

2008 UW Legislative Session Summary

Supplemental Budget Summary

The 2008 supplemental operating and capital budgets provide a total of \$5.3 million in new resources for the University of Washington (UW). This includes additional operating support of \$2.0 million and increased capital budget funding of \$3.3 million. In a session where funding for new initiatives was limited given an unexpected \$423.0 million drop in the February general fund revenue forecast, a \$91.0 million increase in mandatory caseload and other state expenditures and the desire to maintain a sizeable budget reserve, the University received \$1.0 million in new funding to support the creation of an eScience Institute and \$3.0 million for land acquisition and soils remediation on the UW Tacoma campus. In addition, there were no reductions to the underlying 2007-09 base budget and the University successfully obtained authorization to collect tuition and fees in the 2008-09 academic year as required by Initiative 960.

eScience Institute — \$1.0 Million

The budget provides \$1.0 million to establish an “eScience Institute” at the UW. This new Institute will help make the University a leader in advancing the technology, tools and consulting expertise to help scientists with their data-related research problems. The Institute will focus initially on the NEPTUNE project where the UW hopes to be awarded a \$130 million National Science Foundation grant to construct the world’s first regional cabled observatory on the Juan de Fuca plate off the Washington and Oregon coasts.

UW Tacoma Land Acquisition and Soils Remediation — \$3.0 Million

A total of \$3.0 million is provided for land acquisition and soils remediation at the UW Tacoma campus. Specifically, \$2.0 million is provided from the state

building construction account to acquire additional parcels within the boundaries of the campus master plan and \$1.0 million is provided from the state toxics account to clean up contaminated soils on land owned by the University.

Entrepreneurial “Star” Researchers — \$265,000 (CTED)

The final supplemental budget provides the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) with an additional \$265,000 for the Entrepreneurial Researchers program. A total of \$2.4 million was provided to establish this program in the 2007-09 biennial budget. Both the UW and WSU are currently engaged in active recruitments of two faculty members who will lead innovation research teams and the budget ensures sufficient funds will be available to finalize these efforts.



I-960 Tuition and Fee Re-authorization

Based on the interpretation of the state's Solicitor General, the recent voter-approved Initiative 960 requires that all state agency fees (including tuition) not previously authorized prior to certification of the measure in December 2007, be statutorily "re-authorized" by the legislature during the 2008 session. For the UW, this includes all categories of tuition and related fees not yet adopted by the Board of Regents for the 2008-09 academic year, estimated to provide up to \$45 million in additional core education budget revenue. The final operating budget includes the necessary legislative re-authorization language.

Student Childcare Grants — \$500,000 (HECB)

An additional \$500,000 is provided in the HECB budget to increase child care opportunities for students at the six public baccalaureate institutions. Together with funding in the base budget, monies will be disbursed based on new provisions included in SHB 2582 (see *Enacted Legislation of Interest to the University*, page 4).

Campus Safety — \$88,000

A total of \$88,000 is provided to hire one additional mental health counselor as part of the legislature's "campus safety" initiative. In addition, \$200,000 is provided in the supplemental capital budget to the Washington State Patrol to conduct a needs analysis and fiscal impact study of higher education campus security as provided in 2SHB 2507 (see *Enacted Legislation of Interest to the University*, page 3).

NOTE: The "net" change to the UW's near general fund operating budget is actually a decrease of \$14.0 million from the level provided in the original 2007-09 biennial budget due to a one-time reduction in the state employer contribution for the cost of employee health benefits. The health benefit reduction reflects lower than budgeted expenditures for employee health benefits and will not change the health benefits provided to employees.

UW North Sound

While legislation to establish a new UW North Sound branch campus in Snohomish County did not pass during the 2008 session, the supplemental budget provides \$100,000 to the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to convene interested parties from the Snohomish, Island and Skagit county region to review the consultant's November 2007 recommendations and develop a consensus recommendation for a permanent site. In the supplemental capital budget, the \$2.5 million remaining from the original 2007-09 \$4 million appropriation for the new campus is removed.

Legislatively Directed Enhancements

Burke Museum Renovation. \$300,000 is provided in the supplemental capital budget from the state building construction account for a predesign study of a Burke Museum renovation project. The predesign must include a feasibility study and plan for covering at least one-third of the projected renovation costs through non-state sources.

William D. Ruckelshaus Center. \$244,000 is provided to the Ruckelshaus Center for two study efforts. Of this amount, \$125,000 is for additional financial support for an ongoing land use study and \$119,000 is for a patient safety study required under the provisions of E2SHB 3123.

Hood Canal Study. \$200,000 is provided for the UW's marine science program to study the impact of dissolved oxygen on marine biota in Hood Canal.

Institute for the Study of the Brain (I-LABS). \$150,000 is provided for additional support to the UW's Institute for the Study of the Brain.

International Trade Fellowships. \$135,000 is provided for stipends and travel expenses for five students to work as fellowship assistants to international trade representatives.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions. \$76,000 is provided for the UW's Climate Impacts Group and Business and Economic Development Center to implement the provisions of HB 2815 related to greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Change Research. \$65,000 is provided to expand the work of the Office of the State Climatologist.

Disabilities Research Grants. \$50,000 is provided for incentive grants for research or training projects that will improve delivery of medical services for people with developmental disabilities.

Husky Stadium Renovation

The UW request legislation (SB 6848) to secure \$150 million in financing towards a planned \$300 million renovation of Husky Stadium did not pass the legislature during the 2008 session. However, in the 2008 supplemental capital budget bill, the legislature establishes a joint “King County Projects Financing Task Force” to review King County-specific revenue options to fund housing, arts, cultural, civic center, Puget Sound restoration and preservation, youth recreation and community development projects in King County. Once formed, the task force could consider the Husky Stadium renovation project to be funded from some of the tax sources currently used to finance Safeco and Qwest fields and the outstanding Kingdome debt.

The task force would be comprised of up to seven members, three from the House, and three from the Senate and one appointed by the Governor. The task force final report with recommendations would be issued by December 1, 2008.

Enacted Legislation of Interest to the University

University Request Legislation

Purchasing Alcohol in Non-Beverage Form. HB 2825 will permit the University to purchase industrial alcohol (ethanol) directly from national suppliers instead of from the state Liquor Control Board. The UW uses 8,000 gallons of ethanol per year in 170 different labs and facilities. The change is necessitated by the University’s decision to eliminate its central stores function and move to an automated electronic ordering system which could not be accommodated by the Liquor Control Board.

Campus Safety

Enhancing Campus Security. SSB 6328 directs institutions of higher education to make campus safety plans available to students, faculty, and staff. The plan must include the following: demographic data; prevention strategies;

complaint registration; and additional access information for special populations requiring assistance. In addition, institutions must enter into agreements with local governments regarding responsibilities during campus and local emergencies. Each institution must specify an individual responsible for monitoring compliance with campus safety laws.

Expanding the Statewide First Responder Building Mapping Information System. 2SHB 2507 requires the Washington State Patrol in consultation with others to (1) assess the emergency and critical incident plans of public and private colleges and universities; (2) evaluate campus buildings for addition to the Statewide First Responder Building Mapping Information System and develop a financial analysis and timeline for adding buildings; and (3) assess campus emergency notification systems and devices.



Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking

Employment Leave for Victims of Domestic Violence.

SHB 2602 requires employers to provide reasonable leave to employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or whose family members are victims. The leave may be taken to: seek legal advice; find treatment; assist family members in obtaining shelter, rape crisis, or other social services; or participate in safety planning.

Shared Leave Sharing for Victims. SSB 6500 allows state agency heads to permit an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking to receive shared leave. Shared leave is a state program where employees may donate some of their annual, sick, or personal holiday leave for other employees in need of leave, not to exceed 261 days.

Child Care

Student Child Care Grants. SHB 2582 instructs the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to award child care grants for students on a competitive or matching basis. The HECB administers the program for the four year institutions and is required to proportionally distribute funds based on the financial support for child care received by student government associations who may also solicit private funds. The HECB and SBCTC were each provided an additional \$500,000 in the supplemental operating budget for student child grants.

Planning & Performance

HECB Master Plan. ESHCR 4408 is an update of the ten-year master plan created by the HECB at the direction of the legislature. The HECB plan provides specific action to be taken and identifies measurable performance indicators and benchmarks for gauging progress toward achieving the goals and priorities for higher education in Washington state. ESHCR 4408 includes: (1) linking the bachelor's and graduate degree goals to the state's specific economic needs; (2) producing program, degrees, and certificates linked to industry best practices and an outcome-based approach; (3) maximizing the use of full-time faculty while achieving flexibility; (4) facilities, technologies, and programs that are sustainable, efficient, and cost effective; (5) maximizing state funds and reviewing

the cost of service delivery; and (6) assessing the program capacity of public, independent, and career schools when determining public investments.

Higher Education Performance Agreements. Beginning in 2008, EHB 2641 creates a pilot-program to test performance agreements in the state's baccalaureate institutions over a six-year period. The purpose of these agreements is to develop and communicate a six-year plan developed jointly by state policymakers and an institution of higher education that aligns goals, priorities, desired outcomes, flexibility, institutional mission, accountability, and levels of resources.

Higher Education Capital Project Prioritization. ESHB 3329 repeals the current capital project prioritization efforts by the HECB and the Council of Presidents on behalf of the six public baccalaureate institutions. In its place, the bill directs OFM to develop common definitions, a new scoring system based on the system employed by the community colleges and a new process for prioritizing four-year institutions' capital projects. Projects must be independently scored based on whether they are addressing: (1) enrollment growth; (2) replacement/renovation; (3) infrastructure; (4) research promoting economic growth and innovation; or (5) other categories determined by OFM and legislative fiscal committees. On a pilot basis, OFM may choose one research institution to submit two prioritized lists of capital projects – one for branch campuses and one for all other campus projects.

Other Legislation

Associate Degree Transfer Students. E2SHB 2783 requires a list of rights to be established by a workgroup coordinated by the HECB for Transfer Associate Degree students. The workgroup must develop a system of identifying generally transferrable courses. Full institutional implementation is required by 2009, including course listings in catalogues. The HECB is required to create an additional workgroup for a statewide, web-based academic planning tool.

State Route 520 Bridge Replacement. ESHB 3096 allows the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to seek approval from the Legislature for the collection of tolls on the existing and replacement State Route 520 Bridge following the submission of the tolling implementation report required by the act.