



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FY2027 Operating Budget Development Narrative Prompts

OPERATING BUDGET PROPOSAL NARRATIVE PROMPTS DUE MONDAY 2/23/2026

Section 1

- 1) Please select your unit or campus.

iSchool CCH100028

Section 2: Programmatic & Academic Vitality Narrative

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

- 2) In bullet format, please list your operating budget priorities for the upcoming period and describe how your campus/unit is aligning available resources with strategic programmatic goals and university initiatives such as the Diversity Blueprint, Population Health, etc. (Where possible, you are encouraged to leverage published materials already created) *Word Limit: 500*

-> Required, after answering go to Next Section, Question #3

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

- Our resource plan prioritizes faculty hiring that supports increased access to education through continued growth of the Informatics program while strengthening research and teaching aligned with our grand challenge areas — planet, democracy, artificial intelligence, and health. The faculty hiring plan also reflects our continued commitment to advancing Native and Native-Serving, Anti-Racist, Indigenous Knowledge (NNAIK) scholarship and ensuring our academic portfolio reflects emerging societal needs.
- We are investing in faculty capacity to sustain the MLIS program, particularly as accreditation approaches, ensuring continued excellence in librarianship education and research. Additional investment supports the MSIM Online program to expand access to graduate education in information science, reduce reliance on external vendors over time, streamline operations, and strengthen curriculum related to artificial intelligence. These efforts will improve long-term financial sustainability and create potential new revenue opportunities.
- The School continues to invest in instructional capacity to support sustained Informatics growth while closely monitoring fill rates and section volume to ensure alignment between instructional offerings and realized demand. Any near-term use of net position reflects scaling ahead of fully realized tuition revenue and benefit cost increases rather than structural revenue decline, positioning the School for stable long-term growth.
- Our resource plan includes continued investment in research across the Neurodiversity, Digital Youth, RAISE, and iStartup initiatives as we pursue philanthropic support and expand externally funded research. We are also planning a tenure-track faculty hire to support the Neurodiversity Institute. These investments reinforce our commitment to accessible, inclusive, and equitable research environments and align with university priorities related to student success, community impact, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Through the IDEAS initiative, the School aligns resources with the University's Diversity Blueprint by embedding equity-minded practices across curriculum development, hiring, research engagement, and place-based education. These efforts support inclusive learning environments, broadening participation in information fields, and strengthening community partnerships.
- A primary institutional priority is securing co-located space for the Information School. As we prepare a capital planning proposal, we are strategically preserving reserves to support renovation or shared development of existing campus facilities in partnership with other units. This approach advances operational efficiency, strengthens community cohesion, and supports long-term enrollment and research growth.



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- We are increasing investment in alumni and donor engagement, corporate and foundation partnerships, and data-driven prospect research to support a multi-year university campaign. These coordinated investments advance priorities across student support, faculty recruitment, research initiatives, and future capital needs.
- The resource plan includes significant investment in maintaining and evolving curricular priorities. This includes faculty compensation for redesign of multi-section courses — particularly those taught by lecturers — and faculty-led professional development focused on artificial intelligence in the classroom. These efforts ensure the curriculum remains current, scalable, and aligned with workforce needs.

Section 5: Summary of Required Consultation with Faculty, Staff and Students

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

-- If specific questions are not applicable to your unit/campus, 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 FY27 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 FY27 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 23, 2026 due date.

- 14) 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

-> Required for UWS Academic Units, UWB and UWT. Other units enter "n/a." Go to Question #15.

December 12, 2025

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

-> Required for UWS Academic Units, UWB and UWT. Other units enter "n/a." Go to Question #16.

Joe Tennis, Professor, Chair of the Elected Faculty Council (jtennis@uw.edu)

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

-> Required for UWS Academic Units, UWB and UWT. Other units enter "n/a." Go to Question #16.

12/01/2026

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

-> Required for UWS Academic Units, UWB and UWT. Other units enter "n/a." Go to Question #17.

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- 18) Please discuss how you involved your campus or unit faculty EFC, how you consulted with students, and how you engaged with staff in the budget development process.

The budget development process included engagement with faculty governance, staff leadership, and student input through existing shared governance structures. Faculty EFC members were involved through budget discussions with faculty leadership, including a dedicated meeting on December 12, 2025 that brought together the Elected Faculty Council and key director-level staff to review major budget assumptions, academic priorities, instructional capacity, and program investments. Staff engagement occurred through ongoing consultation with director-level leaders across academic operations, finance, research, advancement, and student services, who provided program-level context, operational considerations, and implementation planning that informed budget priorities and trade-offs. Student perspectives were incorporated through program leadership, student advisory channels, and feedback related to enrollment demand, course availability, and student support priorities, ensuring the budget reflects academic priorities, operational realities, and student needs while supporting shared governance and transparent decision-making.

- 19) Since submission of your tuition and/or fee-based rate recommendations on January 30, 2026, has your unit/campus received any additional feedback from students? If so, please summarize here.

-> *Required for all units/campuses. Go to Question #19.*

No. The initial feedback we received from students acknowledged the need for the school to increase fees to cover increases in staff compensation and benefits. They also indicated that the costs would have an undue impact on their cost of living, and they requested that fees not be increased, but that we maintain levels of services. We've communicated that this would require reducing staffing, and increasing workload of the remaining staff, and that this was not a sustainable strategy for ongoing operations of our academic programs.