



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FY2026 Operating Budget Development Narrative Prompts

The Information School

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*

<https://ischool.uw.edu/about/information-impact>

- Our resource plan includes spending to support faculty hires that both support increased access to education (Informatics program growth) while also supporting our research and education related to our grand challenges topics: planet, democracy, AI and health. We also have faculty hires planned for the sustaining of our MLIS program, ensuring quality teaching and research as we continue to graduate well-rounded information professionals in the vital field of librarianship. It also includes spending on our online MSIM program to increase access to graduate education in information science, and to support expanded education on Artificial Intelligence, including adding an AI certificate.
- Our resource plan includes commitments to improving our infrastructure and resources through increased staffing with two new positions; HR Assistant for hiring course support and Capstone Program Manager for student experience, and space improvements: expanding iSchool footprint in the Tower; hiring an external consultant to review space usage. Increased budget on staff will also improve the student, staff and faculty experience, as well as the alumni experience.
- Our resource plan includes increased support for Neurodiversity research in the iSchool as we seek to raise philanthropic funds and grow the research of our faculty. The intentional investment in these initiatives will continue to cultivate an accessible, inclusive and equitable climate.
- Implemented a faculty office-sharing incentive, offering \$2,000 in annual research funds to faculty who choose to share an office. While a modest investment, this initiative aligns with our broader vision to optimize space strategically.
- Our primary goal remains securing a co-located space for the entire iSchool. As we prepare for the capital planning proposal submission, we are committed to strategically preserving our reserves for a future building—ideally, an existing campus space that can be renovated in partnership with another unit. We are also open to collaborating with another school to maximize resources and impact.



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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. November 15, 2024 (this was the EFC+LC meeting when you presented)
- 2) Please list a point of contact for your FACULTY leadership (name and UW email address).
 - a. Nic Weber, nmweber@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.
 - a. December 3, 2024
- 4) Please list a point of contact for your STUDENT leadership (name and UW email address).
 - a. Wendie Phillips, wrp@uw.edu (staff member who is the liaison to the student leaders)
- 5) Please discuss how you involved campus or unit staff in the consultative process.
 - a. Director-level staff and above were included in the meeting with the faculty leadership on November 15, 2024.
- 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. Amy Ko incorporated the feedback in our response. So, I would say that there has been no additional feedback.