

CRITERION 8. SUPPORT

Program Budget Process and Sources of Financial Support

The budget for the Department of Paper Science and Engineering is provided by the College of Natural Resources. Dean Christine Thomas and Ian Goldberg, the CNR Fiscal Officer are responsible for the allocation of funds provided to the CNR by the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, who is responsible for the entire UWSP budget. The budget provided to UWSP originates from a Biennial GPR/Fee Operating Budget & Capital Budget request made by the Board of Regents to the legislature of the State of Wisconsin. This request is incorporated into a Biennial Budget Bill. The biennium covers from July 1 of one odd-numbered year through June 30 of the next.

Budget summaries are published each year in the UWS Budget Redbook. Excerpts from this document for the College of Natural Resources and the Department of Paper Science and Engineering are posted in the PSE ABET information web site.

Sources of Financial Support

General Purpose Revenue

These funds are state tax and tuition monies derived from the biennial budget described above. Salaries, student wages, operating costs, and travel expenses are customary budget items. Salary costs are typically 96% of these funds.

Program Revenue

The Department of Paper Science and Engineering has for the last ten years earned income from its laboratory and paper machine services. Fiber length analysis and paper testing are examples of these services. Educational workshops and contract trials on the paper machine have also been good sources of income; on average about \$35,000/year has been earned. Plans are underway to expand these contract offerings under the Wisconsin Institute of Sustainable Technology (WIST). WIST is a UWSP campus initiative that is currently in the planning stages.

UWSP Paper Science Foundation

The UWSP Paper Science Foundation has provided \$10,000/year in support of the paper machine laboratory. These funds are derived from the Mead Wittier endowment that was given to the UWSP PS Foundation in 1997. According to the Foundation's 2008 annual report the present value of this endowment is approximately \$500,000.

The Foundation's primary mission is to provide scholarships to paper science and engineering students. These scholarships are an important factor for the Paper Science and Engineering Department's recruiting efforts. Supporting information about the UWSP Paper Science Foundation can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/papersciencefoundation/>.

Wausau Paper Scholarship

In 2007, Wausau Paper Foundation Inc. created a \$1,000/semester scholarship for sophomores in the Paper Science and Engineering program. This scholarship is carried through to graduation for each recipient with the stipulation that a minimum grade point average is maintained. Each year an additional scholarship is awarded to a new

sophomore. Ultimately, four students will be receiving this award each year. A description of this scholarship can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/papersci/Program/scholarships>

Special State Budget Allocation for Laboratory Manager Position

Since July 2005, the State of Wisconsin has provided a special budget allocation of \$78,000/year to provide a salary for the Laboratory Manager position. This amount also includes a \$5,000/year allocation for supplies and equipment. According to the July 28, 2005 press release from Governor Jim Doyle announcing this allocation of state funding:

“A technician knowledgeable in the operation and maintenance of a paper machine is a necessity for the continued success of the Paper Science Program. In the past, the position was funded only through private donations from the Paper Science Foundation. However, a decline in support for the Paper Science Foundation has made those funds available for student scholarships only.

The Paper Science program at UW-Stevens Point is an engineering program aimed at training students for employment in the paper industry. The program is the only one of its kind in Wisconsin.”

Paper Industry Support

Wisconsin’s paper industry is very supportive of the Paper Science and Engineering Department. Paper pulp and process chemicals are examples of materials that have been regularly donated to the program to assist in courses that use the paper machine. Tanks, valves and other equipment have also been donated upon request. Local paper companies contributing to the department include: NewPage Corporation, Wausau Paper Corporation and Domtar. In the past the industry has provided the program with funding for a special computer lab and matching funds for the construction and refurbishing of the paper machine.

Adequacy of Budget

The Paper Science and Engineering program budget has adequately provided for the education of more than 700 graduating students since the program’s inception. Virtually all of these students have been employed by the paper industry and its affiliates as process or application engineers at engineering salaries.

However, the program’s general program revenue (GPR) budget does not provide for a laboratory technician’s salary. The GPR budget has also not provided a laboratory supply and equipment budget. Instead the funds for these budget items have come from the Paper Science Foundation, industry donations, earned program revenue and special allocations as described above.

Support of Faculty Professional Development

Support of faculty professional development is extensive at UWSP. All new faculty and staff receive an orientation program by the Office of Academic Affairs in August before classes start. In addition Academic Affairs provides workshops and seminars for new faculty and staff throughout the year on advising, institutional research, diversity, grants writing, and many others topics. Academic Affairs also hosts a teaching conference each January. Topics of these conferences include: technology, assessment, scholarship, diversity, as well as other topics on teaching and learning.

The University Personnel Development Committee (UPDC) helps faculty and staff develop grant-writing skills through periodic workshops. The UPDC also provides funding for faculty and staff professional development.

The UW System supports faculty professional development through its Office of Professional and Instructional Development (OPID). OPID sponsors the annual Faculty College, the Wisconsin Teaching Fellows, and the Wisconsin Teaching Scholars programs. Recently, all Paper Science and Engineering faculty have attended Faculty College to learn about the scholarship of teaching and learning (SOTL). Professor Ring was a Wisconsin Teaching fellow in 1992. Professor Biasca is currently a Wisconsin Teaching Scholar.

Support of Facilities and Equipment

This section will describe those support areas not implicitly addressed in the financial support section above.

UWSP as part of the University of Wisconsin System follows strict purchasing guidelines as mandated by the legal codes of the State of Wisconsin. All purchases must comply with the Department of Administration (DOA) and UWSP procurement policies and procedures. The department uses a controlled purchase (p) card for best judgment purchases under \$5,000. For purchases between \$5,000 and \$25,000, the services of the CNR purchasing agent are used. For purchases above \$25,000 and those purchases requiring a signed contract, the services of the Director of Purchasing are requested.

More information about purchasing at UWSP can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/purchasing/>.

The primary source of PSE equipment maintenance and operation is provided by the PSE laboratory manager. This person's responsibility is to work with PSE faculty to anticipate equipment usage in all courses, and schedule all routine maintenance. It is also the laboratory manager's responsibility to be the primary operator of the PSE paper machine. In performing these responsibilities, the laboratory manager trains and supervises a student work force hired each semester to assist with routine tasks.

UWSP's Facilities Services Department provides the Paper Science and Engineering Department with a complete array of trades to maintain all of its laboratories, classrooms and offices. These services include plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and heating, ventilating and A/C. Outside contractors are occasionally used when required.

The Science building in which the Paper Science and Engineering Department is located employs a special instrument technician, who is shared by the Chemistry, Physics and PSE departments. This technician assists PSE with special projects where the skills of the laboratory manager do not apply.

The Department of Information Technology (IT) provides all computer support to UWSP faculty, staff, and classrooms. A periodic computer upgrade program is followed where faculty receive replacement computers every two years and all replaced computers are trickled down to less demanding uses. IT maintains an extensive list of software available

on the UWSP network. In addition a specialized support person is assigned to each college to assist all academic departments with their individual needs.

Adequacy of Support Personnel and Institutional Services

The support personnel and services at UWSP are outstanding. UWSP has created a service infrastructure that demonstrates its commitment to excellent undergraduate education. A substantial increase in student numbers or other increase in faculty responsibility could create demands on faculty that are not sustainable.