

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: President Sabah Randhawa on behalf of Nora Selander, Director of Government Relations

DATE: April 11, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Legislative Session Update

PURPOSE: Discussion Item

Purpose of Submittal:

For this agenda item, Nora Selander, Director of Government Relations, will provide a brief update on the 2024 Legislative Session and answer any questions the Trustees may have.

Background:

The 60-day, 2024 Legislative Session began on January 8th and ended on March 7th.

WWU's legislative priorities this session include:

- Support for Academic Access Outreach programs;
- Expanded capacity in Electrical Computer Engineering programs;
- State support for College in the High School courses; and
- Minor works preservation funding and the completion of Kaiser-Borsari Hall.

Successful legislative proposals WWU closely tracked this session include (but are not limited to):

Senate Bill 5904 – Extending the terms of eligibility for financial aid programs

- Aligns Washington College Grant eligibility with federal PELL grant eligibility.

House Bill 2214 – Automatic qualification for the Washington College Grant

- Works toward allowing automatic qualification for the Washington College Grant for beneficiaries of other public assistance programs.

House Bill 2112 – Concerning opioid and fentanyl education

- Directs resources and training to higher education campuses.

House Bill 1950 – Concerning the public service loan forgiveness program

- Directs public employers to notify employees about certification renewals and to certify employment through the public service loan forgiveness program at the time of separation.

Unsuccessful legislative proposals that WWU closely tracked this session include (but are not limited to):

- Senate Bill 5999 - Expanding Washington College Grant eligibility.
- House Bill 2077 - Concerning the Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program.
- House Bill 2309 - Establishing the Washington 13 free guarantee.
- House Bill 2374 - Establishing the Washington promise program.

WWU Budget Investments

The final budget includes critical investments for academic programming and outreach initiatives.

Operating Budget	Agency Request	Governor	House	Senate	Conference
Electrical & Computer Eng.	\$886,000	\$886,000	\$429,000	\$445,000	\$445,000
Academic Access Outreach	\$1,078,000		\$400,000		\$400,000
CiHS Support	\$130,000				
Financial Education				\$200,000	\$200,000
Opioid Prevention HB 2112			\$122,000		\$122,000
Benefits Navigator HB 1559			\$20,000		\$20,000
OSPI Curriculum Partnership			\$100,000		\$100,000
Cyber Security Education				\$300,000	\$300,000
Total	\$2,094,000	\$886,000	\$1,071,000	\$945,000	\$1,587,000

Capital Budget	Agency Request	Governor	House	Senate	Conference
Minor Works Preservation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Classroom & Lab Upgrades	\$1,500,000				
Kaiser Borsari Cert. of Participation	\$4,900,000	\$4,900,000	\$4,900,000	\$4,900,000	\$4,900,000
Total	\$6,900,000	\$5,400,000	\$5,400,000	\$5,400,000	\$5,400,000