



Weekly Legislative Update

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NEWS

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House Budget Released

Only several days after the Senate passed its version of the 2006 supplemental budget by a vote of 26-19, the House of Representatives unveiled their operating and capital spending proposals at noon on Tuesday, February 21. From a macro perspective, the architecture of the House budget was somewhat similar to the Senate's. However, the details of the proposal were indeed different, and for the University, it was a tale of two budgets.

On the positive side, the University of Washington received a total of \$12.2 million in additional resources in the House supplemental operating budget – about twice the level of resources provided in the Senate proposal and four times the level suggested in the Governor's budget. On the negative side, however, the House supplemental capital budget provide no new resources for the University, leaving out two items included in the Senate supplemental capital budget -- \$4.5 million for nanotechnology and \$4 million for land acquisition for the UW Tacoma campus.

A summary of individual budget items is provided below. In addition, a spreadsheet that compares the UW's budget request with the Governor, Senate and House proposals can be found on the State Relations website.

UW Operating Budget – House of Representatives

South Lake Union Phase 2 -- The House budget provides \$2.4 million for support of operations and maintenance funding for the South Lake Union Phase 2 biomedical research facility.

Bioengineering/Genome Sciences Building – The House includes \$3.4 million for operations and maintenance costs for the new Foege Building (bioengineering and genome sciences).

Department of Global Health -- \$2 million is provided to help in the establishment of the University's new Department of Global Health. These funds will be matched with \$20 million recently received from the Gates Foundation.

Pacific NW Seismic Network -- \$400,000 is included for upgrading the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network within the Department of Earth and Space Sciences.

Policy Consensus Center -- \$100,000 is included in the House budget to provide permanent funding for the joint UW/WSU policy consensus center. A similar amount of funding is included in the WSU operating budget.

Extraordinary Energy Costs -- \$1.008 million is provided for one-time assistance in dealing with extraordinary natural gas cost increases.

High Demand Enrollments -- \$2.5 million is provided for 150 additional "high demand" enrollments at the UW Seattle campus. Specifically, \$1.6 million of this amount is intended for 100 additional enrollments in engineering and \$900,000 is for 50 additional enrollments in math and science.

Legislatively Directed Enhancements – A total of \$425,000 is included in the House budget for three legislatively directed budget enhancements. These include:

- \$150,000 for educational programs at the Burke Museum.
- \$150,000 Washington Search for Young Scholars.
- \$125,000 for the People of Color curriculum review in public schools.

The House of Representatives passed their version of the 2006 supplemental operating budget on Friday, February 24 by a vote of 53-43. Negotiations with the Senate on a final legislative version of the budget will begin this week.

Preview of Week Eight Activities

The next to last week of the 2006 session will be focused on passing bills from the opposite chamber. Some policy committees will meet to discuss interim study plans but most of the attention in Olympia will focus on operating and capital budget negotiations.

On Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. the UW College of Education is sponsoring "A Conversation About Education." Dean Pat Wasley and some of the college's associate deans and faculty will be available for an informal discussion about K-12 issues in Washington State as well as provide an update about the important efforts underway in the College.

On Tuesday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m. the Council of Faculty Legislative Representatives is sponsoring a "Faculty Service to Washington Day" in the Columbia Room of the state capitol. Faculty from Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle, Bellingham, Spokane, Ellensburg, and Pullman will be showing legislators the work they're doing to serve Washington communities in the areas of Children and Families, Economic Development, K-12 Education, Public Safety, Public Health, Environment and Community Education.

Bills of Interest to the University

Health Technology Assessment -- HB 2575 (Cody)

Establishes an evidence-based health technology assessment program.

University Position: Support

Status: Passed Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee and referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Establishing Technology Priorities for Institutions of Higher Education – SHB 2817 (Sells) and SSB 6697 (Berkey).

Establishes state objectives for access, enrollment, delivery and degree achievements in fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology and other science fields.

University Position: Support

Status: SHB 2817 passed by Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee and referred to Senate Rules. SSB 6697 passed by House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee and referred to House Rules.

Revising Terms of Appointment of Student Regents and Trustees -- HB 2857 (Kenney)

Modifies the one year term of office for student regents and trustees so that the term begins on July 1 instead of June 1.

University Position: Support

Status: Passed Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee and referred to Senate Rules.

Expanding Access to Higher Education in Everett/Snohomish County Using the University Center Model – HB 3113 (Sells)

Establishes a university center at Everett Community College and expresses legislative intent to provide 250 student FTE's to provide baccalaureate education on the campus.

University Position: Neutral

Status: Passed Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee and referred to Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Concerning Cost Savings on Course Materials – SHB 3087 (Ormsby)

Requires universities in collaboration with affiliated bookstores, students and faculty to adopt rules requiring bookstores to permit students to purchase unbundled course materials where possible.

University Position: Neutral

Status: SHB 3087 passed Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee and referred to Senate Rules.