

Date: November 29, 2012

Subject: Updated UW Per-Student Funding Comparisons

Washington law [RCW 28.B.15.068](#) articulates the state’s goal of increasing total per-student funding levels, from state appropriations plus tuition and fees, to “at least the sixtieth percentile of total per-student funding” at [Global Challenge State](#) (GCS) peer schools by the end of FY 2017. Earlier this month, the Office of Financial Management’s Education Research and Data Center completed its most recent, annual report on the state’s progress toward this goal. The report’s data (which is from the 2010-11 academic year—the latest available year of data from the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) shows that funding per UW student FTE is still \$6,014 below the 60th percentile.

Please note that this brief presents tuition revenue data from the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) **which includes revenue from non-state funded students** (i.e. fee-based programs and summer quarter students). Internal UW state and tuition funding [analyses](#) do not included fee-based sources in tuition revenue calculations; therefore, data presented in this brief may differ from other UW publications. It should also be noted that although the UW has more fee-based revenue than its peers (due to the UW’s expansive Educational Outreach program), we do not know the exact value of fee-based revenue at peer schools and, therefore, cannot remove fee-based revenue from peer funding comparisons.

As seen in Figure 1, the UW received significantly less funding per student (state funding plus tuition revenue) than its peers in 2010-11.

Figure 1: UW 2010-11 Per-Student Funding and Resident Undergraduate Tuition Levels¹

Institution	\$ per FTE	Tuition and Fees
University of California, Davis	\$25,908	\$11,958
University of California, Irvine	\$23,559	\$11,232
University of California, Los Angeles	\$26,881	\$10,781
University of California, San Diego	\$24,032	\$11,306
University of Colorado (all campuses)	\$15,216	\$8,511
University of Connecticut (plus medical)	\$29,826	\$10,416
University of Maryland, College Park and Baltimore	\$26,914	\$8,416
University of Massachusetts , Amherst (plus medical)	\$22,708	\$11,917
Rutgers Total (plus medical)	\$28,162	\$12,582
University of Virginia (main campus)	\$22,946	\$10,828
University of Washington (all campuses)	\$20,284	\$8,701

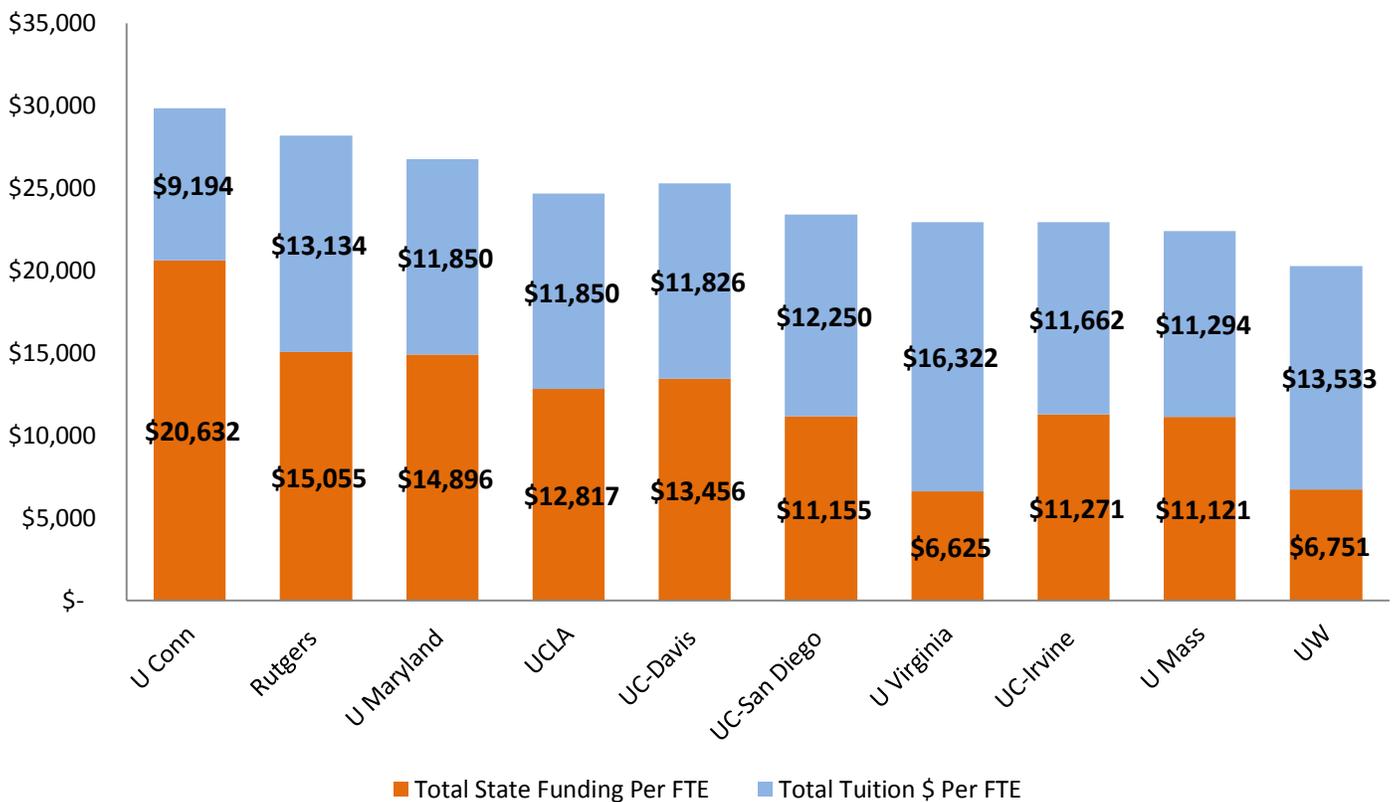
	\$ per FTE	Tuition and Fees
University of Washington	\$20,284	\$8,701
60th Percentile	\$26,298	\$11,262
Difference	(\$6,014)	(\$2,561)

¹ Table and numbers provided by the Office of Financial Management’s Education Research and Data Center.

According to these data, per student FTE funding would have to increase by 23 percent in order to reach the 60th percentile of comparable institutions in the GCS peer set (without adjusting for regional price level differences).

UW’s funding per student FTE is significantly below that of its peer schools for two reasons: (1) Washington State’s support for higher education is considerably less than the level of state support per student FTE that most peer schools receive and (2) many of UW’s tuition rates fall below GCS peer averages. Consistent with past years, state funding comprises a lower portion of educational funding at the UW than at any of the GCS peers other than the University of Virginia (as seen in Figure 2). Again, please note that IPEDS data includes revenue from Educational Outreach, so the total tuition revenue (shown in blue) is higher than other UW publications may indicate.

Figure 2: Global Challenge State Peer Funding Per FTE, 2010-11



The 60th percentile goal provides an important benchmark for legislators to determine whether Washington’s public baccalaureates were funded adequately. However, as the recession has severely limited state funding that might have been available to higher education, appropriations are not expected to increase sufficiently to meet this benchmark in the near future.

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