

College leaders offer assessments of two budget-cut scenarios: grim and grimmer

Leaders of the state's public universities appeared before the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee this week to outline the likely effects of the Governor's proposed budget and those of an even grimmer scenario.

The university representatives generally agreed that the Governor's proposed higher education budget – while painful – would not do lasting harm to universities. But the more severe budget-cut scenario – imposing reductions 50 percent higher than those in the Governor's proposal – “takes us off a cliff,” one university president said.

Committee chair Derek Kilmer pressed college representatives for details on how the two scenarios would likely impact high-demand programs, enrollments, and the universities' public-service activities.

UW President Mark Emmert said high-demand programs such as engineering cost more, which suggests potentially disproportionate cuts in other programs to preserve them.

But reductions in programs such as political science or English can seriously impact students in high-demand programs too, because the majority of their coursework is outside their chosen fields.

“We actually want our engineers to be able to write and read English,” Emmert said. “We'd like them to actually have heard of Shakespeare. They may not be able to recite a sonnet, but we'd like them to be able to read one.”

Revising SNG Residency Requirements

The House Higher Education Committee held a hearing Thursday on HB 1706, which would revise the residency requirements for undocumented students seeking State Need Grants (SNG). Essentially, the bill expands SNG eligibility to students who are undocumented providing they meet the following criteria:

- Earn a diploma at a Washington public or approved private high school (or the equivalent of a diploma).
- Live in the state for three years prior to receiving the diploma.
- Be admitted to an institution of higher education.
- Sign an affidavit stating they will apply to become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity.

Many students, community leaders, and citizens testified, including those supporting the bill and those opposed to it. The HECB took no position on the legislation. The bill is sponsored by Representatives Quall, Kenney, Hunter, Sullivan, Upthegrove, Santos, Pettigrew, Dunshee and Hasegawa. It has not been scheduled for a committee vote at this time.

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Seattle Times: [Proposed student-aid bill would extend eligibility to illegal immigrants](#)

The Herald: [Fresh debate on UW branch in Snohomish County](#)

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Designating financial aid programs as opportunity fund

Several institutions and higher education agencies testified in support of a bill sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kenney (D-Seattle) that would designate all financial aid programs under an umbrella term: "Opportunity Fund."

The bill, HB 2021 is titled Revitalizing Financial Aid. It requires institutions and the Higher Education Coordinating Board to label all forms of student financial assistance as an Opportunity Grant.

It would:

- Change the Washington Scholars award from a four-year award to a two-year award;
- Consolidate the EOG into the SNG program; phase out EOG as a separate program;
- Create a new priority within the State Need Grant program for place-bound students who have earned junior standing;
- Allow institutions to use institutional aid for students enrolled in dual-credit programs;
- Restrict eligibility for the State Work Study program to Washington residents; and
- Create a competitive grant process within the SWS program to encourage more placements in high-demand fields.

Rep. Kenney said there are many forms of financial aid from federal, state, community, and institutional sources – yet many students, counselors, and teachers are unaware of what is offered.

Designating all financial aid programs as the Opportunity Fund would make it easier for students and parents to access all financial aid programs, she said.

John Klacik, HECB director of student financial assistance, said a statewide marketing campaign would be needed to improve awareness if the bill is approved. He expressed appreciation for the state's commitment to previously awarded students in the programs targeted for consolidation. The bill was voted out of committee Friday. A hearing for a similar Senate bill will be held Wednesday.

[See more financial aid news](#)

Single technology platform proposed for higher education

A bill introduced by Rep. Reuven Carlyle (D – Seattle) proposes implementing single, shared, statewide standards-based software, Web hosting and support service solutions in higher education that are cost-effective, easily integrated, user-friendly, flexible, and constantly improving. The full range of applications that serve students, faculty, and administration would be included.

The goal of the bill is to eliminate expensive, proprietary, non-standards-based customized applications, databases and services, and other resources that do not allow for the transparent sharing of information across institutions, agencies, and educational levels, including K-12.

Testimony on HB 1946 will be heard at a House Higher Education Committee meeting 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17 in Senate hearing Room 3.

Peer mentoring pilot program proposed for WWU

HB 1986 would establish a pilot peer mentoring program at Western Washington University designed to achieve a key Strategic Master Plan goal of introducing elementary school students to educational opportunities and inspiring them to succeed academically.

WWU would collaborate closely with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to identify a two-year institution to participate in the program. The HECB would award grants to eligible institutions participating in the project as funds are appropriated. A hearing on the bill will be held by the House Higher Education Committee Feb. 18 at 1:30 p.m. in House Hearing Room D.

Tuition bill moves in House

On a 7-3 vote, the House Higher Education Committee on Friday passed a revised version of HB 1235, which continues the current tuition-setting authority of higher education institutions.

The bill revision gives institutions authority to set tuition through the end of the 2015-16 academic year for non-resident, graduate, and professional students. The original version did not contain a sunset provision.

Next week's schedule:

- **Monday Feb. 16:** Senate Ways & Means Committee. Work session: Higher education issues. 3:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 4.
- **Tuesday Feb. 17:** House Education Appropriations Committee. Work session: Implementing proposed reductions in higher education in 2009-11. 8 a.m., House Hearing Room A.
- **Tuesday Feb. 17:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Work sessions: faculty compensation and faculty budget-scenario responses. Public hearings: SB 5088, 5538. 10 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 3.
- **Tuesday Feb. 17:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearings: HB 1946, 2118. 10 a.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Wednesday Feb. 18:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearings: HB 1901, 1986. 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Wednesday Feb. 18:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Public hearings: SB 5789, 5176, 5376, S-1473.1. 3:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3.
- **Friday Feb. 20:** House Higher Education Committee. Public hearing: HB 1904. 8 a.m., House Hearing Room D.
- **Friday Feb. 20:** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. Public hearings: SB 5172, 5177, 5778, 5827, 5773, 5776. 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.
- **HB 1428** - Establishing the field of dreams program.
- **HB 1446** - Requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.
- **HB 1452** - Concerning economic stimulus.
- **HB 1466** - Regarding student fees, charges and assessments.
- **HB 1467** - Establishing the University of Washington Snohomish County branch campus.
- **HB 1474** - Changing border county opportunity program provisions.
- **HB 1487** - Regarding resident student classification.
- **HB 1497** - Eliminating boards and commissions.
- **HB 1545** - Authorizing the Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer higher education annuities and retirement income plans.
- **HB 1594** - Creating the environmental cleanup opportunity grant program.
- **HB 1643** - Regarding harassment, intimidation and bullying policies and practices at regional universities.
- **HB 1671** - Regarding higher education accountability.
- **HB 1672** - Requiring an annual college learning assessment.

- [HB 1673](#) – Requiring development of a consumer report card with information about institutions of higher education.
- [HB 1674](#) – Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of institutions of higher education.
- [HB 1675](#) – Changing the work experience provisions of the alternative route partnership grant program.
- [HB 1694](#) – Addressing fiscal matters for the 2007-2009 biennium.
- [HB 1706](#) – Expanding resident student eligibility for purposes of the state need grant program.
- [HB 1726](#) – Creating Bellevue College.
- [HB 1763](#) – Requiring that all classifications of students be treated equitably and consistently in the higher education admissions process.
- [HB 1841](#) – Adding a faculty member to the governing board of each four-year institution of higher education.
- [HB 1884](#) – Reviewing the decision to terminate Western Washington University's football team.
- [HB 1898](#) - Setting priorities for higher education capital projects.
- [HB 1901](#) – Establishing additional health sciences and services authorities in certain areas.
- [HB 1904](#) – Regarding high-cost critical programs at institutions of higher education.
- [HB 1914](#) – Authorizing the financing of higher education institutions' maintenance and operations through the use of certificates of participation.
- [HB 1915](#) – Changing Running Start provisions.
- [HB 1946](#) – Regarding higher education online technology.
- [HB 1986](#) – Authorizing a peer mentoring pilot program at Western Washington University and a community or technical college.
- [HB 2000](#) – Providing a coordinated approach to creating an adequate supply of well-qualified mathematics and science teachers.
- [HB 2021](#) – Revitalizing student financial aid.
- [HB 2087](#) – Eliminating certain boards, committees and commissions and the transfer of certain duties effective June 30, 2009.
- [HB 2098](#) – Creating a single need-based financial aid program.
- [HB 2111](#) – Regarding firearms safety education programs.
- [HB 2118](#) - Convening an advisory committee on tuition policy.
- [HB 2119](#) - Expanding dual credit opportunities
- [HB 2151](#) - Eliminating boards and commissions on June 30, 2010.
- [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.
- [SB 5376](#) - Requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a grant program to encourage training for students studying in the medical field to work with individuals with disabilities.
- [SB 5405](#) - Regarding resident student classification.
- [SB 5407](#) - Making 2009 supplemental operating appropriations.
- [SB 5410](#) - Regarding the digital learning commons.
- [SB 5460](#) - Reducing the administrative cost of state government during the 2007-2009 and 2009-2022 fiscal biennia.
- [SB 5502](#) - Establishing the primary care physician conditional tuition waiver program.
- [SB 5553](#) - Promoting economic development through promoting innovation and the commercialization of technologies.
- [SB 5554](#) - Regarding the job skills program.
- [SB 5555](#) - Establishing a lifelong learning account steering committee.
- [SB 5575](#) - Creating Bellevue College.
- [SB 5588](#) - Administering, suspending, and eliminating boards and commissions.
- [SB 5600](#) - Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.
- [SB 5604](#) - Concerning economic stimulus.
- [SB 5606](#) - Creating the Washington investment in student excellence scholarship program.
- [SB 5625](#) - Creating a state college in Snohomish County.
- [SB 5710](#) - Authorizing the board of regents at each state university to establish tuition fees rates.
- [SB 5734](#) - Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [SB 5778](#) - Requiring disclosure of certain course material information for higher education courses.
- [SB 5784](#) - Reviewing the decision to terminate Western Washington University's football team.
- [SB 5789](#) - Authorizing a second health sciences and services authority.
- [SB 5809](#) - Creating a temporary workforce employment and training program.
- [SB 5864](#) - Establishing the University of Washington Snohomish County branch campus.
- [SB 5900](#) - Regarding youth innovation education.
- [SB 5924](#) - Changing Running Start provisions.
- [SB 5941](#) - Regarding comprehensive education data improvement systems.
- [SB 5959](#) - Expanding resident student eligibility for purposes of the state need grant program.
- [SB 5994](#) - Eliminating boards and commissions on June 30, 2010.
- [SCR 8403](#) - Creating a joint select committee concerning Latino accessibility to higher education.
- [SCR 8404](#) - Providing for the 2008-18 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.