



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FY2026 Operating Budget Development Narrative Prompts

Finance, Planning, and Budgeting

OPERATING BUDGET PROPOSAL NARRATIVE PROMPTS DUE 2/24/2025

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*

Finance, Planning & Budgeting (FPB) developed its FY26 operating budget with the following strategic initiatives aimed at optimizing Workday processes and reporting, prioritizing financial accountability and stability, and ensuring alignment with the university's long-term goals. The focus areas include:

- Foundation Data Model (FDM) governance and coherence
- Student stabilization and preparation for a new Student Information System
- Shift to Incentive Based Budget model
- Ongoing FPB integration, alignment, and infrastructure, including integration of Facilities capital budgeting and accounting and the Office of Educational Assessment
- Financial/management reporting package strategy
- Strategic framework for financial planning

Investing in these areas ensures that FPB can continue to refine its business processes, improve service levels, and leverage technology to increase transparency and accountability across the university. Additionally, FPB launched the Together We Thrive program in FY25, setting forth a collaborative approach to strengthen the university's financial resilience. These FPB initiatives are strategically aligned with the university's Diversity Blueprint and Innovation Imperative, as we work to foster a more inclusive, innovative, and financially stable community.

FPB evolved from a lift and shift re-org mentality to a fully integrated organization this year, having completely transformed organizationally and financially. During FY25, we built a new Foundation Data Model for FPB, to reflect our current organizational structure and delegate budget authority to directors and above across newly created cost centers. We developed an annual budget process that begins at the Cost Center Manager level, includes Senior Leader and HR review and recommendations, and ends with SVP approval. Our zero-based budgeting approach included the following:

- Reviewed vacant positions and closed 11 permanent positions that we could not afford to support on an ongoing basis
- Closed out \$6.5M in consulting contracts in FY25, primarily related to Workday and the F&A rate proposal
- Budgeted expenses in the Reserve cost center (excluding sustainment) declined from \$4M in FY25 to \$1M in FY26
- New positions requested reflect strategic priorities and business function reality, as well as balancing vacancies and use of reserves



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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.

PLAN NOW to ensure that all unit/campus review and consultative processes are completed by the February 24, 2025 due date.

- 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
 - a. N/A
- 2) Please list a point of contact for your FACULTY leadership (name and UW email address).
 - a. N/A
- 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.
 - a. N/A
- 4) Please list a point of contact for your STUDENT leadership (name and UW email address).
 - a. N/A
- 5) Please discuss how you involved campus or unit staff in the consultative process.
 - a. Shared Services Finance sent budget sheets to all FPB Cost Center Managers in October with FY25 Budget and Proposed FY26 Budget information.
 - b. Cost Center Managers reviewed their FY26 Budgets, discussed budget requests and adjustments with their FPB Senior Leader (VP/AVP), and submitted the budget sheets to Shared Services Finance in December.
 - c. Senior Leaders ranked department requests.
 - d. SVP, Senior Leaders, and Shared Services HR/Finance reviewed all FY26 position requests in December.
 - e. FPB worked closely with Facilities, UWIT, and the Office of Educational Assessment to incorporate planned integrations and/or FTE shifts into the FPB budget.
- 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.
 - a. N/A