

Budgeting Principles: Fiscal Year 2016

Provost Advisory Committee for Students

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UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Introduction

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 FY2016 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: Respect the University's Status as a Public Institution

The University of Washington is a public institution; therefore its budget and policies should reflect this charge. As such, PACS supports the following:

1. Prioritizing affordable tuition and fees for all students.
2. Tuition dollars should not be used for capital projects unless the University has first persistently lobbied for state funding for said projects, actively pursued private investment opportunities, and maintained the stance that capital projects are the explicit responsibility of the state legislature.
3. Uphold the moratorium on new fee-based programs and promote state reinvestment in those already existing.
4. Programs should never substantially increase tuition or fees during the course of an individual's education as a way to compensate for decreased state or institutional support.
5. Students should be informed of and consulted on all institutional contractual relationships and sponsorships from corporations or other entities and be provided an open comment period for feedback.

Principle 2: Increase Access

No qualified student should have to forgo an education at the University of Washington. As such, PACS believes the UW should:

1. Explore new opportunities for financial aid services for low income groups while maintaining and protecting existing programs such as the Husky Promise.
2. Work to address the growing unmet need for aid in middle-income groups.
3. Ensure that funding constraints do not prevent qualified students from accessing their academic major of choice.
4. Programs should actively advertise all costs of education, both direct and indirect. All programs should also collect and provide graduate employment statistics and the average median income of recent graduates.
5. Removing the burden of financing additional, group-specific, non-academic programming for individual groups who may require them. Costs of services for populations such as international students, students with disabilities, and student parents should be collectively born.

Principle 3: Enhance Educational Quality

The University should provide a high quality education and learning environment through classroom instruction, research, the campus experience, and by striving to do the following:

1. Create an inclusive campus culture for students, staff and faculty through measures such as trainings on implicit (unconscious) bias awareness, stereotypes, and cultural competency.
2. Promote diversity among faculty and staff so the diversity of students is reflected in the leadership of the institution and so that students from all underrepresented groups may have access to visible role models.
3. Emphasize pedagogical integrity as units find more efficient ways of providing courses, especially in the online context.
4. Maintain funding for teaching and research assistant positions, and encourage academic units to expand these opportunities. These positions are essential to the quality and competitiveness of our institution, create opportunities for students to develop professionally, and are the national standard of employment and training for graduate students.
5. Prioritize administrative services, advising functions, and tutoring programs that directly contribute to the academic mission.
6. 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 services that contribute to the student experience.
7. Acknowledge the value of interdisciplinary education and academic exploration by ensuring that these opportunities are not diminished by policy decisions driven exclusively by financial considerations.