



April 17, 2026

Board of Deans and Chancellors
Vice Presidents
Vice Provosts
Administrators Council

Proposals for the University's 2027-29 State Operating Budget Request

Dear colleagues:

Every even-numbered calendar year, all state agencies must submit to the Governor's Office of Financial Management (OFM) a suite of materials that includes operating budget requests in advance of a new biennial budget process. The University's biennial operating budget requests to OFM are selected through an internal consultative process that involves reviewing proposals from across all three campuses and discussing those proposals with UW leadership, faculty, and students. This letter is to announce that while the state's budget continues to be highly constrained, we will be accepting preliminary proposals for state operating budget requests for the upcoming 2027-29 biennium, encompassing FY28 and FY29.

While there is no requirement or expectation that you submit a proposal, all legislative funding requests must be vetted through this process. Unless a proposal is submitted through this process **and** selected for inclusion in the UW's submission to the state, it will not be part of the UW's legislative agenda. University staff in Finance, Planning and Budgeting (FPB) and State Relations will not spend University resources supporting non-official requests in Olympia and will communicate clear priority for official agency requests.

If you choose to submit a request, the first step is to review and complete the [Preliminary Proposal Microsoft Form](#) by **Friday May 22nd at 5pm**. Preliminary proposals will be reviewed by University leadership and FPB. Because the state budget remains tight, only the most compelling proposals that significantly advance the [University's draft strategic plan](#), which incorporates the state's workforce and educational attainment goals, will be invited to develop a full proposal in collaboration with FPB.

President Jones and I will determine the final slate of proposals to be submitted to OFM for consideration by the Governor and the Legislature closer to the deadline for the state budget submission in September. Final decisions will be based on the University's final strategic plan, the state revenue outlook and directions for budget requests provided by OFM.

Note that this process is distinct from the "Annual Review" process. Proposals you have submitted previously for Provost Reinvestment Fund requests may not be compelling candidates for state funding. In addition, capital budget priorities (including priorities for state funding) are set through a separate process facilitated by the [Capital Planning Advisory Team](#). If you have any questions about what may or may not be appropriate, FPB's Policy, Planning and State Operations team and the

State Relations team will hold a 2026 session debrief and internal state request Q&A session, tentatively scheduled for Friday May 8 at 1pm. A separate invite will follow.

Thank you very much for participating in this important planning activity.

Sincerely,



Tricia R. Serio
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor, Biochemistry

cc: Robert J. Jones, President
Jason Campbell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Finance, Planning & Budgeting (FPB)
Jed Bradley, Executive Director, Budget, Policy & Strategy, FPB
Faculty Senate Committee on Planning & Budgeting (SCPB)
Provost's Advisory Committee for Students (PACS)