PACS Budgeting Principles

The University of Washington is a public institution; therefore its budget and policies should reflect this charge. What follows are a general mission and principles to be used by the Provost and other budget officers at the University of Washington during the drafting and implementation of the FY2015 budget as well as future budgets until the submission of new principles by the Chair of the Provost's Advisory Committee for Students (PACS).

The mission of the Provost Advisory Committee for Students is to give students a voice in University budgeting and policy decisions so as to maintain access to the University of Washington’s high-quality educational opportunities. Working towards the goal of sustainable budgets across the University, PACS represents students’ interests while promoting shared governance as well as fair and equal access to information relevant to decision making. PACS ensures that investments are having their intended impact by working with student groups throughout different colleges to understand students’ needs.

Principle 1: Increase Access.

No qualified student should have to forgo an education at the University of Washington.

a. Prioritize affordable tuition for all students.

b. Maintain and protect financial aid opportunities such as Husky Promise for low-income groups.

c. Work to address the growing unmet need in middle-income groups.

d. Ensure competitive majors do not prevent qualified students from accessing or completing their education.

e. Continue the moratorium on new fee-based programs and promote state reinvestment in those already existing.
Principle 2: Enhance Educational Quality.

The University should provide a high quality education and learning environment through classroom instruction, research, and the campus environment.

a. Emphasize pedagogical integrity as units find more efficient ways of providing courses, especially in the online context.

b. Maintain funding for teaching and research assistant positions, as these positions are essential to the quality of instruction and create opportunities for students to develop professionally.

c. Prioritize administrative services, advising functions, and tutoring programs that directly contribute to the academic mission.

d. Focus on the student as a whole. Attempts should be made to protect critical functions such as campus safety, mental and physical health, and other student services that contribute to student experience.

e. Strive to engage all students in the campus community with a focus on personal growth outside of the classroom.