



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FY2021 Annual Review Narrative Survey

Unit Name: [Attorney General's Office]

Programmatic & Academic Vitality Narratives

- 1) Have you made any changes to your unit's annual budget development process from the response provided last year? If yes, please briefly describe the changes you've made to your unit's annual internal budget development process. If no, please answer with a simple, "no changes." *Word Limit: 500*

We have not made any changes to our annual budget development process. We are working with UW and the AGO on a joint decision package for four FTES: three additional AAGs and a Legal Assistant 4.

<OPB insert FY 20 response below>

The UW Division of the Attorney General's Office (AGO) is partly funded by the UW. The UW budgets primarily cover salaries of the non-attorney staff and additional operating costs (with the AGO budget covering attorney salaries and other costs). Per UW's request connected with a past AGO request for additional resources (2 non-attorney staff positions) and the granting of funding for temporary non-attorney employees, the AGO conducted an organizational review to help determine proper resource levels. Additionally, the division is engaged in ongoing communications with UW officials regarding the legal needs of UW, its current level of resources, and how additional resources could be allocated.

- 2) Have you made any changes to your unit's strategic plan in the past year? If yes, what are 3-5 key elements of your unit's new/revised strategic plan? If no, please comment on the progress you've made in 3-5 key areas of your strategic plan. *Word Limit: 500*

We have not made any changes to our unit's strategic plan. We are actively working on the following 3 priorities: (1) serve the state by providing excellent, independent, and ethical legal advice and representation to our clients; (2) protect the people by safeguarding the legal rights of the state; and (3) empower our employees by creating a positive work environment that recognizes employees as our most valuable resource and fosters integrity, professionalism, civility, and transparency.

- 3) What major obstacles or institutional barriers currently do, or will, hinder execution of your strategic plan? What are you doing to address these challenges? If no changes from your response to either component of this question from last year, please answer "no changes": *Word Limit: 250*

No changes.

<OPB insert FY 20 response below>

There is a need to work more collaboratively between the UW and the AGO in determining how the AGO can provide high quality, timely, and efficient legal services given the AGO's current resource levels and the legal needs of the UW, which are anticipated to increase especially with the integration of NW Hospital and UWP and the increase in faculty adjudications and labor matters. The AGO and UW need to work together to prioritize the legal work to be done by the AGO and the proper level of resources to accomplish such work.

- 4) Over the next year, could any of your planned strategic activities result in material changes to revenues or expenditures, faculty or staff workload, or the student experience within your unit/campus and/or another unit/campus? *Word Limit: 500*

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The AGO promotes minimizing material changes to revenues or expenditures by continuing discussions with the UW regarding its legal needs and the appropriate staffing levels and resources needed to effectively complete that work. Our endeavors are critical to reducing the legal and financial risk for all departments across campus.

- 5) What is your unit doing to effectively use or redeploy resources in a way that benefits your unit/campus and/or other units/campuses? *Word Limit: 500*

The division's 19 attorneys and 12 non-attorney staff are organized into four teams to most effectively address the University's varied legal needs. The Healthcare Team advises and represents UW Medicine and the health-related schools. The Employment Team is assigned all labor and employment legal matters (HR, Academic Personnel, labor relations). The General Practice Team handles all other matters, with attorneys being assigned to UW departments, colleges, schools, and units as well as subject matter areas. The administrative team provides support to all groups, and the division at large. The Division Chief advises the President and the Provost, as well as the Board of Regents. This operational structure was implemented in order to best manage, in as timely a manner as feasible, the multitude of complex legal issues related to the UW's vast array of activities connected with its three campuses and UW Medicine.

- 6) For UW student facing units, what are you doing to improve the experience and outcomes of students on your campus or in your unit? What could the University do to support your efforts? *Word Limit: 500, Leave blank if N/A*

N/A