2009 University of Washington Request Legislation

Maintain Tuition Setting Authority for Non-Residents and Graduate and Professional Students

In 2003, all higher education governing boards were granted authority to set tuition levels for non-residents, graduate and professional students and this authority will sunset at the end of the current biennium. The UW uses this authority to improve the quality of all graduate and professional programs and has kept the average annual percentage increase for most all graduate students to about eight percent.

Grant Flexibility to Use Alternative Procurement Models for Non-State Funded Capital Projects

The University faces significant challenges to finance a myriad of capital projects because of state capital budget funding constraints. Since about half of the University’s capital program is financed with non-state dollars, the UW is asking the legislature to broaden the array of alternatives available for managing capital projects financed with these funds. Expanded procurement options will help the University stretch its local capital funds further and complete projects faster.

Protecting Private Investment Information

The UW’s endowment funded by private donors is being screened out of the most desirable private equity funds because it cannot guarantee protection of the funds’ proprietary information. The UW faces a competitive disadvantage because other public research institutions have laws enacted to protect this information. UW endowments could earn about $20 to $30 million in additional annual revenue if a similar exemption is granted.

Husky Stadium Renovation

Husky Stadium is almost 90 years and in dire need of extensive preservation and life safety work. The stadium is a state facility and is used by the University for football games, graduation exercises, student recreational sports and by the local community for charity walks and runs, youth sports camps, receptions, auctions and memorial services. The University is seeking $150 million in King County hotel/motel, rental car and restaurant taxes for safety and seismic improvements, disability modifications and other code compliance work to the stadium. Other capital improvements to improve the fan experience estimated at $150 million would be paid for from additional revenues from premium seating and donations from Husky football supporters.