

HECB sends Legislature a stack of reading on key issues affecting higher education

The Higher Education Coordinating Board has delivered a year's worth of completed homework to the Governor and Legislature on subjects ranging from tuition policy, to higher-education system design, to a web-based portal for student information.

The five plans and reports commissioned by the Legislature also include updates on the Passport to College Scholarship Program for foster youth, and a new state program designed to encourage bioscience-based economic development, combat disease and promote public health. The five reports are available on the HECB website, www.hecb.wa.gov/news/newsreports/newsreportsindex.asp

As the Legislature begins a difficult 60-day session, two HECB reports—the System Design Plan and the Tuition Study—may be of particular importance in charting the course of Washington's higher education system in the months and years ahead.

System Design Plan

The System Design Plan, the first of its kind in nearly 30 years, provides guidance to lawmakers on how to grow Washington's higher education system to achieve state goals of increased degree production and expanded access to postsecondary education.

The plan includes strategies to meet both immediate needs during the current fiscal crisis, and to lay the groundwork for future growth once the recession begins to wind down.

A draft bill has been prepared that would implement a concept in the plan called "expand on demand." The document outlines a process for evaluating and making recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on proposed mission changes at public colleges and universities. Such changes could either be proposed at the local or state level. Proposals would be evaluated based on need for the program, capital investment requirements, and other factors. [Read more.](#)

Tuition Study

The Tuition Study provides recommendations on tuition policy for resident undergraduate students at public baccalaureate institutions. Study recommendations include:

- Recognizing that public higher education is a shared responsibility of students and the state.
- Maintaining state control over tuition rates.
- Expanding flexibility through differentiated tuition rates.
- Rejecting "high-tuition, high-financial aid" funding models.
- Conducting a higher education funding study as recommended in the System Design Plan. [Read more.](#)

WASHINGTON
HIGHER
EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD

A weekly report on higher education during the 2010 Legislative Session



Page 2:
New budget proposals expected from Governor Tuesday

In the news:

Olympian: [Lawmakers look for revenue options](#)

Seattle PI.com: [UW Drama School puts two MFA programs on hiatus](#)

Tri City Herald: [State to consider job furloughs](#)

Subscribe or unsubscribe to the HECB Legislative Report at
<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=HECBL EGREPORT&A=1>

New budget proposals expected from Governor during first week of legislative session

Gov. Chris Gregoire will unveil at least some elements of a revised supplemental budget plan when she testifies before the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

The revised budget would restore a portion of the cuts Governor Gregoire included in a supplemental budget plan she delivered in December as required by law.

During a pre-session briefing for state news media carried on the [TVW](#) public affairs network on Wednesday, the Governor again said she can't live with some of the reductions included in the original supplemental budget proposal.

Among the cuts the Governor found unacceptable is a \$146 million reduction in the State Need Grant program for the second half of the biennium. That would leave more than 15,000 students without financial means to go to college. "That, to me, is their economic future, but it's also the economic future of the state," she said.

To restore cuts to critical programs, the Governor and lawmakers will look at a variety of options, including closing tax loopholes, privatizing liquor sales, and imposing a sales tax on bottled water.

One reason the Governor's second supplemental budget proposal may be incomplete when she testifies on Tuesday is uncertainty over a second round of federal stimulus money. More help from the federal government would reduce the need for additional revenue-generating measures at the state level in order to restore critical programs.

While speaking to reporters on Wednesday, some legislative leaders echoed the Governor's concern over the impact of cuts in student financial aid.

"I think one of the worst things we could do if we're focusing on jobs is to kick poor kids out of our colleges. And that's exactly what you're doing when you take away scholarships and financial aid for both the poor and middle class," said Sen. Rodney Tom, D-Medina, Operating Budget Vice Chair on the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

Bill would provide tuition to children of fallen police officers and firefighters

Under a bill pre-filed in the House, children of law enforcement officers and firefighters who lose their lives or become totally disabled in the line of duty would have tuition and fees waived at Washington's public institutions of higher education.

HB 2479, introduced by Rep. Troy Kelley, D-University Place, would change state law to provide tuition and fee waivers for eligible children at state institutions.

Under the proposed legislation, private institutions would be "encouraged" to adopt similar tuition waivers.

Filing of the bill follows the fatal shootings of six Washington law enforcement officers in three separate incidents in Seattle and Pierce County between October and December.

The bill was filed on Dec. 21, the same day the sixth officer was mortally wounded in a shooting incident near Eatonville. He died Jan. 4.

To receive the tuition and fee waivers under the legislation, recipients would have to begin courses of study within 10 years of high school graduation and comply with an institution's satisfactory progress policy.

Next week's schedule:

- **Monday Jan. 11:** Opening of 2010 Regular Session.
- **Tuesday Jan. 12:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work session: Briefing on 2010 Governor's proposed supplemental budget; report on state financial aid programs. 10 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 3.
- **Wednesday Jan. 13:** House Higher Education Committee. Work session: Discussion of tuition policy and the Governor's proposed supplemental higher education budget. 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Friday Jan. 15:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work session: report from the Washington Scholarship Coalition. 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3.