

UW-La Crosse Faculty Senate Statement in Response to the Proposed Elimination of Programs at UW-Stevens Point

We, the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL), oppose the proposed elimination of the humanities, social science, and arts programs at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), issued on March 5th, 2018.

First, we oppose the trend of eliminating programs such as those at UWSP and UW-Superior because we believe students who attend all UW system schools should have the right to receive a world-class education that includes the essential learning outcomes provided by all disciplines. Students choose to attend UW System public universities because we provide such a world-class education. The value we provide is connected to the relatively low cost of our tuition, and our ability to deliver a comprehensive range of majors and programs. Students benefit from the critical and creative thinking and problem-solving skills offered in all disciplines, and specifically in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. These skills are not only important for an informed citizenry, but they are essential for graduates' adaptability and success over time in an ever-changing economy, and employers have shown [time](#) and [time again](#) such skills are necessary for employability, flexibility, and leadership in the workforce. Both the obligation to our students, and indeed what they and industry demand, illustrate that all UW System Schools must continue to provide these skills for the success of all Wisconsin citizens.

Second, we oppose the proposed cuts to humanities, arts, and social science programs in Wisconsin because UWL faculty support upholding the "[Wisconsin Idea](#)," and we are committed to a tradition and foundation of higher education that dates back more than a century. We believe our comprehensive universities are essential for educating the next generation of critical thinkers, writers, entrepreneurs, elected officials, and advocates who will serve the State and its citizens. We are part of a community of campuses whose mission should continue to be producing high quality graduates from a wide range of fields and disciplines who are prepared to lead the State and its many regions in the 21st century.

To conclude, cuts to humanities, arts, and social science programs do not align with the values and ideals to which we remain committed: a comprehensive world-class education for all students founded in the Wisconsin Idea. Our Mission answers to principles higher than narrowly-defined economic visions; therefore, we strongly recommend visiting alternate paths for addressing budgetary concerns that do not include the elimination of programming key to student success, and key to the success of our state.

This statement was endorsed by the UWL Faculty Senate on March 22nd, 2018.