

FACT SHEET ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON CAPITAL BUDGET

The Problem: Lack of Sufficient Capital Funds to Meet Needs

- Historically, Washington's capital budget was devoted principally to higher education because it comprises about two-thirds of all state-owned space. Despite additional Gardner-Evans funds, higher education's percentage of the overall state capital budget continues to decline.
- Higher education capital funding has shifted away from four-year institutions toward the community and technical colleges. While four-year schools make up 65% of all state-supported higher education space, their share of higher education capital funding has declined from 62% in 1987 to 43% in 2007.
- The UW makes up 28% of all state higher education space, yet receives less than 10% of total state higher education capital funding.
- UW facilities are aging and we are now at the point where lack of funding has created a capital needs backlog of about \$1.3 billion. To fund current depreciation levels and reduce the backlog to a reasonable size, the UW should be investing \$400 million per biennium over the next decade.

The Solution: A Joint State and UW Partnership

- The UW is asking for \$200 million in state capital funding in 2007-09 to address our most critical capital funding challenges. This request is part of the Council of President's joint prioritized list of four-year capital projects.
- To supplement state support, the UW is also requesting enactment of legislation to provide general bonding authority to allow us to address a small portion of projects that cannot be adequately addressed through the existing state capital budget.
- To meet future capital needs, the UW would like to explore other mechanisms to increase capital funding, such as voter-approved capital bonds or increased use of local funds.