be worth using on campus. http://www.freeconferencecall.com/	Academic Staff	2/9/2009
Heating and Cooling in Buildings	Have setback thermostats for each building. I'm sure that during spring break that none of the buildings that didn't have students in them (including dorms) had the same temperature in them for 5 weeks. Have automatic light switches that shutoff after no one is around. A building like Wing- do all of the lights in the hallways have to be on? Have motion detector switches installed in hallways. If anyone is in a building after midnite, have them notify protective services.	Classified Staff	2/3/2009
Office Supplies	Buy office supplies in bulk	Classified Staff	2/3/2009
	More of a concern--I hope that we can keep our text rental even it means increasing the rate substantially, it is still better than having students purchase their textbooks.	Classified Staff	2/3/2009
Salaries	UW-L should look at cost savings for salaries and benefits paid to employees who work at the university but whose responsibilities are outside the university missions such as the UW-L Foundation and the Alumni Association. While these units are very beneficial in terms of public relations and building alumni relations with the university, at a time when budget needs to be focused on the university mission of educating our students, shouldn't these entities be able to raise their own salaries and expenses? What are the models that our universities and UWS schools use?	Classified Staff	2/3/2009
Search and Screen Paperwork	I've done search and screens in the Math Department for 10 years. The amount of paperwork is almost overwhelming. We have had over 300 applicants for our positions this year alone. I mail 4 pieces of information out to each candidate, with the cost of the paper, as well as the cost for mailing each. A lot of these things could just be sent to candidates by email. The AAEO form could be sent to them and returned by email. (They may be more likely to return it). The amount of hours I have put in on doing paperwork for search and screens is also beyond reasonable. Thanks for listening.	Classified Staff	2/3/2009
Supplies	central supply room for all departments, would cut out individual ordering, paper cost, only one area responsible for receipts, quicker service, no S&H cost for each order. Cheaper cost in buying in bulk. The UW would have more control on expenditures, which would eliminate the buyings of wants verses needs		2/3/2009
Time Cards - staff	Go to an automatic timecard system, similiar to the students for staff. This would cut out your papercost, manhours of processing, i.e. manually process each time sheet. also this would cut your mail room processing.	Classified Staff	2/3/2009
THE WHOLE UWL AREA!!!	PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE!!! ALL EMPLOYEES WORK TOGETHER!!! NO ONE SAYS THAT OTHER PERSON WILL DO HIS WORK!!! IF THEY DONT WANT TO WORK THEY SHOULD BE??? EVERY BODY GETS THERE AREA DONE!!! DO THEY NEED SOMEONE THERE TO HOLD THERE HANDS TO GET THERE STUFF DONE!!! PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT DOING THERE THINGS!!! PEOPLE THAT GET THERE THINGS DONE DONT NEED A HOLDING HAND!!! I LOVE WORKING AT UWL!!! THANKS!!!	Classified Staff	2/2/2009
Sick Leave Reports	Quit printing out sick leave reports for faculty. It's been done the same way for as long as I've been here (30 years). It seems in this electronic age we could save time and paper and money by having them submit them electronically.	Classified Staff	2/2/2009
	I wish things were more centralized. Such as when it comes to software-2007, everyone just loads it whenever they want-not the whole campus goes to it. I think it would make things so much easier for the campus. Also mail service-can account codes be scanned-order envelopes with the account codes on them and scannable for fast processing. The website I think is hard to find anything, maybe have a competition to see who can design a good and interactive website for UW-L and would save time. Recycling, does everyone's recycling basket and garbage need to be dumped every night. I think every other night for garbage and once a week for recycling. This way the custodians could concentrate on more needed cleaning. Increase energy savings in buildings. University preferred vendor discounts but are often not the cheapest source-sometimes cheaper to buy your own copy paper and not campus store paper. I think too many people have just been used to spending-now there is a change and it will take time. Maybe even go to hand blowers instead of papertowels in the bathroom-not sure if that would save money or not.	Classified Staff	2/2/2009
Spending	Multiple departments send several staff members to conferences as a means of interviewing candidates for advertised positions. The list is then narrowed and potential faculty members are flown to campus for an additional interview. We have managed to hire many high level positions without having to send/spend. I think we could be able to find a way to eliminate the additional thousands of dollars spent and stick to only bringing candiates to campus.	Classified Staff	2/2/2009
Printers	network printers together for departments - savings on toner and ink cartridges would save thousands a year. The faculty/staff might have to walk to get their print outs, but it would save a lot for the University.	Classified Staff	2/2/2009



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	Have each unit/department do an audit of telephone expenses charged to their budget. When I started in this department 3 years ago, I found that some faculty had voice mail and did not know it and therefore did not use it. We were still charged on a monthly basis, however. I also learned that as staff changes took place, updating the phones did not always happen. Phone numbers can be "banked" for future use within the same department without having to pay a monthly fee to keep the number active. And a reminder to faculty and staff about the appropriate use of the STS system, is always helpful.	Classified Staff	1/30/2009
Staffing	Limit ADAs to one per department. English has 1.5 and Psychology has 2. Reducing each to one ADA could save up to \$84,000 a year in salary and fringes.	Classified Staff	1/30/2009
Multiple Areas	I realize that some of these ideas may have already been implemented and that they may or may not be feasible, but just in case... 1. To avoid job cuts... * Perhaps some 12-month employees would be interested in working 10 or 11 months * Perhaps some employees would be willing to offer a one-time (e.g. one month) pay cut * Offer early retirement * Instead of eliminating one whole position, perhaps 2 positions could be consolidated (some tasks eliminated) and two individuals could job share. 2. Energy savings... * Encourage telecommuting * Reduce use of florescent lights (e.g. fewer bulbs in lights) move to desk lamps with LED bulbs in offices * Turn off lights when offices/buildings aren't occupied * In dorms, install low flow shower heads and reduce hot water temperature * Conduct an energy audit to see where big energy expenses are (could this be a student project?) 3. Parking * Protective Services: Use a bicycle or electric cart when monitoring parking lots instead of Ford Rangers with gas mileage only in the high teens/low twenties.	Faculty	1/29/2009
Textbook Purchases	I am currently a third year student at UW-L (going on my sixth semester) and have just picked up my textbooks for this upcoming semester at Textbook Rental. Last semester, I was amazed that I would need 15 textbooks for 14 credits worth of coursework. I figured I would end up using all of them anyway, though, so I made sure to get every last one. Unfortunately, that was not exactly the case. If I were to guess, I would say that roughly 10 of these books were actually used for course work. Of those 10 books, four of them were used for less than three chapters or essays in them. In all reality, I would have been fine with just the six or so books that were actually utilized to their potential in the classroom instead of the 15 books I was assigned and received from Textbook Rental. Now, as I embark on another semester at UW-L, I just picked up 20 new books for this upcoming semester of five classes (15 credits). The majority of these books are not actual textbooks but, instead, are compilations of essays or nonfiction works. I am a double major in Economics and Public Administration, not an English or Literature major, so this seems quite excessive. The professors I have for four of these classes I've had in the past and I've been stocked with books by them before that were never used in the classroom and I am certain that will happen again this semester. If they are used, they are the books that are opened for one or two essays or chapters, no more than a fraction of the book. If the university is looking at reducing costs, I feel this should be one of the priorities in assessing where the school is bleeding money. I love the idea of Textbook Rental, but it has its flaws. It seems the professors have decided since students don't pay for books, they might as well get every possible book out there just in case something in it becomes useful in the classroom someday in the future. In budgeting for the university, this does not seem reasonable. Most of these future days of using the book never come about and the book, instead, sits and collects dust on a shelf in my room. I hope you take this into consideration to help keep the costs of being a student at UW-L as low as possible while continuing in the great tradition of gaining an excellent education at the institution. Thank you for your time.	Student	1/21/2009
Administration	Put the duties of offices like the affirmative action office in the hands of a panel of students who are studying the pertinent field. Add to the panel a faculty member. Pay them all...even a salary of 1000/yr for students and several thousand/yr for faculty will save the university tens of thousands, give the students and faculty valuable resume experience, and increase the competitiveness of our faculty compensation.	Student	1/17/2009
Publication costs	I walked into our mailroom today and found that every single faculty member present had thrown away their "January-August 2009 Access: Continuing Education & Extension" calendar, less than 3 hours after it landed in the mailboxes. I'm betting that everyone else will do the same when they return to the office. Things like this should be provided as electronic links, like HR already uses for (more useful) information like benefits elections, EAP newsletters, etc. Cheers, and good luck pruning!	Faculty	1/8/2009
TCO (Total Cost of Ownership) for Current Telephony Systems	My name is Jeff Beirne and I am a Convergence Consultant for Venture Computer Systems and we provide K-12 and Higher Education customers a "no-cost" assessment of your entire telephony system and how we could assist in cutting costs to the University. As you are aware of most Universities have a very robust Data Network Infrastructure for the entire campus. New Telephone systems can use that infrastructure and allow the University to save money. As part of our "free offering" we would be more than happy to sit down with you and explain how this can be done. Eventhough the cost of the assessment is free we will still need time from different resources at the University to answer questions. Also I will be send an email to Ms. Vickie Baer with some success stories from colleges in the US that have made the change to using the Data Network for there phone system and the reliability, functionality, and manageability that comes with the cost savings. Regards, Jeff Beirne Convergence Consultant, Venture Computer Systems, Inc 312 3rd Street So, La Crosse, WI. 54601, 608-784-0545	Visitor	1/7/2009
Telephone bills	I just received our department phone bill. In the past I have never received one, the charges show up every month and I just add them to my spread sheet, never even thinking about it. NOW I'm taking a look and what I'm seeing is 95% of the charges are personal calls. I don't think the campus as a whole knows that we cannot make personal long distance calls on the STS line. Savings - \$75 to \$100 a year just in our department. How many offices are there on campus? Let's send out a reminder to EVERYONE - "it is not okay to make long distance personal phone calls using the State Telephone System (STS). Projected instant savings \$50,000 to \$100,000.	Classified Staff	1/7/2009
Telephone	Please remind and stress the importance of campus telephones being used for university business only. We recently received detailed STS charges for our department phones and it is apparent that many personal calls are being made from office phones.	Classified Staff	1/7/2009



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Make certain that employees are doing the job that they were hired to do.	I appreciate all the time and effort this is taking for you to care what we think, and I am glad for the opportunity. By the above statement, I simply mean that many of us can do more than our job description in lean times. We all are capable . If employees are not fulfilling their duties or do not take on extra in times of need, they should be spoken with. We all need our jobs and most of us enjoy what we do each day. We need to be creative and work hard. Thank you for your time.	Classified Staff	1/2/2009
New buildings	Relocate the new academic building to Coate field and retain the old residence halls and Wilder, saving the cost of deconstruction and new residence hall facilities. Though site studies etc would be lost for the current site this cost difference would be quickly be accounted for and surpassed in saving future students the \$54 million dollar bill for the new residence halls (especially noting the old residence halls have many more usable years and we would retain more office space keeping Wilder Hall).	Academic Staff	1/2/2009
Office of the Provost	I would respectfully suggest eliminating SOTL/CATL, etc. and moving Bill Cerbin back to psychology department. His talents could be put to better use by teaching classes in the overburdened psychology department, thus eliminating the need to search for an additional faculty member. Many faculty I have spoken to do not utilize CATL resources because they do not find them helpful. Thank you.	Faculty	1/1/2009
Campus wide	When school is not in session such as the 2-weeks of Christmas and New Years, close all buildings! Why do we have to have someone answering phones, if there are any calls at all! The buildings could be kept at 60 degrees and no lights would need to be on. Computers would not need to be running and sucking energy at a costly rate. EX: This year with Christmas on a Thursday we could have been totally shut down on Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat, and Sun. If need be we could then be open on Mon and Tue if it was so important. We then could repeat the same for the New Years week - again money to be saved. Spring break! Why are we open? No one is in class? Better still think of the money that could potentially be saved with a state wide campus shut done. We could then save the jobs of many who the University will release.	Classified Staff	12/29/2008
Impose temporary wage cut	Impose a temporary (like three month), across-the-board, 1% wage giveback. While this probably wouldn't be received with overwhelming support, it's not likely that other measures to reduce the budget will be either. And a brief, 1% pay decrease is a better option than a permanent, 100% personal layoff, or that of a colleague.		12/29/2008
Increase use of distance learning technology	Share faculty with other campuses by using distance learning technology. Offer video conferencing, podcasting, and other technology solutions that allow students to learn from faculty at other campuses. We could also "borrow" our faculty to other campuses for a fee using distance learning tools.		12/29/2008
Undergraduate and graduate catalogs	Consider publishing undergraduate and graduate catalogs, and future student and staff directories, online only. Explore whether other printed resources can be moved to electronic-only distribution. This would save printing, postage and list management costs.		12/29/2008
Questions in working of school restaurant and in studying	I am a international student, I want to know the information about the fact whether i can apply a job in school, but I don't have SSN. second,the fact we couldn't attend the new exam in the start of semester always confused me , my friends ,they studied in other university,they could get a chance to pursuit the undergraduate course immediately. Many students felt inequitable.	Student	12/27/2008
Cut programs	The reality is that we can no longer continue to be all things to all people. The budget cuts from the past have left it harder for good departments to do good work. I think we need to stop being quite so "comprehensive." What goes? Programs that are easily assessable to students at other nearby schools, available through distance education or online and/or whose enrollments cannot justify the cost. Programs that don't? High demand and/or those that serve the critical mission of the university (e.g., high numbers of students of color). I know that it doesn't save money right away - but it allows the university some nimbleness in future hiring and planning.	Faculty	12/23/2008
Combining programs and other, less scary ideas	I know that Jonathan Majak is retiring in May. This could be an opportunity to combine programs or shift the lines in Minority Studies. Hire someone with expertise to teach several sections of the basic course on an adjunct line instead of tenure-track. Then, appoint a quarter or half-time director of the program, a faculty person who may be from another department but has some expertise in the area. Another idea, which I know lies within the purview of the Provost (as does the above, most likely), would be to combine several smaller programs to be more efficient and yet strengthen them at the same time by identifying them together as interdisciplinary programs: Minority Studies, International Studies, Environmental Studies, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (although WGSS has just completed the plan for a major, which would make it less like the other programs mentioned). If they could be housed together, the same hallway of the same building, that would make a sense of identity. The way to do it, though, would be to talk to each department specifically about the idea, with the intention to preserve the positions allotted in these programs, but to give them more cachet and more opportunities to design innovative curriculum. Cutting down on staff support would be possible, and perhaps on administration, eventually (though the directors/chairs of these programs would initially balk at this idea). Another idea, much less scary (!), would be to require everyone to turn off and unplug their computers when leaving for the day. It does save electricity. Another idea might be to see if there is any way to cut the telephone bills. With email being the standard for professional communication, fewer phone calls are made or received on the part of instructional staff (tenure-track and IAS). Maybe we could share phone lines, like party-lines in the old days. I don't know how the contracts are billed, though, so this may not save any money. I, for one, would be just as happy to have students call me on my mobile phone rather than the office line. Except for the occasional call long distance for professional reasons, I hardly use my office number and could easily do without. Maybe people could be asked to volunteer to give up their office lines?	Faculty	12/21/2008
Facilities Management and Landscape Services	I don't know if you can necessarily fire some of the state workers in this department, but I worked here for a summer and many people were stalling all the time, trying to find things to do. Kim is amazing and since she's been in charge has probably fixed many problems, but there are still a lot of state workers that have been here for a long time and take advantage of their status to do almost nothing during their work day. This area is a sink-hole for money either through employees or things they spend money on (e.g. perennials that get eaten by rabbits anyway and then they spend money on rabbit repellent or gas for the gators that are often just randomly driven around so people don't have to work or grass seed and fertilizer that is planted and never watered so it just dies). I enjoyed working with many people here, but the jobs done by ten or eleven employees could have been done by five or six.	Student	12/20/2008



Cost Savings Ideas as of 8/11/2010

Area for Improvement		Submitted By	Date
Email Server	Why are we using an expensive Microsoft-based system for emails? I am not an expert but I remember that one of my past employers (University of Pavia, IT, EU) they use an open source based server for emails. It is called "SquirrelMail" (http://www.squirrelmail.org/). I am sure there are thousands of open source email interfaces so you can choose whatever you like. The point is that they are free; you do not pay license fee since they operate under GNU (or General Public License). For issues like support and more, please visit their website. Thanks for reading!	Faculty	12/20/2008
Open Office	There are expensive license fees associated with poor software products. Microsoft Office is installed in all campus and faculty computers. Why don't we switch to Open Office? This package works the same way as the standard Office package although it is free! It is an open source product and no fees are associated with its use. How much money shall UW-L save from this? Think about it! Thanks for reading.	Faculty	12/20/2008
	Cut back on how many Raquets you print. I myself am not very resourceful with the ones that are available and I will grab 2 or 3 throughout the week just because they are available.		12/20/2008
Keeping programs while cutting costs	I would propose the idea of having certain services on campus, whatever the administration deems necessary, be student led with advisor or instructor supervision. The idea here is to offer students more opportunities in taking charge in the maintenance and continuity of the university and its programs, which would offer valuable real-life experience for many of our undergraduate and graduate students (which would be a bonus on their resume's!), cutting costs of overall university expenditure, and yet still offering as many of the outstanding programs and services to students at UWL. Perhaps offer unpaid internships or the like? It is unfortunate that staff will be cut, but it is a reality in these trying times not only for our state but the country as a whole. For whatever it is worth, I hope this suggestion helps.	Student	12/19/2008
Academic Building and Stadium	Perhaps we should suspend those plans to save some money. If we don't have the money in our budget to support these big ideas, it's not fair to the students to get rid of other programs in order to create empty school rooms and stadium seats. I think people will understand a delay in those projects instead of cutting food quality or after school programs. And please, don't eliminate any Liberal Arts jobs or classes- it's hard enough as it is being in a college that doesn't promote the humanities.	Student	12/19/2008
Salaries and health insurance costs	Several ideas here. 1) Give folks the option to take a temporary 10-15% pay cut; if possible to keep paying into WI retirement system at their original salary, this would make more people willing to do it, I suspect. I'd seriously consider it either way. 2) Mandate a temporary 10% pay cut, or scale the % to the salary (higher salary, higher %). 3) Make us pay a larger percentage of our health care costs. I worked in industry (Fortune 100 company) for several years before this, and industry went there several years ago; my monthly premiums there were about twice (or more) what they are here, and were continuing to rise. 4) Examine salaries for parity. By this I mean (as example) an individual in my dept who worked in the dean's office for a time. When he returned to our dept as fully tenured faculty, he continued (and still does, I am told) to receive his dean's office salary. We cannot afford practices like that at this time! 5) Give folks the option for temporary reduced-time appointments. Folks with young kids might opt a 50-75% appointment for a few years to be with the kids, and avoid paying day care costs. If possible to continue health insurance, this would be an added draw. You would need to consider suspending the tenure/promotion clock for those folks - but again, this is an option I'd consider given the chance. 6) Temporarily suspend or limit internal grant programs such as Faculty Research Grant - e.g., limit to faculty in first 3 years of career until the U/state is solvent again. The external funding agency Research Corporation has just limited one of its major grant programs to faculty in their third year of tenure track appointment, I think to better focus their resources on a group that is trying to establish their first research program. Thank you for the opportunity to share ideas!	Faculty	12/19/2008
Heating/Cooling	Outside temperature: 0°F Inside temperature: 80°F When people are dressed up for winter and then get into a university building where temperature is close to tropical summer, I think that we can afford less heating efforts. We can warm up the place a little bit less and let it be "winter-friendly." This doesn't mean that it must be cold but that people can afford to work in a colder office, classroom, etc. I am not sure that this helps with the costs since I have no access to heating/cooling expenses. UWL embraced sustainability as a fundamental part of its mission although this is not put into practice yet. How to manage electricity consumption is important for a sustainable organization.	Faculty	12/19/2008
Utilities	Consider a 4, 10-hour day workweek, especially in non-classroom buildings. Closing facilities an additional day each week would result in substantial energy savings.	Academic Staff	12/19/2008
Utilities	Close campus the week between Christmas and New Years, and the day after Thanksgiving. This would save energy resources and reduce costs.	Academic Staff	12/19/2008
Disconnect low-use landline connections	Assess the use of individual landline telephones. Disconnect those with minimal (or little) use. Identify where lines could be shared.		12/19/2008
Voluntary reduction in hours	Permit employees who choose to renegotiate their contract and reduce their hours. Also allow employees to take additional, unpaid leave.		12/19/2008
Suspend cosmetic enhancements to campus	Suspend all non-essential cosmetic enhancements to campus for one year (painting, landscaping, etc.).		12/19/2008
Reduce number of four-color publications	Employ two-color when possible. Also reevaluate choice of paper stock and use lighter weight when appropriate.		12/19/2008
Own equipment, rather than leasing	Evaluate all leased campus assets and consider the benefits (financial and otherwise) of owning. Conversely, explore whether owning and maintaining equipment is a better choice than leasing.	Academic Staff	12/19/2008

Cost Savings Ideas as of 8/11/2010

Area for Improvement		Submitted By	Date
Class Size	<p>I have two ideas that may or may not help you.</p> <p>1) Though UW-L has very nice small classes and it is ery beneficial to recieve this type of benefit, the number of seats available is often limited. Often times there are many available seat in rooms that are not occupied by students. This is good for classes that have discussion based learning, but many of these classes are simply lectures with little student feedback to teachers and vry few students asking questions anyway. Adding more available seats seats to lecture based learning would allow more students to recieve essentially the same class room experience without extensive additional stresses to faculty. I do not think classes that havevery extensive studentss teacher interaction should add very many seats, but there are many classes that could easily do this without a huge negative consequence.</p> <p>2) The dorms and office of residence life offer many on campus programs. Whats on Wednesday for example in Coate hall and several other similar activities. As a Cube representative in Coate hall I also attended a weekend retreat for free in a place almost an hour from La Crosse. This trip was fun, but i don't understand what benefit I recived from this money being spent. These programs offer entertainment for students. In my experience these programs had very low attendance by the students they were put on for but seemed rather an activity for RA's who are already being compensated for their work. These proggams are a nice idea to keep students from drinking, but often few students go to these events. The money that is being spent for the benefit of a small number of students seems not to be worth it. It seems not enough people are benefited to justify the cost. I know it will not save a ton of money, but every little bit helps right, especially if it can be done without a large detriment to the general UW-L population.</p>	Student	12/19/2008
Building Things	Don't build more buildings if you don't have the money. Seriously though stop building a stinking Centennial building if you can't afford it.		12/19/2008
Energy savings	closing the campus -- shutting it down -- for two weeks over late December and into early January -- essentially after graduation and before Winter term begins.	Academic Staff	12/18/2008
98% contracts	Move annual appointments from 100% to 98% -- this would include one month of vacation and one month of non-paid duties. This would apply to classified staff and all other 1-year appointments, instructional or otherwise.	Academic Staff	12/18/2008
Printing costs for students	Students should not be permitted to print for free. I understand that they pay a lump-sum fee as part of their student fees for printing, but as any economist will tell you, this only reduces to zero the price of printing copies at the library, etc. Reducing price leads to an increase in numbers printed. Please arrive at a better pricing system that forces students to consider the costs of printing.	Faculty	12/18/2008
Increase Tuition	Why not raise tuition? If you raise tuition by \$2,000 per student, and we have roughly 9,000 students that equals \$18,000,000.You talk about not putting it on the students, what about the burden that is on the entire staff and system. Why is UWL so hesitant to make a change and move forward? UWL has over 6,000 students apply every year and UWL accpets roughly 2,000 of these and you are worried that it won't be affordable and the UWL wont fill the incoming freshman class? Think outside box, compare UWL costs to other schools.	Visitor	12/18/2008
Office supplies	I've been seeing forms arriving through campus mail in new large envelopes (so the forms don't get folded I guess). Any type of used envelope is perfectly fine to use for campus mail. Why waste a new one sending something across campus? Our office receives a lot of envelopes that can be and are recycled (IT comes on a regular basis and gets some). Paper clips for our office are obtained from the mail room. They get so many they don't know what to do with them. More "supply recycling" should be done on campus. Suggestions include envelopes, paper clips, rubber bands, single sided paper (for use with scratch printing or to take notes on), file folders, etc.	Classified Staff	12/18/2008
Unnecessary Printing/Paper	Several times this year, I've received noticed from within the campus that I feel is a wasteful use of the university dollars. Two recent examples include Foundation's campaign which included a UWL folder, numerous photocopies of materials, color brochures, etc. I understand the desire to promote fundraising opportunities, but the underlying message to campus members is "Why should I donate to the Centennial Campaign if the university has this kind of money to spend on advertising ON CAMPUS--a community that could easily receive this same information via the internet, e-mail, etc.Second, is the recent holiday card sent out by Provost Enz Finken. While I appreciate the gesture of spreading holiday cheer to the campus community and using the amazing talents of our students (the poem and photo were magnificent), I can't help but think that this, too, could have been done online or by e-mail. Although that may seem impersonal to some, it would have given the Provost a chance to write a more personal note to the campus community rather than just signing her name.	Classified Staff	12/18/2008
Affirmative Action and Diversity; Advising Center; library classes; rhetoric and writing	Often when I mention these types of things, people say "Well, that's from a different pot of money." Basic operational needs are being cut, but yet we always seem to find money for special projects, travel for administration, etc. It all sets a frustrating tone especially for smaller departments who are struggling to make ends meet with tiny supply budgets and now made more fearful for our jobs because of this new \$6 million deficit we're facing.	Faculty	12/18/2008
Supplies/Inventory	Just a small suggestion. Could we create something similar to "Craigslist" for UW-L office supplies and furniture (only for campus use). If your office has something it doesn't need, or needs something, perhaps we can share with each other. I know Physical Plant (Surplus Property) takes care of most of this but offices often have equipment and supplies they just don't bother to get rid of...until they see someone needs it.	Classified Staff	12/18/2008
Travel - Per Diem Meals	Rather than allow persons travelling to automatically get "per diem" for meals, require actual receipts for reimbursement (not to exceed the limits). I suspect many times people claim per diem because it's easier or it will reimburse them more than their actual expense, ie, \$8 for breakfast when they only had coffee and a bagel. (Don't mean to sound cynical here...just have observed it MAY be a way to cut travel costs.)	Classified Staff	12/18/2008
Existing building	hi, instead of going ahead with breaking ground on the new academic building, let's focus on getting all rooms in CWH and CH up to date. as an example: i'm a history major and a lot of my classes are in #112 where there's no computer access and only an overhead projector for the prof. to use maps and other transparencies. our class had to swap rooms for a day just to show slides and video of necessary material. that's not the only room, but i think that we could get rid of those retro desks from the 60's and provide someother updates instead of going gung-ho on the academic bldg. while freezing faculty hires and promotion. i hope this helps. are kind, feingold, and kohl aprised of this information? feel free to contact me.	Student	12/18/2008



Cost Savings Ideas as of 8/11/2010

Area for Improvement		Submitted By	Date
Listen to students.	Eric Fuhmann is doing an amazing job representing the students during this trying time. I know he has some great ideas and he needs to be taken seriously. His thoughts would save the school hundreds of thousands of dollars. First, out-source emails. This would save tons. Second, online student evals. Plenty of places already do this. We are a place of higher education, surely there is someone smart enough to figure out a way to implement this effectively. We are wasting over 100 thousand dollars every year on this. Possibly we could offer less dining choices, or scale back all Styrofoam plates and plastic silverware. Limit our salting of sidewalks to necessary paths to save on snow removal costs. NO FEES FOR THE HEALTH CENTER. The university needs to stay away from fee based programs, they will only limit the use further, making these services more difficult to obtain for students. Students are paying some 3,000,000 dollars already through GQA to this deficit along with the further money being passed on through tuition. Why are we taking the whole brunt of this pain. Shouldn't faculty and staff possibly find something they can give up or limit as well. Maybe decrease the paid sick days, or paid vacation days. Limit the amount of copies they can make and have more options for online tests and paperwork. Put everything on D2L. We have the service, mandate the use of it and cut printing. Again... please listen to Eric Fuhrmann, he rocks and is doing a great job for the students of UWL.	Student	12/18/2008
NO NEW BUILDINGS	We already have built a new stadium which already was way out of our budget. Now we are planning on building a 45 million dollar academic building which we do not need. We will have to hire new teachers for this building and tear down 3 buildings already being put to great use. We are short on housing and very low on money! Why not spend more and tear more housing down. Makes a lot of sense! Lets stop acting like idiots and act like responsible adults. Give me a break.	Student	12/18/2008
Football Stadium	I realize this is a bit late, but was it truly necessary to renovate our football stadium in such crucial financial times? It's the "small" things like those that need cutting back...	Student	12/18/2008
Extra-curriculars	I know that we are already doing our best to not waste any of the money that we have. However, I think that the 80% that goes towards faculty and staff is more valuable than the 20% to other areas. I hope we make are decisions based on essentials such as the overall quality of the education, and not on "extras" such as sports and res life. I think that if we really are concerned about the quality of the education of the UW-L students, we will not cut staff for our education, but rather the extras. Thanks for your consideration.	Student	12/18/2008
Cutting staff	Chancellor Gow and whom it may concern: How can you even consider cutting staff, when the school keeps accepting higher numbers of incoming students and NOT hiring more staff. Just this past semester, I could not get into various classes that I need to take in my major and minor because they were already full. To me, it does not make sense at all. How about you consider using all energy efficient light bulbs, not wasting so much paper, and cutting down on other costs that are not so important. The main reason why students are here is to learn, and how can we do that with class sizes over 40 or having to take classes we do not need. It is down right ridiculous.	Student	12/18/2008
Staff	I know it's hard for the university to make cuts that are best for everyone but I really do not think that cutting staff is a good idea at all. The students have a really hard time getting the classes that they need, often due to not enough space because they are not enough professors to teach the classes. Every semester students have to fight for spots and if teachers are cut, it's going to make it even harder for the students to take the required classes.		12/18/2008
Capital Budget	I understand the need for progress but I question the University's decision to go ahead with the new academic building when budgets are being cut everywhere else. Is it possible that the State of Wisconsin won't fund the 27.5 million for this project considering their budget deficit? Razing two dorms and expecting to absorb those displaced students in existing dorms also puzzles me. If you can enlighten me on either of these subjects, I would appreciate it. Thank you.	Visitor	12/18/2008
E-mail services	One area that should be analyzed is the cost savings of outsourcing e-mail services. This would result in a savings of equipment and staff. Other campuses have been doing this with very good results.	Academic Staff	12/17/2008
Operating costs	I know this has been done at the state-wide level in other states on occasion, but I would support a day (or several) without pay at the university, UW-System, or state level as a short-term way to reduce operating costs. I would assume that many employees would agree to a similar small sacrifice if it meant it would protect jobs for their friends and colleagues.	Faculty	12/12/2008
Better campus energy management	As a new faculty member I might not be aware of some of the energy management efforts already in place; however, here are some ideas from other campus initiatives and conservation studies. Even a 5% reduction in energy for an annual utility cost of \$10 million is significant (not sure what UW-L's bill looks like). 1) Student-sponsored conservation efforts. Oberlin College developed a conservation competition between dorms carried out almost entirely by students that resulted in a 32% reduction in electricity use. A group of students in my Behavior Modification class designed a similar intervention for a class project. 2) Building-sponsored conservation competitions. Have facilities management compile historical utilities usage by building by month and set up a program to reduce use by a target percentage or competition for the most significant reduction between buildings/departments. 3) Require that new students (or existing staff and faculty) only use Energy Star compliant appliances on campus. One study showed that a large university could potentially save \$150,000 in conservative efforts between an average dorm room and an Energy Star dorm room. 4) Lower building thermostats by one or two degrees during heating season. 5) Better management of "vampire power" use in buildings. I've noticed that in Graff, many offices leave computers, shredders, TVs, microwaves, and other non-essential appliances plugged in over night. Kubo, Sachs, and Nadel (2001) showed that just in a typical home, standby power amounts to 5% of electricity use. More efficient power supplies, better behavioral management, and other technical improvements could reduce this standby power use by about 75% in the vast majority of cases. 6) Change manual switches to motion sensor control for lights in bathrooms or other intermittent-traffic rooms.	Faculty	12/12/2008
Buildings and Grounds	From now on new sidewalks are put only where paths have already formed.	Faculty	12/12/2008

Cost Savings Ideas as of 8/11/2010

Area for Improvement		Submitted By	Date
Cost savings/copy paper	This is NOT a new idea. Sue Hengel, Mary Johnson and myself have been lobbying for quite some time to be able to buy paper for the copy room in Wimberly from Corporate Express (Office Depot at the time of the original request). The cost savings is approximately \$1,000 per academic year. And that is just for Wimberly. Imagine the savings campus wide! However, we have been told to continue to purchase from Campus Stores. I truly feel this is worth pursuing.	Classified Staff	12/12/2008
Lighting, Heating, Pop machines. Paper	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) One of the worst area for overuse of lights is in the locker rooms. I turn lights off every time I go there. No one uses the back areas of the locker rooms, and given that there are many locker rooms used less than the principal locker room I am in, how about signage to indicate folks should turn the lights off. Between 9 and 11 there is simply no one--perhaps a few people using the rooms. After 2-till 5 the same issue exists. 2) The University of MN has looked at charging individuals \$25 for each refrigerator, personal heater, microwave for electricity. Exceptions can be given based on the heating/cooling. By the way, I have a new toy that is an infrared temp gauge, you can point and click to get an accurate temp of any point in any room. 3) Offices turning off computers at night. And/or putting all office computers on powerstrips that can be turned on and off. 4) Pop machines..where do I begin. When the contract is up, go back to cans. Bottles and bottles of half empty fluids are left everywhere. We make nothing on plastic recycling, whereas aluminum continues to be strong. 5) Continue using electric vehicles on campus--smart idea. 6) Put LED lights in all exit lights. 7) We make money on paper recycling. At Gunderson they encourage people to bring in used white paper to help support the Foundation. 	Academic Staff	12/12/2008
SAH Dean's Search	Stop spending money and people power to hire a "third" Dean of SAH until the Marty Venneman issue is resolved. Only an idiot would come here as Dean knowing this unresolved issue exists, and I do not want an idiot as my Dean. Continuing this search is illogical. (Actually, beginning this search with the unresolved lawsuit was illogical). By the way, by requesting the NAMES of people who submit ideas, you are limiting yourself to those people who do not fear retaliation. In a crisis situation such as this, that is not necessarily the best approach. I understand that anonymous write-ins may be full of venting and anger, but within that venting and anger is often an element of truth that might lead to a good idea.	Faculty	12/12/2008
Travel	Currently, my colleagues and I often attend multiple face2face meetings with UW System and other UW campus colleagues - usually in Madison. It would save time and money if we utilized existing expertise (e.g. Terry Wirkus) and technology and held web-based voice/video meetings instead. This would not only save on travel costs, but would also result in a more efficient day due to no travel time. In some cases, my colleagues and I have been able to request phone or web-based meetings, but in other cases, the call for an in-person meeting came from UW System or other campus constituents.	Faculty	12/11/2008
Free credits	Has any consideration been giving to charging per credit over 12 Full-time credits. I believe as it is right now the credits between 12 and 18 are essentially free. That may also cut down on the students who drop and repeat a class.	Classified Staff	12/11/2008
In-Person System Meetings	I know that this has been mentioned before, but I think that System should mandate more tele-conference or video conferencing. We spend a lot of time and funds in traveling to these meetings when that busy can be conducted in a different more modern and more cost & time effective manner. One reason that I understand video-conferencing is a bit difficult is that all campuses do not have the compatible video equipment. If that is indeed the case, it should be investigated and perhaps those changes can be made so that all campuses are using compatible systems.	Academic Staff	12/11/2008
Hire a Procurement Manager/Director	Hiring a Procurement Manager will save the university a lot of money by doing all cost negotiations and not relying on faculty, staff, personnel to do it. Here is an excellent article directed at universities to realize the potential true procurement can achieve. I worked at a private company where the procurement manager saved the company millions. http://www.campustechnology.com/articles/68305_1/	Classified Staff	12/11/2008
All over campus	All over campus I see desk lamps with incandenscent bulbs! In offices, on tables in the hallways, etc. Replacing those with compact florescent bulbs will be a significant energy saver, especially when "Focus on Energy" (focusonenergy.com) reimburses most, if not all of the original purchase price. I would even be willing to donate several packages of compact florescent bulbs to initiate this idea.	Classified Staff	12/11/2008
Not really improvement; an outlet to generate revenue	Have commercial advertising placed on all of the vehicles that UW-L uses. The La Crosse MTU buses advertise with what I refer to as "bread-wrapper" style vinyl; or use paint, magnets, etc. I do not know how that would work with state owned vehicles/property. A thought.	Classified Staff	12/11/2008
Salary savings	What if we asked staff members that have 12 month contracts if they would be willing to go to an 11 month contract? This may work well for some units, maybe not at all for units that are already very short-staffed. A month off in the summer may be the best time to offer this "additional time off". Supervisors could initiate this offer and then determine if any staff members are interested, and if they could manage without that staff member for that month.	Academic Staff	12/11/2008
Travel budget rules	Several years back, functioning as a faculty advisor, I stopped at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Tennessee. I had traveled South to see family, and so I actually paid my own transportation to and from TN, only asking for mileage reimbursement that took my family off our chartered route. I found a hotel that was more expensive than the standard per diem rate of \$60 (or whatever it was at the time) - but was much less expensive than the "approved" hotels that were suggested for the conference. I was told that if I chose the hotel we had found, then I would only get reimbursed at the \$60 rate, and that I would have to pay the difference. If I chose the hotels that were conference approved - even though they charged a higher rate than the hotel I had found - I would get full reimbursement, as they were conference approved. I know that this won't save bundles, and I know that right now, there is no travel happening at all. However, it seems like being a little more flexible with the travel rules could cut down on some expenses. And then I have to wonder if there are other places in our procedures, where we are cutting off our nose to spite our face - i.e., trying so hard to curb spending, that we actually end up spending more.	Academic Staff	12/11/2008
Travel	At the LMHSC, rather than reimburse staff for mileage, if a trip is more than 60 miles, we rent a car. It's MUCH cheaper.	Academic Staff	12/10/2008



Cost Savings Ideas as of 8/11/2010

Area for Improvement		Submitted By	Date
Travel	I asked Terry Wirkus to put an article about this in the Campus Connection this week, which he did, but using video conferencing either in the HSC or in Wing saves a lot of money on travel and I would imagine would save on travel liability insurance if it were used regularly.	Academic Staff	12/10/2008
Air conditioning the server room	It just seems wrong to spend money air conditioning rooms in winter. Room 108 Wing is the room that houses the computer servers and core network switches the university uses. There are two air conditioning units that run all year around to keep the room at 73 degrees. While you may not be able to exchange air in that room with the rest of the building because the humidity is critical and because of the fire extinguishing system, there should be a way to exchange the heat similar to a household air exchanger. These types of units circulate outside air with inside air to transfer the heat without allowing the air to mix. Given the fact that something needs to be done now that we are in trouble if one of the air conditioners fail since it requires both to keep the room cool enough, this could be a good option.	Classified Staff	12/10/2008
General Savings	While I wasn't at UWL when this occurred, I have heard that during another financial crisis, the state asked all employees to give one or two days back to the state (in wages). The story goes that this saved quite a bit of money. I'm not sure how this was initiated or implemented but the concept of many of us giving a little to save essential jobs and supporting families is a good one.	Academic Staff	12/10/2008
Turn off lights	This idea is very simple: turn off lights at night! When I came here last year directly form Europe, I realized that lights stay on all day and night. If it happens to you to stay in your office late at night, you will not have troubles finding your way out the building because lights are on. I haven't tried to stay at Wimberly Hall very late but my guess is that they are not turned off even at 2:00 or 4:00 AM. Why don't we do that? It is simple and I think it is going to affect our budget positively. So, turn off the lights when nobody needs them. Cut lights, and not faculty travel reimbursements!	Faculty	12/10/2008