

November 15, 2024

Pat Sullivan, Director
Office of Financial Management, State of Washington
P.O. Box 43113
Olympia, Washington 98054-3113

RE: OFM Memo – Budget Reductions for Fiscal Year 2025 and 2025-27 Biennium

Dear Director Sullivan,

The University of Washington understands the considerable magnitude of the operating budget deficit and appreciates your efforts to work with agencies to responsibly steward state resources. At a high level:

- Any reduction to the University's state appropriations would negatively impact our ability to provide an excellent education to our students given that state appropriations are a large portion of our Core Operating Budget supporting instruction, research, student services and public service.
- Historically, cuts to state funding for higher education institutions have been offset by tuition and non-resident enrollment increases. We do not have the same flexibility that we had during previous cuts: the state limits the annual increase to resident undergraduate tuition, many of our non-resident and graduate and professional program rates are above peer prices, and significant enrollment increases are not feasible given space availability at the UW and a competitive landscape for student enrollment with national and statewide declines in enrollment. In addition, the state already requires that our institutions use incremental tuition revenue to support salary increases.
- If reductions are necessary:
 - We urge you to review one-time funding for programs that are not related to an official request of the University or fundamental to our academic, student support, and research missions in service to the state.
 - We are prepared to implement any state-driven requirements applying to all agencies.

We understand that the University will not be exempt from state action to address a budget deficit, but we urge our state leaders to implement creative approaches to minimize or avoid state budget cuts to our public higher education institutions. Our institutions are still recovering from Great Recession-era cuts and the COVID-19 pandemic as we strive to provide high-quality and affordable education to Washington's students.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important exercise, and please let us know if we can be helpful as your work continues.

Sincerely,



Jed Bradley
Executive Director of Policy, Planning & State Operations
University of Washington, Finance, Planning & Budgeting

CC: Ana Mari Cauce, President
Tricia Serio, Provost and Executive Vice President
Sarah Norris Hall, Senior Vice President and CFO, Finance, Planning & Budgeting
Joe Dacca, Director, State Relations