



MEMORANDUM

To: K.D. Chapman-See, Director, Washington State Office of Financial Management

CC: T. Chris Riley-Tillman, Provost and Executive Vice President
Glynda Becker-Fenter, Vice President for External Affairs and Government Relations
Chris Jones, Assistant Vice President for Budget and Planning
Chris Mulick, Senior Director of State Relations

From: Kirk Schulz, President

Leslie Brunelli, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration

Date: February 6, 2025

RE: OFM Memo: BUDGET REDUCTION PROPOSALS FOR 2025-27 BIENNIUM

In response to your Jan. 24, 2025, memo seeking proposed budget reductions, Washington State University asks that you consider the following:

Unlike most state agencies, WSU has already enacted significant budget reductions due to softening tuition revenue, shortfalls in state funding for cost-of-living adjustments, self-insurance premiums, benefit rate changes, and minimum wage increases. State central service charges, overall inflation, and needed internal investments in student recruitment and admissions, Workday license renewal, cybersecurity updates, and the like have also contributed. Over the past three years, cumulative permanent reductions at WSU total \$34.7 million annually, or \$69.4 million biennially. These reductions have exhausted mitigation strategies centered on efficiency. WSU is doing less with less.

Reductions to the university's state appropriation, underfunding of university compensation, and other obligations, coupled with uncertainty about future tuition revenues and new financial uncertainty spurred by the federal government, will require a holistic strategy for FY26 and beyond. WSU has already asked units to plan for multiple reduction scenarios due to the collective uncertainty. The university's next president, who could be announced as soon as this week, will undoubtedly want to inform that strategy. Maximum flexibility to address these challenges would be greatly helpful. To that end, we request the following:

- While we hope the state will avoid appropriation reductions to WSU, we ask that any reduction not be prescriptive. This is consistent with reductions made during the Great Recession and reflects the strategy deployed in the operating budget proposal

advanced by Gov. Inslee. This would give the university the flexibility — once our complete problem statement is known — to develop strategies that best mitigate the inevitable further reductions in service.

- WSU requests that funds from all old provisos be incorporated into the university's carry-forward budget and that proviso language be deleted from the operating budget. This would provide the university a broader resource pool to consider for reductions.

Finally, attached to this communication, you will find a list of historical provisos that WSU did not advance and have been authorized in previous operating budgets, often with the university's support. This is not a recommended cuts list — again, we request reductions not be prescriptive. Rather, it is intended to articulate limitations in the university's ability to make reductions that you can help with. Note that many of these appropriations are the result of changes to statute, which would need to be repealed unless they were subject to appropriation.

WSU appreciates the fiscal challenges of the state right now and would appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with you to address the needs of the students of Washington.

Attachment: Historic budget provisos for Washington State University



Attachment A

Historic budget provisos for Washington State University

Those listed were not requested by WSU but were often pursued with WSU's support.

2024 Supplemental

- **\$353,000** in annual funding is provided for the Complex Social Interactions Lab. (Workforce Education Investment Account-State)
- **\$232,000** in annual funding is provided for implementation of Second Substitute House Bill 2112 (Higher ed. opioid prevention) which includes additional opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness, including for staff working in residence halls on the use of naloxone. (General Fund-State)
- **\$62,000** in annual funding is provided to increase the 0.75 FTE benefit navigator per campus to 1.0 FTE to implement Chapter 421, Laws of 2023 (Second Substitute House Bill 1559). (Workforce Education Investment Account-State)

2023-25 Biennium

- **\$93,000** in biennial funding is provided to adopt policies regarding diversity in clinical trials; and update forms and processes, recruitment processes, and translation and interpretation services Second Substitute House Bill 1745 (Diversity in clinical trials). (General Fund-State)
- **\$140,000** in biennial funding is provided to implement Enrolled Substitute Senate Bill 5447 which includes the Office of Clean Technology to convene a sustainable aviation biofuels work group. (General Fund-State)
- **\$372,000** in biennial funding is provided to implement Second Substitute House Bill 1559 (Postsecondary student needs), which includes hiring 0.75 FTE benefits navigator per campus, and develop a hunger-free and basic needs campus strategic plan by April 1, 2024. (Workforce Education Investment Account-State)
- **\$695,000** in biennial funding is provided for turfgrass resilience research in high traffic areas. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account-State)
- **\$2.4 million** in biennial funding is provided for a professional journalism fellowship focused on civic affairs. (Workforce Education Investment Account-State)

2022 Supplemental

- **\$80,000** in annual funding is provided to implement the provisions of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5764 (apprenticeships and higher ed). (General Fund-State)
- **\$37,000** in annual funding is increased to result in a total appropriation of \$175,000 for FY 2023 for research on short-term and long-term effects of cannabis use as provided in Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5796 (cannabis revenue). (Dedicated Cannabis Account-State)
- **\$135,000** in annual funding is provided to implement Substitute House Bill 1814 (community solar projects). (General Fund-State)
- **\$121,000** in annual funding is provided to implement Second Substitute House Bill 1751 (hazing prevention). (General Fund-State)
- **\$122,000** in annual funding is provided to implement House Bill 1622 (sex. assault nurse education). (General Fund-State)

2021-23 Biennium

- **\$202,000** in biennial funding is provided for diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and anti-racism professional development for faculty and staff, DEI and anti-racism student training, and DEI campus climate assessments at the public institutions of higher education, pursuant to Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5227 (diversity, etc./higher education). (General Fund-State)
- **\$445,000** in biennial funding is provided for the implementation of Second Substitute Senate Bill 5253 (pollinator health). (General Fund-State)
- **\$86,000** in biennial Funding is provided to implement Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1273 (menstrual products/schools). (General Fund-State)
- **\$84,000** in biennial funding is provided for a licensed mental health counselor who has experience and training related to working with active members of the military or military veterans. (General Fund-State)

2020 Supplemental

- **\$130,000** in annual funding is provided solely for implementation of Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2327 (sexual misconduct/postsec.). (General Fund-State)



2019-21 Biennium

- **\$53,000** in biennial funding is provided to develop a plan for the maintenance and administration of opioid overdose medication in and around residence halls housing at least 100 students and for the training of designated personnel to administer opioid overdose medication to respond to symptoms of an opioid-related overdose. (General Fund State)

2018 Supplemental

- **\$89,000** in annual funding is provided to comply with Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2009 (gold star families/higher ed). (General Fund State)

2017-19 Biennium

- **\$1.52 million** in biennial funding is provided to comply with Second Substitute Senate Bill 5474 (Elk Hoof Disease research). (General Fund State)

2016 Supplemental

- **\$135,000** in annual funding is provided for a honeybee biology research position. (General Fund State)

2015-17 Biennium

- **\$180,000** in biennial funding is provided to Washington State University for a rural economic development outreach coordinator. (General Fund State)