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UWS Moves Forward with Outsourcing Custodial Services

In a budget-cutting move, UW-Superior announced Wednesday that it is moving forward with plans to outsource custodial and grounds keeping services.

The university is entering final negotiations with Service Solutions Company to provide the services. SSC has 55 other higher education clients, including Northland College in Ashland.



The change could affect 28 custodial and grounds keeping workers at UWS. The university estimates it could save \$2.5 million over five years by contracting with SSC.

The university has been working to make up a \$4.5 million projected shortfall over the next five years, which it says is a result of state budget cuts, declining enrollment, and tuition freezes. It has already outsourced operations of the campus bookstore, cut budgets by 15 percent campus wide, and suspended some programs, among other changes.

A review of the university's academic programs is still underway.

Union leaders have strongly opposed the outsourcing, and the Superior City Council passed a resolution in July urging the university to reject privatization.