



November 15, 2024

Director Pat Sullivan  
Office of Financial Management  
302 Sid Snyder Ave SW STE 300  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Director Sullivan,

Eastern Washington University values the opportunity to work with OFM to understand the state's revenue outlook and the potential impacts on public agencies and institutions.

In response to budget challenges resulting from the Great Recession, the COVID-19 pandemic, and evolving enrollment patterns, Eastern recently completed a strategic resource allocation process. This collaborative and transparent initiative was designed to assess the allocation of resources across academic programs and university service departments to address our current funding gap through reorganizations, reductions and creating efficiencies.

To fund compensation costs, the university has directed all new tuition revenue toward offsetting state funding levels under the fund split model, leaving no additional tuition revenue to counter further state appropriation cuts. With limited enrollment growth, our capacity to generate new tuition revenue remains constrained.

Eastern remains deeply committed to access and affordability and has allocated tuition revenue as a supplemental source of financial aid for students. However, given anticipated state budget constraints, this benefit will likely be reevaluated and reduced.

Further reductions in state appropriations would significantly impact Eastern's mission to deliver accessible, high-quality education. Ongoing budget cuts challenge public institutions to maintain affordability, access, and educational excellence, affecting students, staff, and the broader community.

We understand the necessity of budget adjustments in this fiscal environment and are prepared to implement state-directed requirements applied to all agencies. As the state seeks a balanced budget, we encourage the consideration of one-time or short-term reductions that would provide temporary fiscal relief.

While we recognize the imperative to address the budget deficit, we urge state leaders to explore innovative approaches to protect public higher education funding. Eastern Washington University and other institutions continue to recover from the financial impacts of the Great Recession and COVID-19 as we strive to offer quality, affordable education to Washington's students.

Sincerely,

Shari McMahan, PhD  
President