



# UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

## FY2026 Operating Budget Development Narrative Prompts

### College of the Environment

#### Programmatic & Academic Vitality Narrative

*Text submitted within this section **will** be published to FPB's Annual Budget Development website*

*Where possible, you are encouraged to leverage published materials already created*

- 1) Please list your operating budget priorities for the upcoming period (bullet format) and how your campus/unit is aligning available resources with strategic programmatic goals and university initiatives (e.g. Diversity Blueprint, Population Health, etc.). *Word Limit: 500*

There are two primary goals within the College's strategic plan:

Goal 1: Build a stronger, more connected community to enhance environmental knowledge and impact

Goal 2: Catalyze understanding of and solutions to environmental challenges through a systems-based approach.

In addition, there are several university-wide initiatives that the College of the Environment is actively engaged in. (e.g., Climate Action and Adaptation Initiative, AI@UW, Diversity Blueprint, Sustainability Action Plan)

Because of recent uncertainties that have developed in both the short- and long-term budget forecasts for the University and the College of the Environment, however, we are developing a more conservative approach to our operating budget expenses beyond what is described in the FY26 adaptive plan so that we can prioritize the following types of activities within these overarching frameworks:

- Maintenance of core academic activities – With unprecedented uncertainty on our revenue forecasts, we will be attempting to maintain our core teaching and research excellence, recognizing that we may be facing sharp declines in the external revenue that supports a significant fraction of our operations.
- Short-term backstop of funding loss – We are prioritizing stability in the short-term as we navigate the current uncertainties. We are deferring investments in some areas where appropriate to ensure we have emergency backstop funding in order to mitigate short-term losses where we can. In addition, we are adjusting our hiring processes and are reviewing every new hire and reappointment to ensure that there is transparency and accountability for the revenue sources that may need to be used to backstop any short-term loss in funding for these positions. It is worth noting that our federal expenditures are just over \$8M/month, so our emergency reserves of ~\$3M could quickly become depleted.
- Investment in our revenue-generating activities – We will continue to invest in activities that we know lead to revenue diversification. These activities include our undergraduate teaching, research proposals, auxiliary enterprises, masters programs, etc.

Our values have not changed. The importance of all we do across the UW College of the Environment remains, whether it's our essential work on understanding our changing planet and ecosystems, our work with the people and communities of the state of Washington and beyond, or our work broadening participation in all aspects of our research, service, and education. It is the scale at which we will be able to operate over the next several years that remains to be determined.



# UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

## FY2026 Operating Budget Development Narrative Prompts

### College of the Environment

#### Required Budget Development Consultative Process Summary – Faculty, Staff and Students

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*-- If specific questions are not applicable to your unit, simply indicate n/a --*

Consultation with your elected faculty councils, student councils and unit/campus staff, regarding your unit's/campus's budget proposal materials, including your proposed FY26 operating budget, narrative responses, tuition rate recommendations and fee-based rate recommendations are an important and necessary component of the UW's budget development process. Your responses to the questions below will be documented and included as part of the FY26 operating budget development review materials provided to Executive Leadership of the UW.

- 1) Please indicate the date that FACULTY leadership within your unit/campus was consulted and provided the opportunity to provide input as part of this budget planning exercise

February 13, 2024 – College Executive Committee

February 14, 2024 – College Council

- 2) Please list a point of contact for your FACULTY leadership (name and UW email address).

Dan Brown, Director, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, danbro@uw.edu

Lorenz Hauser, Chair, ENV College Council, lhauser@uw.edu

- 3) Please indicate the date that STUDENT leadership within your unit/campus was consulted and provided the opportunity to provide input as part of this budget planning exercise.

February 5, 2025

- 4) Please list a point of contact for your STUDENT leadership (name and UW email address).

Alec Solemslie, Environmental & Forest Sciences PhD student, Graduate Co-Chair, coenvsac@uw.edu

Clara Kreutziger, Marine Biology Junior, Undergraduate Co-Chair, coenvsac@uw.edu

- 5) Please discuss how you involved campus or unit staff in the consultative process.

The College of the Environment relies on the participation of our administrative staff to provide the baseline information in the FY26 budget planning process. These numbers are then reviewed and edited by the Dean's Office in consultation with the appropriate administrator.

- 6) Since submission of your tuition and/or fee-based rate recommendations on January 24, 2025, has your campus or unit received any additional feedback from students? If so, please summarize here.

No