

Office of State Relations Strategic Plan 2006 to 2009

Mission Statement

The University of Washington Office of State Relations works with state legislators, statewide elected officials and state agency officials to advance the academic and legislative agenda of the University. The Office has four primary areas of responsibility: (1) advocate on behalf of the University; (2) facilitate positive relationships with state government; (3) educate the campus community about state issues; and (4) ensure compliance with state public disclosure laws.

Strategic Goals

Goal One

Preserve state core operating funding for the University and retain existing authorities over graduate and professional tuition, purchasing and capital project management.

- State operating budget appropriations must cover the full cost of salaries and benefits for University employees; enrollment increases; state financial aid; and, other traditional maintenance level adjustments.
- State capital budget appropriations must cover the full cost of the University's historic building renovation programs; new facilities for the Tacoma and Bothell campuses; and some portion of minor works projects.
- Tuition revenues should not be offset with general fund budget reductions. Existing authority to set tuition levels for graduate and professional students must be maintained. Existing authorities to manage capital projects (GCCM, etc.) and purchase necessary equipment and services must be preserved.

Goal Two

Obtain greater flexibility from state government to generate additional operating, capital, and private budget resources for the University.

- Through higher tuition rates, tuition-setting authority, or increased authority over undergraduate student fees, the University is able to raise additional operating resources to:
 1. Improve and enhance the learning environment for our students.
 2. Increase financial aid for low to middle income students.
 3. Strengthen interdisciplinary programs to tackle "grand challenge problems" that benefit society or strengthen economic development.
 4. Develop programs to sustain the environment.

- Grant the University greater control over the building fee component of tuition, gain the ability to issue our own bonded indebtedness, and preserve existing alternative capital financing mechanisms to raise additional capital resources to:
 1. Construct or renovate additional academic buildings on the Seattle campus.
 2. Insure sufficient space for the University’s growing research mission.
- Permit the University to exempt commercial and financial information related to venture capital, private equity and other investment firms, to increase investment earnings from University endowment funds to:
 1. Increase financial aid opportunities for UW students.
 2. Increasing student and faculty research abroad.
 3. Increasing partnerships with local, regional, and global industries and businesses to enhance our global competitiveness.

Goal Three

Increase and strengthen relationships between key state executive and legislative leaders and the University.

- The president (and occasionally the regents and the provost) will have a social function with the Governor and at least 10 top legislative leaders each year.
- State relations staff will have a social function with at least 30 key legislators, executive branch officials and legislative staff each year.
- At least 50 key legislators, executive branch officials and legislative staff will be invited to sit in the President’s Box for UW home football games.
- At least 15 key legislators, executive branch officials and legislative staff will be invited to a UW men’s or women’s basketball game each year.
- Work closely with other four year schools to participate in the 2007 and 2009 “Higher Ed Day” in Olympia.

Goal Four

Improve campus understanding and appreciation of state government.

- Continue publishing a monthly “Capitol Update” newsletter during the legislative interim and a Weekly Update during the legislative session to keep faculty, staff and students informed about developing state issues.
- Accompany campus officials as needed to meetings with state government officials and help to facilitate the successful resolution of issues between the University and state government entities.
- Continue coming to campus at least twice a month during legislative sessions for in-person briefings.

- Conduct at least 5 presentations to visiting committees, student groups and other campus organizations on the University's budgetary and policy objectives in Olympia.
- Encourage campus directors and officials to testify in Olympia and engage legislators and key staff.
- Increase the visibility of the Office of State Relations website within the University's webpage infrastructure.

Goal Five

Improve and strengthen coordination of campus legislative advocates.

- During the legislative interim, meet at least bi-weekly with UW legislative representatives for regional affairs, federal relations and UW Medicine.
- During the legislative interim, meet at least bi-monthly with UW legislative representatives for UW Tacoma, UW Bothell, Faculty Senate, ASUW and GPSS.
- During the legislative session, meet at least weekly in Olympia with legislative representatives for the Faculty Senate, ASUW, GPSS and UW Medicine.

Goal Six

Ensure 100% accurate and timely University compliance with all state public disclosure laws and regulations.

- Ensure annual cross-training of both administrative assistants on PDC reporting rules and regulations.
- Develop and maintain the list of University officials responsible for completing the L-5 report for their individual campus units.
- Develop a regular training module for campus personnel who are required to fill out the PDC L-5 report.
- Continue working with the UW Attorney General's office, to expand and improve upon the content on the State Relations website related to PDC reporting responsibilities for campus officials.