



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FY2026 Operating Budget Development Narrative Prompts

Tacoma Campus

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*

[UW Tacoma's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#) represents Chancellor Sheila Edwards Lange's commitment to ensure UW Tacoma (UWT) is a top urban-serving university that provides economic and social mobility to thousands of students and their families. In planning for Fiscal Year 2026, UWT embarked on a values-based operating budget development process. All recommended budget reductions, reallocations and one-time investments were aligned with the plan's strategic priorities.

UWT Strategic Priorities

1. Students - Advance student success academically, professionally, and personally.
2. Communities - Partner in advancing strong and diverse communities.
3. Scholarship - Expand and support a broad range of teaching, research and creative innovation.
4. Equity - Promote and model inclusive excellence and social justice.
5. Vitality - Build a thriving community that is welcoming and sustainable.

Guided by these priorities and enjoying an enrollment rebound of 4 percent this year, UW Tacoma is in a better financial position to invest in areas that will support recruitment and retention of students and staff. Continuing our efforts to ensure fiscal sustainability, UW Tacoma engaged in targeted reductions of 0.75 percent of general operating funds in FY2026 and is realigning resources to shift funding towards new investments such as:

- **Faculty Compensation Adjustments:** Faculty locally-funded unit adjustments for faculty below the campus median salary to address salary compression and support retention efforts for lower-paid full-time faculty. Additionally, program chair/associate dean administrative costs for School of Engineering and Technology to align with school growth and campus norms.
- **AAPI THRIVE Director:** Provide state funding for a portion of AAPI THRIVE Director position to sustain support for Asian American and Pacific Islander students through culturally responsive programs that enhance retention and belonging.
- **Graduate Student Experience Coordinator:** A new Academic Services-Assistant Director role will enhance centralized graduate student support, aligning with strategic enrollment goals and improving coordination across schools and the tri-campus graduate school.
- **Undergraduate Education Staff Support:** A permanent, full-time staff position that is now partially funded will be fully funded with core funds, eliminating reliance on one-time savings and ensuring long-term budget stability.
- **Human Resources Support:** A new full-time team member will support recruitment processes, candidate communication, hiring timelines, and compliance. With support responsibilities centralized, the HR team can focus on strategic initiatives such as salary equity tracking, time-to-hire analysis, enhanced supervisor training, and process improvements that align with the strategic plan and changes in UW academic personnel management.



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- **Annual Giving & Stewardship Director:** Stabilizing funding for this position will strengthen donor engagement, enhance fundraising efforts, and build a long-term donor pipeline in collaboration with marketing and communications.
- **One-Time investments** to support capital improvements on campus and temporary operating initiatives.

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.

Three faculty representatives serve on the UW Tacoma Budget Advisory Committee: Faculty Assembly Chair, Anne Taufen, Ph.D., MGA and two Faculty at Large, Joyce Dinglasan-Panlilio, Ph.D. and Yan Bai, Ph.D. The committee met on January 8, January 21 and January 30, 2025, and will hold future meetings as needed in the event that significant changes are needed prior to July 1, 2025.

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

Faculty Assembly Chair
Anne Taufen, Ph.D., MGA
Professor, School of Urban Studies
atw5@uw.edu
253-692-4319

- 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.

On January 30, 2025, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Planning and Budget, Cherie Berthon, attended the Associated Students of the University of Washington Tacoma (ASUWT) meeting to review the financial outlook and key budget drivers for the campus, as well as to request student input on FY2026 budget planning. Students asked that University leaders maintain a focus on the dignity of students, especially those still struggling with food and housing insecurity. In a recent survey, 14% of UW Tacoma students said they had considered leaving the university due to difficulties meeting their basic needs. These at-risk students deserve additional student supports to ensure retention and degree attainment. Students also spoke to the increased stress and insecurity they are experiencing of late, noting the vulnerability of non-citizens and the visible presence of ICE patrols on Pacific Avenue.



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Additionally, a student representative serves on the UW Tacoma Budget Advisory Committee: ASUWT Director of Finance, Alicia Whitten. The committee met on January 8, January 21 and January 30, 2025, and will hold future meetings as needed in the event that significant changes are needed prior to July 1, 2025.

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

Alicia Whitten

ASUWT Director of Finance

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

Leadership from Finance & Administration held two meetings open to all staff and faculty to [“kick off”](#) the FY2026 budget process (November 13, and December 5, 2024). Additionally, a UWT Staff Association representative serves on the UW Tacoma Budget Advisory Committee: Armando Martinez, Staff Association Chair. The committee met on January 8, January 21 and January 30, 2025, and will hold future meetings as needed in the event that significant changes are needed prior to July 1, 2025.

- 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 additional feedback has been received.