



TO: Faculty and staff

FROM: Colleen Kerr, Vice President for External Affairs and Government Relations
Washington State University

Chris Mulick, Director of State Relations
Washington State University

SUBJECT: 2022 State Legislative Session Overview

DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2022

This memo provides an overview of outcomes, including on WSU's top legislative priorities, from the Washington State Legislature's 60-day session, which ends today.

WSU saw significant investments from the state in a strong supplemental budget that provided funding for our top legislative priority of enhanced faculty and staff compensation, in addition to requests for cybersecurity programming and a psychiatric pharmacy residency.

Overall, the state's 2021-2023 operating budget increased from \$59.1 billion to \$63.8 billion. Importantly, the legislature directed \$3 billion, one time, to support the transportation budget and the capital budget (which provided \$440 million in homelessness and housing) and for a one-time shore up of the Paid Family Leave Insurance Account. The state budget has doubled since the Great Recession.

The Legislature provided **substantial investments to support both two- and four-year higher education**. Highlights of interest to the WSU community are below.

INVESTMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

[HB 1659](#)

\$34.3 million – **Making higher education more affordable and accessible for students by bridging the gap between cost and need to reduce barriers, improve opportunity, and advance economic security.**

Provides \$500 bridge grants to all students receiving the maximum Washington College Grant and raises the threshold for maximum WCG to 60% of MFI



[HB 1835](#)

\$3.2 million – **Creating outreach and completion initiatives to increase postsecondary enrollment.**

Funds a FAFSA advertising campaign and Outreach Specialist pilot

[HB 1736](#)

\$150 million (one-time) – **Establishing a state student loan program.**

Creates a low-interest student loan program

[SB 5789](#)

\$6 million – **Creating the Washington career and college pathways innovation challenge program.**

For innovation challenge grants and regional partnerships

[Career Connect
Washington](#)

\$4 million - For Career Launch Grants and apprenticeships.

WSU-SPECIFIC INVESTMENTS

Compensation: The legislature provided \$7.5 million to support compensation enhancements at WSU, our top legislative priority. This improves upon the assumed ratio of new appropriation to tuition for compensation enhancements, from 53 percent new appropriation/47 percent tuition to 65/35.

Cybersecurity (WSU Pullman, WSU Tri-Cities, WSU Everett): The operating budget funded the Cybersecurity Operations degree we requested, which will be delivered by VCEA at Pullman, Tri-Cities and Everett. It did not fund the Information Assurance major we proposed for Carson at the same locations.

Psychiatric pharmacy residency: The budget funded our joint request with UW to establish a psychiatric pharmacy residency program. This will allow us to place two residents in a clinical setting in Eastern Washington in 2023 while UW places two new residents at their new mental health teaching hospital now under construction.

Miscellaneous: The operating budget also notably increased core funding for the [Washington State Academy of Sciences](#), for which WSU is the fiscal agent. Also, between the operating and transportation budgets there were six assignments funded for WSU to conduct targeted research or lead work groups on subjects ranging from stormwater to catalytic converter theft policy to homelessness.

Capital budget: Provided \$2 million for compact shelving in Holland Library on the Pullman to consolidate library collections and reclaim space in the central core of campus; this is space that could be repurposed for student study space.

NEW LEGISLATIVE POLICIES

Anti-hazing: Legislation that WSU supported and helped develop in partnership with Student Affairs passed. It will require anti-hazing training for all new students during orientation beginning this fall and require training be provided to employees. It also requires social fraternity and sorority organizations to formally notify universities of their intentions to operate in campus communities and requires both universities and social fraternities and sororities to publicly post violations of anti-hazing policies.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners training (WSU Spokane): Legislation we supported and helped develop that directs the College of Nursing to provide training to nurses seeking to be certified as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners was approved and funded. WSU will provide this training in Spokane and Yakima. This training is currently only provided in Seattle, creating hardships and costs for Eastern Washington nurses who have to travel for multi-day training. This will increase the number of nurses trained to treat sexual assault victims in Eastern Washington and participate in criminal proceedings, providing access to healthcare to many underserved communities.

A fix to residency statute loophole: Legislation was approved to fix the state's residency statute. Without it, nonresident students would have been able to easily establish residency solely for the purpose of obtaining resident tuition rates and state-subsidized financial aid.

Adding a faculty position to Board of Regents: Under this legislation, the Faculty Senate will nominate three candidates to the governor, who will make the appointment of the additional regent to serve a three-year term. The faculty regent cannot vote on matters pertaining to hiring, discipline, or tenure of specific faculty members.

Name, Image and Likeness: Legislation to establish standards and protocols around student athlete Name, Image and Likeness activity **was not approved**. We worked with UW to shape a bill we could support that moved out of the Senate, but there was not sufficient interest to take up the complicated issue in the House during the short session.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF NOTE:

- **Northwest Hydrogen Hub:** [SB 5910](#) establishes a statewide Office of Renewable Fuels and authorizes the director of the Department of Commerce to provide state funding to help strengthen applications to secure federal funding to develop a regional clean hydrogen hub. The operating budget provided the Department of Commerce requested \$1.09 million to operate the Office in addition to \$2 million to support the application process.



- **Psilocybin:** [SB 5660](#) The budget provided \$200,000 in one-time funding for the Washington Health Care Authority to provide a report to the Legislature on psilocybin services by consulting with stakeholders including relevant agency leaders from DOH, LCB, WSDA as well as indigenous practitioners, psychologist expert, health researchers, and citizens with lived experience. The group must first convene by June 30, 2022 and is tasked with reviewing the Oregon health authority's proposed rules, LCB manufacturing rules and procedures for cannabis.

For our collective reference to understand state policy priorities, other major appropriations were as follows:

- \$799 million for K-12, mainly enrollment stabilization and inflation rebasing.
- \$587 million for long term care and developmental disabilities
- \$513 million for natural resources programs, including significant dollars for wildfires and salmon restoration
- \$307 million for housing and homelessness programs
- For comparison, higher education receives \$336 million.

It is also noteworthy that this budget spent \$5.6 billion on a one-time basis. In other words, that funding is not obligated for the 23-25 biennium. This provides something of a buffer against economic softening.

Please reach out to the Office of State Relations with questions.

OFFICE CONTACTS

Chris Mulick

Director of State Relations

Chris.Mulick@wsu.edu

(360) 534-2333

Connor Haggerty

Policy & Affairs Coordinator

Connor.Haggerty@wsu.edu

(360) 534-2332