



October 16, 2025

Board of Deans and Chancellors
President's Council
Provost's Council
Administrators Council

RE: FY27 Operating Budget Development Kick Off

Dear colleagues,

This letter serves as notification that the fiscal year 2027 (FY27) operating budget development process, our annual resource planning effort involving deans, chancellors, vice presidents, vice provosts, faculty, staff, and students, will commence on December 1, 2025.

Once complete, the FY27 operating budget will incorporate the second year of the current state biennial budget, supplemental changes from the 2026 legislature this spring, as well as school, college, campus, and administrative unit budgets, from which we will measure financial performance in the coming fiscal year.

I am looking forward to holistic conversations spanning financial, personnel, and academic planning with you this spring.

Focal Points for Shared Planning and Resource Deployment

In light of the many external pressures facing our institution, rapid changes in federal policy, and ongoing financial challenges for the state of Washington, we must continue to plan for contingencies and make sound financial decisions during a continuously evolving situation. I request that you continue to model FY26 scenarios for declines of 5% and 10% of core resources, and the carry-on effects of such impacts to the auxiliary and gift resources. This is a prudent and necessary exercise during this period of continued uncertainty to ensure we are prepared as an institution should the need to quickly react in response to these conditions.

We must engage in this work collectively as a community responsible for good fiscal stewardship of public resources while recognizing we have many pressures to attend to which intersect in complex ways.

Our efforts must focus both centrally and within our campuses, schools, colleges, and administrative units to focus on essential only spend and hiring, improving our effectiveness, streamlining academic pathways, and strategically directing our resources to activities that both create mission-driven opportunities while promoting revenue growth.

Submission of balanced budget proposals will be required. Where use of net position is requested as part of your upcoming submissions, a strong business case justifying the investment of public funds in alignment with our mission is expected.

I want to again emphasize this year that it is imperative you begin internal unit planning efforts now. Do not wait to begin this work until the cycle opens in December, as you will not have time to carefully examine expense drivers, capacity constraints, opportunities to grow revenues, and serve our students better unless you start now. Moreover, it is my expectation that off-cycle requests to adjust faculty hiring plans will become rare and largely reactive to unanticipated personnel changes.

New Workday Adaptive Planning Resource to Support Early Planning Work

New this year, the FPB team has released a feature within the Adaptive Planning tool that allows your campus/unit to get an early start on planning work through use of the “UWA Evergreen Budget and Forecast Entry” version. The Evergreen FY27 version in Adaptive is now the default and unlocked version for budget and forecasting entries, and it will be used as the official version for the FY27 operating budget. Unlike previous years, there will be no new version created or released; users will continue working in the same Evergreen version throughout the budget cycle. While FY27 planning is currently optional, it will become required once the cycle officially begins, accompanied by updated materials on the FPB website: <https://www.washington.edu/opb/uw-budget/annual-budgets/>

Timeline and Key Requirements

Kicking off in December 2025, and concluding with Regental action in June 2026, the FY27 planning process will require units to:

- forecast the remainder of FY26, propose an operating budget for FY27, and forecast future financial trajectory through FY31
- respond to net position utilization plans with detail
- respond to a brief, structured set of narrative fiscal prompts
- submit 2026-27 academic year faculty hiring plan proposals
- plan for faculty unit adjustments
- undertake a robust consultation with faculty (academic units)

The table below is intended to provide a high-level timeline for this important work, with further details to follow in the coming weeks.

Date	Milestone(s)	Applicable to
12/1/2025	FY27 Operating Budget cycle commences: Planning guidelines and assumptions available Faculty Hiring Plan Portal opens for drafting and submission of AY2025-26 hiring reports and AY2026-27 hiring plans	UW Academy Units
1/30/2026	Rate recommendations for tuition and fee-based programs, enrollment projections for tuition-based programs, and accompanying narrative due	UWS Academic Units, UW Bothell, & UW Tacoma
2/2/2026	AY2026-27 Faculty Hiring Plan and AY2025-26 Hiring Report submissions due	UWS Academic Units, UW Bothell, & UW Tacoma

2/23 2026	Operating budget proposals, narrative responses and PRF requests (UWS) due	UW Academy Units
March 16 – April 3, 2026	Budget conferences w/Chancellors, Deans & VPs	UW Academy Units
Late April 2026	Operating Budget & Faculty Hiring Plan decisions communicated	UW Academy Units
Late April - Early May 2026	Final adjustment window to FY27 Operating Budget proposals	UW Academy Units
June 2026	Regental action on FY27 Operating Budget	UW Academy & UW Medicine

As the commencement of the FY27 budget development process nears, please be on the lookout for additional information, process guides, and venues for support from Finance, Planning & Budgeting (FPB) and the Office for Academic Personnel and Faculty (APF). In the meantime, should you have any questions about the process or timelines in general, please contact:

--Faculty Hiring Plans: Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Personnel (vpap@uw.edu)

--FY27 operating budget development: Budget Planning & Operations (fpb-bpo@uw.edu)

Thank you for your hard work on this important process.

Sincerely,



Tricia R. Serio
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor, Biochemistry

cc: Robert J. Jones, President
Jason Campbell, Interim Senior Vice President, Finance & Budget Strategy, CFO
Faculty Senate Leadership