

# **FUTURE ACTION ITEM #1**

## **Fiscal Year 2026 University Operating Budget Approval (Leslie Brunelli/Chris Jones)**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 University Operating Budget

**PROPOSED:** That the Board of Regents approves the Fiscal Year 2026 University Operating Budget.

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

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION:** The Annual Operating Budget serves as the financial articulation of the University's planning through support of academic programs, research, extension activities, faculty and staff salaries, student services, facilities management, and essential administrative functions. This budget is a tool to align financial resources with the University's strategic objectives, to ensure that the mission is advanced while maintaining fiscal health.

President Elizabeth Cantwell, Executive Vice President Leslie Brunelli, Executive Vice President and Provost Chris Riley-Tillman, Executive Vice President for Health Sciences and WSU Spokane Chancellor Daryll DeWald, Faculty Senate Representatives Tracy Klein and Ken Roberts, Associate Vice President for Financial Services Matt Skinner, and Assistant Vice President for Budget and Planning Chris Jones will lead unit budget hearings from April 21 through April 28. The calendar below outlines the budget development process.

<b>February 17</b>	<b>Board of Regents Special Meeting – Budget Education Series</b>
<b>February 18-March 5</b>	<b>Preliminary discussions with Deans, Chancellors, System Leadership Collaborative and Unit AFOs</b>
<b>March 24– April 27</b>	<b>State Budget expected</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Board of Regents Finance &amp; Administration Committee update</b>
<b>April 21 – May 2</b>	<b>Budget hearings</b>
<b>May 5 – May 16</b>	<b>Budget decisions and internal communications</b>
<b>May 21</b>	<b>Board of Regents Review and Approval of FY26 Budget</b>
<b>May 22 – June 30</b>	<b>Budget document preparation</b>
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Target release date for FY26 Budget Document</b>

The proposed budget is expected to be presented to the Board of Regents for approval at a special meeting scheduled for May 21. This meeting will offer the Board an overview of the budget, emphasizing key investments, projected expenditures, and the financial strategy that will guide the University's operations in the coming fiscal year. The aim is to ensure the budget reflects our commitment to academic excellence, student success, research innovation, and operational efficiency, while also ensuring long-term financial sustainability.