

FUTURE ACTION ITEM #1

Academic Year 2025-2026 Tuition Rates
(Leslie Brunelli/Chris Jones/Saichi Oba)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Academic Year 2025-26 Tuition Rates

PROPOSED: That the WSU Board of Regents set tuition rates for academic year 2025-26

SUBMITTED BY: Leslie Brunelli, Executive Vice President, Finance & Administration/CFO

SUPPORTING
INFORMATION:

State law authorizes the governing boards of the four-year higher education institutions to establish tuition rates. However, resident undergraduate rates are capped and may increase by no more than the average annual percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for the previous fourteen years (RCW 28B.15.067.[2]). The rate cap for resident undergraduates is provided annually by the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

Recently enacted legislation (SB 5079) requires that OFM notify higher education institutions of the maximum tuition increase for resident undergraduates by October 1st. Formerly this information was provided in the spring for the following academic year, leaving little time for notification of students and institutional planning. Because of the new legislation, Resident Undergraduate/Graduate and Non-Resident Undergraduate/Graduate tuition rate recommendations will be presented to the Board of Regents this fall for approval in November. This accelerated timeline allows WSU to publish tuition rates sooner and more efficiently package student financial aid.

WSU proposes a tuition increase equal to the maximum percent tuition increase allowable by state law – a rate to be communicated by OFM by October 1, 2024 – for resident and non-resident undergraduate and graduate students. For reference, a history of the maximum allowable rate increase compared to what was approved by the WSU Board of Regents is provided in the table below. Approved rates in the highlighted rows were lower than maximum allowable rate increase.

| Academic Year | Maximum Rate Increase Allowed by RCW 28B.15.067 | WSU Increase Approved by Board of Regents |
|----------------------|--|--|
| 2017-18 | 2.2% | 2.2% |
| 2018-19 | 2.2% | 2.0% |
| 2019-20 | 2.4% | 2.4% |
| 2020-21 | 2.5% | 2.5% |
| 2021-22 | 2.8% | 2.5% |
| 2022-23 | 2.4% | 2.4% |
| 2023-24 | 3.0% | 2.5% |
| 2024-25 | 3.0% | 3.0% |

Proposed changes to tuition for professional and self-sustaining programs will be presented as a future action item at the November 2024 Board of Regents meeting with final action at the January 2025 meeting. This allows programs to gather student feedback on proposed rates.

The attached presentation provides decision support information on tuition trends and includes initial recommendations for Resident Undergraduate/Graduate and Non-Resident Undergraduate/Graduate rate increases for the 2025-2026 academic year.

ATTACHMENT: Attachment A - Tuition Proposal Presentation