

Proposed state budget could have been worse, but cuts will still be painful, institutions say

Cuts proposed in the Governor's 2009-11 higher education budget are not as devastating as some had feared, but they are still big enough to potentially force reductions or elimination of academic programs at the state's colleges and universities.

Institution representatives told the House Higher Education Committee Tuesday that colleges and universities are scrambling to reduce spending. Several institutions said they have established what amounts to online suggestion boxes to solicit ideas on cost reductions.

However, college representatives agreed that small measures—like turning out the lights in restrooms when they're not in use—won't begin to address the magnitude of the current problem.

"Quite honestly, at this level of cut, nickel and diming is not going to make this reduction," said Evergreen's Julie Suchanek.

The University of Washington's Randy Hodgins said the university will try to protect academic programs and has already concentrated twice as many cuts in administration as academics.

Institutions say they'll support cost-cutting legislation

College representatives are thankful the Governor followed the Higher Education Coordinating Board's recent recommendation to give institutions flexibility in implementing budget cuts.

But they are hoping for changes in some laws and regulations that would give them additional latitude.

The institutions had a list of possible changes that they presented to the House Higher Education Committee this week.

Among the concerns expressed by institution representatives are requirements that travel arrangements be made through state-contracted services, rather than allowing institutions to go online to find the lowest available rate, as many private individuals do today.

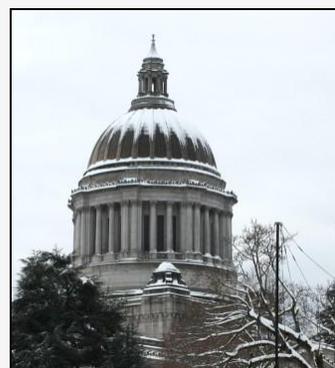
Some of the possible cost-cutting changes will be presented in the form of legislation this session, institution representatives said.

Belt-tightening bill introduced

Senate Ways and Means Committee leaders on Thursday introduced SB 5460, which would immediately impose a 12-month ban on salary increases for exempt employees of state agencies and higher education institutions.

The bill also would ban creation of new positions or filling of vacant positions until July 1, 2009. Spending for out-of-state travel, personal service contracts or equipment costing more than \$1,000 would also be prohibited. Exceptions to the position ban would be allowed for reasons of public health, safety, law enforcement, and revenue collections.

A weekly report on higher education during the 2009 Legislative Session



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Expanding the student pipeline

The House Higher Education Committee this week heard several suggestions for increasing the flow of students—from both high school and the adult workforce—who are prepared to succeed in college.

The suggestions were presented by the Higher Education Coordinating Board's Policy and Demographic Analysis Work Group, one of three groups established by the HECB last year to develop implementation strategies for the state's Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education.

Task force co-chairs Jane Sherman, vice provost for academic policy and evaluation at Washington State University, and Jan Yoshiwara, education services director for the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges offered these suggestions:

- **Create a college-going culture** through a statewide marketing campaign to emphasize that college is for everyone.
- **Build the K-12 pipeline** by continuing to support successful programs—such as GEAR UP and the College Bound Scholarship program—and by implementing student mentoring and other new efforts.
- **Build the re-entry pipeline** by offering applied bachelor's degrees for workers with technical associate degrees, and by providing more college and career planning.
- **Improve persistence and completion** by providing sufficient student financial resources through the State Need Grant and other programs.

The HECB is preparing additional information on the proposals—particularly low-cost elements.

Tuition proposals examined

A bill requested by the HECB would authorize the governing boards of public baccalaureate institutions and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to continue setting tuition for all students *except resident undergraduates* in 2009-10 and subsequent years.

In 2003, the Legislature granted baccalaureate institutions and the SBCTC authority to set tuition for non-resident, graduate and professional, and all

other categories of students except resident undergraduates. The authority is scheduled to end with the current academic year.

The measure maintains quality, enables institutions to respond in a timely manner to student and employer demand, and strengthens the ability of institutions to perform reliable

Financial Aid Updates

planning and to have predictable revenue. The bill was introduced in the House as HB 1235, sponsored by Representatives Wallace, Anderson, and others. The Senate version will be prime-sponsored by Senator Kilmer, and will be introduced soon.

Additional tuition proposals are expected to be discussed this session. In her budget proposal, Gov. Gregoire directed the HECB to examine a "graduated tuition" policy that would vary based on the ability of students and their families to pay tuition.

Next week's schedule:

- **Tuesday Jan. 27:** House Higher Education Committee. Work Session: High demand enrollment planning. Public hearings HB 1394, 1395, 1025. 10 a.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Tuesday Jan. 27:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work session: Financial aid and Guaranteed Education Tuition programs. 10 a.m., Senate Hearing room 3.
- **Wednesday Jan. 28:** House Higher Education Committee. Work Session: The state of financial aid programs. 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Wednesday Jan. 28:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work session: Tuition philosophy and other state policies; student financial aid perspectives. Public hearings SB 5001, 5174, 5175, 5237. 3:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3.
- **Friday Jan. 30:** House Higher Education Committee. Work Session: Strategic expansion of higher education in Washington. Public hearings: HB 1312, 1328. House Hearing Room D.
- **Friday Jan. 30:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work Session: Discussion of efforts by foundations to enhance student access to higher education. Public hearings: SB 5043, 5078. 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3.

House higher education bills:

- [HB 1025](#) - Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.
- [HB 1096](#) - Enhancing small business participation in state purchasing.
- [HB 1129](#) - Establishing a lifelong learning account steering committee.
- [HB 1130](#) - Convening a workgroup to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [HB 1156](#) - Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and National Guard members.
- [HB 1216](#) - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
- [HB 1235](#) - Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [HB 1243](#) - Making 2009 supplemental operating appropriations.
- [HB 1244](#) - Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.
- [HB 1312](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [HB 1323](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [HB 1336](#) - Discouraging pre-college courses at public four-year institutions of higher education.
- [HB 1341](#) - Motivating students through incentives to pursue postsecondary education by eliminating statewide assessments as a high school graduation requirement.
- [HB 1353](#) - Regarding employment opportunities at institutions of higher education.
- [HB 1355](#) - Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students.
- [HB 1394](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [HB 1395](#) - Clarifying terms for workforce and economic development.
- [HCR 4403](#) - Providing for the 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.

Senate higher education bills:

- [SB 5001](#) - Eliminating the matching fund requirement for the American Indian endowed scholarship program.
- [SB 5007](#) - Allowing public technical colleges to offer associate transfer degrees.

- [SB 5043](#) - Convening a work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [SB 5044](#) - Changing work study provisions
- [SB 5048](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [SB 5077](#) - Creating the historically Black college fund pilot project.
- [SB 5078](#) - Authorizing the University of Washington to set business fees.
- [SB 5088](#) - Regarding salaries for adjunct faculty.
- [SB 5089](#) - Requiring an ethical audit of the personnel management systems at community and technical colleges.
- [SB 5106](#) - Creating an independent four-year polytechnical college and an investment district to finance it.
- [SB 5173](#) - Authorizing the regional universities to confer honorary doctorate degrees.
- [SB 5174](#) - Providing an incentive to improve the on-time graduation rates at institutions of higher education.
- [SB 5175](#) - Changing the Washington college promise scholarship program.
- [SB 5176](#) - Creating a bi-state partnership for teachers of children with visual impairments.
- [SB 5177](#) - Creating a global Asia institute within the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.
- [SB 5188](#) - Requiring school districts to provide remedial postsecondary education or to pay for the cost.
- [SB 5222](#) - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
- [SB 5237](#) - Requiring the development of three-year baccalaureate programs.
- [SB 5260](#) - Motivating students through incentives to pursue postsecondary education by eliminating statewide assessments as a high school graduation requirement.
- [SB 5264](#) - Providing for academic employee salary increments for community and technical colleges.
- [SB 5276](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [SB 5308](#) - Authorizing the higher education coordinating board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- [SB 5316](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [SB 5317](#) - Clarifying the terms for workforce and economic development.
- [SCR 8403](#) - Creating a joint select committee concerning Latino accessibility to higher education.