



MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty Senate

From: Kirk H. Schulz, President
Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President
Zoe Higheagle Strong, Vice Provost for Native American Relations and
Programs & Tribal Liaison to the President

Subject: Land-Grant Revenue Follow-Up

Date: November 21, 2022

In response to your inquiry about land-grant revenue, we wanted to give you an update on what we've learned and share a preliminary plan of action going forward. First, we found that according to state law, the income derived from WSU's land-grant trust is restricted to retiring building bonds, or capital improvements or maintenance. We have attached the Agricultural College Permanent Fund and the Scientific School Permanent Fund back to 1987, which is the data we've been able to verify thus far.

More importantly, as a system we take seriously our responsibility to the Native Peoples of the region, and are taking a number of steps to both acknowledge our responsibilities to tribal groups but also to foster strong relationships and programs that we hope will benefit tribal students and nations. These include:

- 1) We continue to expand the MOU with federally recognized tribes. We recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of our original MOU, which now has 13 tribes as signatories. We will add the land-grant revenue and spending to the agenda for the Spring meeting of the MOU signatories to solicit their feedback.
- 2) We have elevated Vice Provost Zoe Higheagle Strong's position to report directly to the President as Tribal Liaison. She is working with leaders across the system to ensure strong tribal community engagement and services to tribes across the region.
- 3) We are supporting efforts to provide tuition waivers and/or assistance to tribal students, either as part of a state-wide program or WSU-wide.
- 4) We are currently assessing our levels of support for Native American student organization, programs, community events (e.g., annual pow wow), and facilities.
- 5) We continue to explore ways to recruit, retain, and support tribal students from across the state and region.
- 6) We are in the process of hiring five new tenure-track faculty members with expertise in Native American and Indigenous studies in the area of social inequality and social justice. We seek scholars who are integrated into the communities they study as a way to continue to build strong relationships of mutual benefit between the university and tribal nations.

We will have an update report to you by the end of this academic year.

Thank you for your interest in these efforts.