

MINUTES
Washington State University Board of Regents
November 14, 2025

The Board of Regents of Washington State University (WSU or University) met pursuant to call at the Sheraton Grand Seattle, 1400 6th Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

I. OPENING AND ROLL CALL

Chair Jenette Ramos called the meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 8:05 a.m.

Regents present included Chair Jenette Ramos, Brett Blankenship, Enrique Cerna, Marty Dickinson, Sam Hunt, Amina Hussein, Tracy Klein, Doug Picha, Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, Howard Wright, and President Elizabeth Cantwell.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Regents heard from those who requested to provided public comment to the Board:

- Clinical researcher Jamie Reed, suspension of Continuing Medical Education courses affiliated with the Society for Evidence-Based Gender Medicine
- WSU student Steven Melle, fossil fuel divestment
- WSU staff member Lauren Paterson, Northwest Public Broadcasting layoffs
- Athletics supporters Tom and Linda Nihoul, athletics director
- WSU alumnus, Glenn Osterhout, athletics director

III. REPORTS FROM LEADERSHIP

A. Report from the Chair, Board of Regents. Chair Ramos welcomed Faculty Regent Tracy Klein to the board.

Chair Ramos reported on the Regents' participation in WSU activities across the system since September, including but not limited to attending Carson College of Business and College of Veterinary Medicine events, the Community Development Roundtable and Washington State Academy of Science programs where President Cantwell was a speaker, and the 2025 Regents' Distinguished Alumni Award presentation.

B. Report from the President, WSU System

President Cantwell provided strategic priority updates and highlights for the academic enterprise, finance and operations, Cougar athletics enterprise, External Affairs and Government Relations, Administrative Operations and Institutional Affairs, University Marketing and Communications, Tribal Relations and Native American Programs, research enterprise, and the WSU Foundation.

IV. REPORTS FROM SHARED GOVERNANCE GROUPS

The following shared governance representatives provided an update on their respective areas:

- Associated Students of WSU Global President Hannah Kramer
- Faculty Senate Chair Ken Roberts
- Administrative Professional Advisory Council President Amy Robbins
- Graduate and Professional Student Association President Desmond Aboagye
- WSU Advancement
 - WSU Alumni Association President Tracey Kohler
 - Vice President for Advancement and CEO Mike Connell

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Ramos reported that there were two items on the consent agenda:

- September 17, 2025, retreat minutes
- September 19, 2025, meeting minutes

Chair Ramos asked if any Regent wished to remove any item from the consent agenda to be discussed and considered separately. Hearing no requests, it was moved and seconded that the consent agenda be approved as submitted. Carried.

VI. EXECUTIVE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Ramos reported that the committee reviewed and discussed one information item, WSU system redesign update, presented by Provost and Executive Vice President Chris Riley-Tillman and Chief Administrative Officer and Vice President for Institutional Affairs Kerri Davidson.

VII. STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Regent Cerna reported that the committee reviewed and discussed five information items:

- WSU Strategic Pillars Update presented by President Elizabeth Cantwell;
- Artificial Intelligence and WSU Research Impacts presented by Vice President for Research Kim Christen and Director of the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Ananth Kalyanaraman;
- Economic Impact Survey Results presented by Executive Director for Corporate Engagement Alex Pietsch and Community Attributes, Inc. President and CEO Chris Meford;
- WSU Global Campus Update presented by Chancellor David Cillay;
- Regents' Distinguished Alumni Award Process presented by Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement Jamaica Vandolah.

Regent Cerna further reported that the recipient reviewed one action item, the selection of the

Regents Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, and submitted the following for Board consideration.

Regents' Distinguished Alumni Award

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents select candidates C1 and C2 as the 2025 recipients of the Regents Distinguished Alumni Award. Carried.

VIII. FINANCE AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Regent Wright reported that the committee reviewed and discussed eight information items:

- Internal Audit Update presented by Chief Audit Executive Heather Lopez;
- FY26 Budget Execution – Financial Performance Update presented by Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer Leslie Brunelli and Vice President of Finance and Business Services Matt Skinner;
- Cougar Athletics Budget Performance Update presented by Brunelli and Interim Athletics Director Jon Haarlow;
- FY26 Budget Execution – Carryforward and Retained Earnings presented by Brunelli and Skinner;
- Finance Education – WSU Foundation – University Endowment presented by Brunelli, Vice President of the WSU Advancement WSU Foundation CEO Mike Connell, Senior Association Vice President Constituent Development Units and Campaign Director Don Shearer;
- Finance Education – WSU Land Grand Endowment presented by Brunelli and Skinner;
- Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Execution and FY27 Budget Development – Government Relations State and Federal Budget Update presented by Vice President for External Affairs and Government Relations Glynda Becker-Fenter and Vice President for Research Kim Christen.

Regent Wright also reported that the committee reviewed and discussed four action items and submitted the following for Board consideration:

WSU Pullman – Southside Dining and Market Renovation – Project Budget Approval

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents approve the WSU Pullman, Southside Dining and Market Renovation Project Budget, with a total budget not to exceed \$10,000,000, authorize the project to proceed to design and construction, using the Design-Build process pursuant to RCW 39.10, and further delegate authority to the President or designee to enter into any and all contracts necessary to complete the project, within the budgeted amount. (resolution 251114-742). Carried.

Purchase Cougar Athletics Fan and Student Athlete Experience at Gesa Field – Project Budget Approval

Chair Ramos noted for the record that it was decided that this item would be presented as an Action Item rather than a Future Action Item in accordance with the Board of Regents Bylaw II.12.c.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents approve the Cougar Athletics Fan and Student Athlete Experience at Gesa Field with a total project budget not to exceed \$12,000,000, plus interest and closing costs associated with financing if approved. The Board authorizes the project to proceed to design and construction using the Design-Build process pursuant to RCW 39.10, and further delegate authority to the President or designee to enter into any and all contracts necessary to complete the project, within the budgeted amount (resolution 251114-743). Carried.

Purchase Cougar Athletics Fan and Student Athlete Experience at Gesa Field – Project Financing Approval

Chair Ramos noted for the record that it was decided that this item would be presented as an Action Item rather than a Future Action Item in accordance with the Board of Regents Bylaw II.12.c.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents approve a General Revenue Obligation Resolution to authorize the issuance and sale of bonds or other obligations, in one or more series, to be used for phase one of the fan and student-athlete enhancement project at Gesa Field; with proceeds for the project not to exceed \$5.0 million, a maximum term not to exceed 5.5 years, and a maximum interest rate not to exceed 6.0%; and delegate authority to the President or their designee to sell bonds, or other obligations including determining the final issue size, maturity schedule, redemption provisions and timing of sale (resolution 251114-744). Carried.

Academic Year 2026-2027 Tuition Rates for Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents set tuition rates for academic year 2026-27 for Undergraduate and Graduate Programs as proposed. Carried. (Exhibit A)

IX. ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Regent Picha reported that the committee reviewed and discussed one information item, Mission Moment: Libraries, presented by Dean of Libraries Trevor Bond.

Regent Picha further reported that the committee reviewed one action items and submitted the following for Board consideration:

Establish the Department of Social Work in the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents establish a Department of Social Work in the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences. Carried.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Ramos announced that the Regents would meet in Executive Session with legal counsel to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation, per RCW 42.30.110.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Returning to open session and hearing no other business, Chair Ramos adjourned the meeting.

XII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Approved by the Board of Regents at its meeting held on January 23, 2026.

Signed Copies Available in the Office of the System President

Exhibit A



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

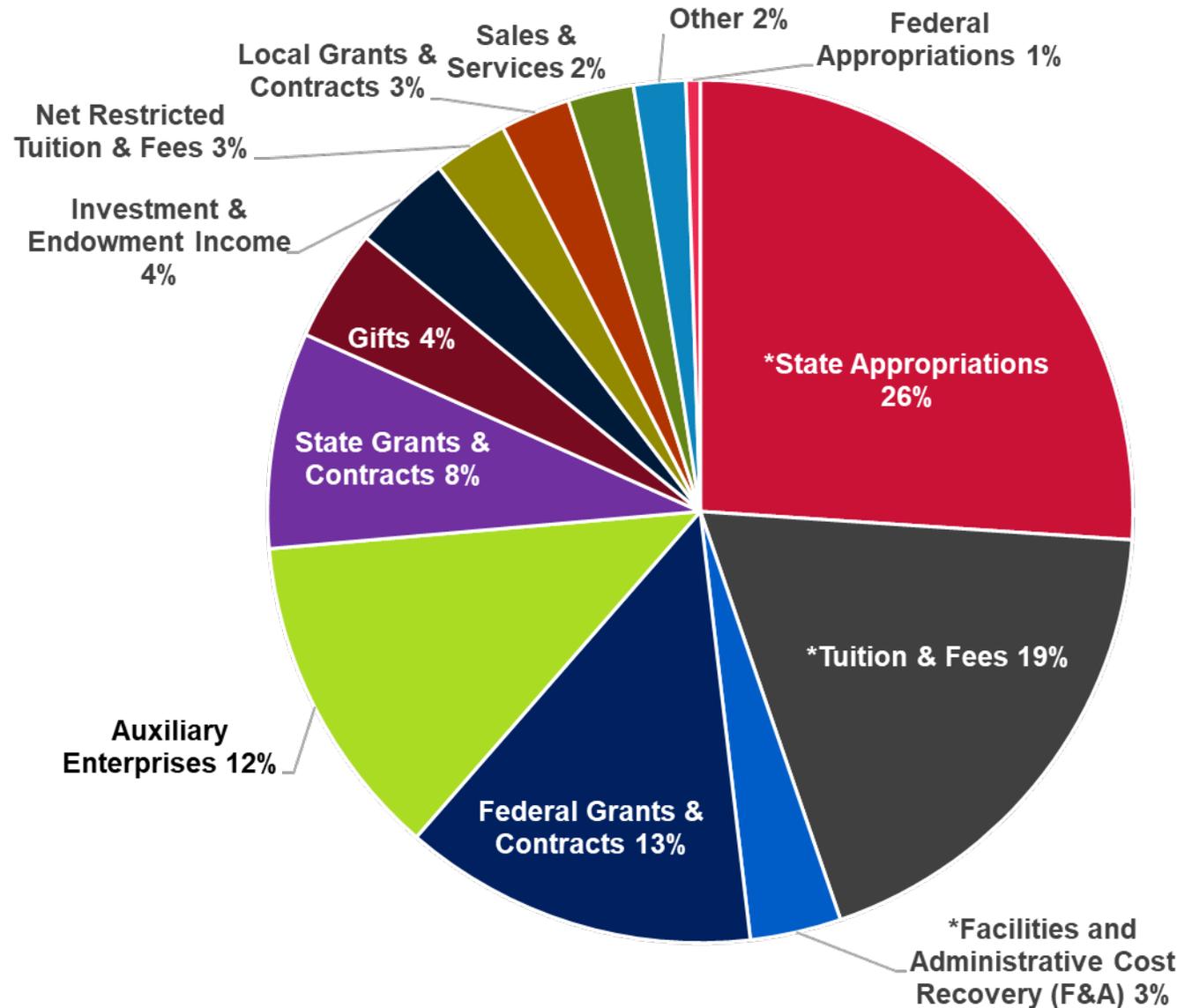
Academic Year 2026-2027 Proposed Tuition Rates for Undergraduate and Graduate Programs



Board of Regents
Finance & Administration Committee
November 13, 2025

FY26 WSU Estimated All Funds Budget

\$1.3 Billion



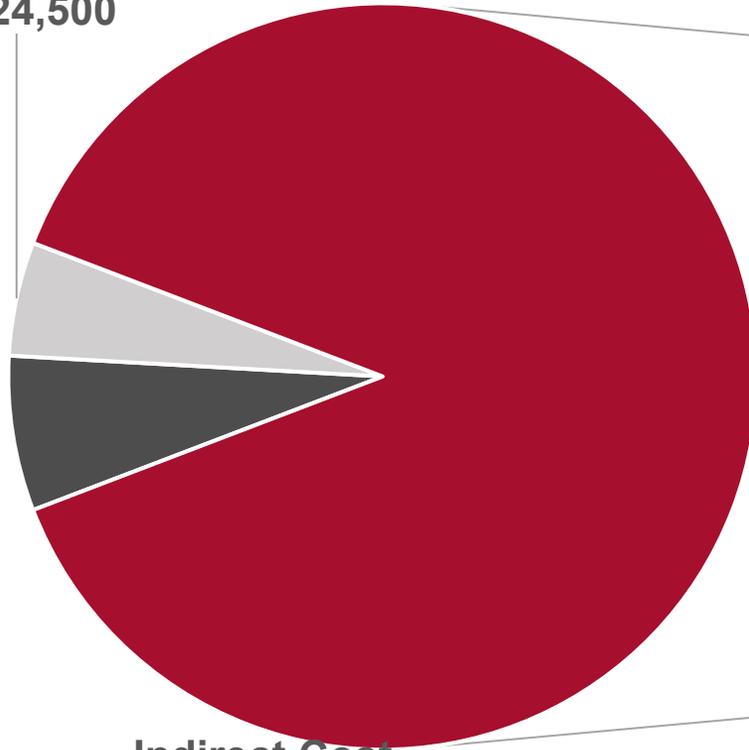
*Available for allocation in the Core Funds budget



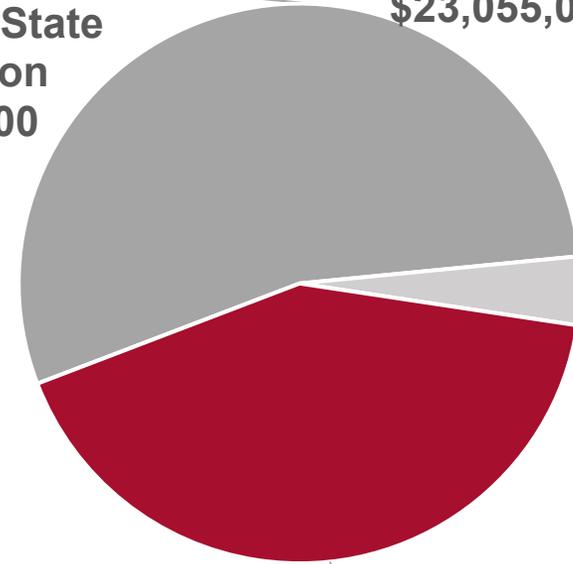


FY26 Core Funds Budget – \$661,330,500

**Administrative
Fees & Interest**
\$32,624,500

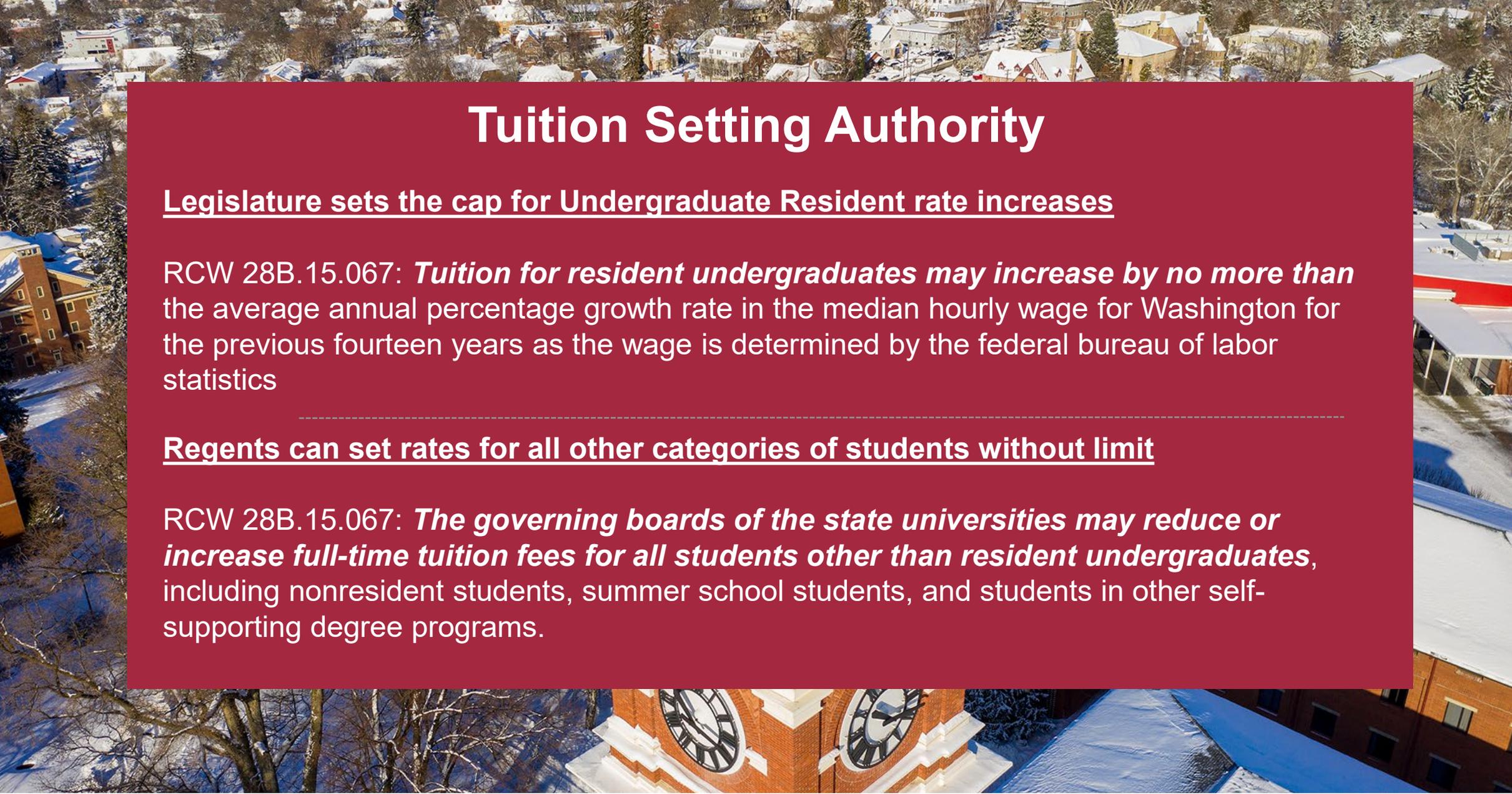


**General Fund State
Appropriation**
\$317,097,000



**Proviso and Other
State Funds**
\$23,055,000

Tuition
\$244,104,000



Tuition Setting Authority

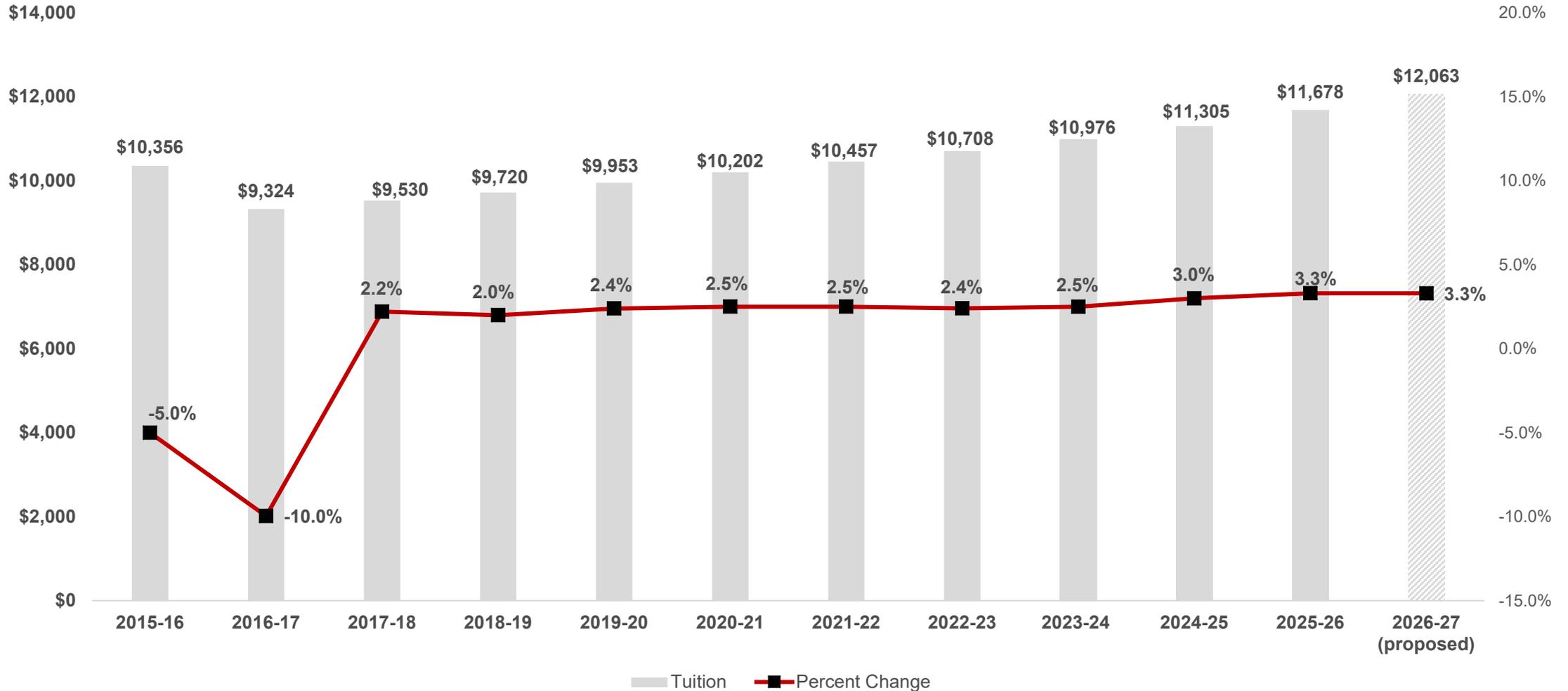
Legislature sets the cap for Undergraduate Resident rate increases

RCW 28B.15.067: *Tuition for resident undergraduates may increase by no more than the average annual percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for the previous fourteen years as the wage is determined by the federal bureau of labor statistics*

Regents can set rates for all other categories of students without limit

RCW 28B.15.067: *The governing boards of the state universities may reduce or increase full-time tuition fees for all students other than resident undergraduates, including nonresident students, summer school students, and students in other self-supporting degree programs.*

Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates Academic Years 2015/16 - 2026/27



State Appropriations

Pre-2015

- State covered all maintenance level cost increases with new appropriations at the maintenance level.
- Fully funded compensation increases.
- Revenue from tuition increases were fully retained by the university to offset costs and support strategic initiatives.

Since 2015

- State assumes how much tuition revenue will be available in the coming biennium and considers that available for compensation and other costs to reduce the state obligation.
- This includes
 - Employee compensation and benefit changes
 - Minimum wage increases and other labor changes
 - Central services – OFM, Audit, Legal, DES, CTS, etc.
 - Self insurance premiums



State Appropriations

The fund-split

- Is the assumed share of state appropriation versus new tuition for covering these costs.
- In the 2023-2025 biennium, new state funds were projected to cover 66% of those costs, with tuition covering 34%.
- In the 2025-2027 biennium, the ratio was reduced so that new state funds would cover 56%, leaving tuition to cover 44%.

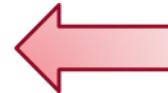
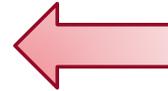
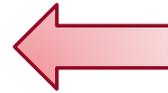
The problem

- State assumes new tuition revenue covers mandatory costs – such as COLAs for represented and classified employees.
- Compensation for faculty and administrative professionals are not mandatory and have been reduced.
- WSU has not met state tuition revenue projections since FY20.



WSU Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rate Changes

Academic Year	Maximum Rate Increase Allowed by RCW 28B.15.067	WSU Increase Approved by Board of Regents
2017-18	2.2%	2.2%
2018-19	2.2%	2.0%
2019-20	2.4%	2.4%
2020-21	2.5%	2.5%
2021-22	2.8%	2.5%
2022-23	2.4%	2.4%
2023-24	3.0%	2.5%
2024-25	3.0%	3.0%
2025-26	3.3%	3.3%
2026-27 (proposed)	3.3%	3.3%



Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)

CommonFund measures the HEPI based on average relative level of prices in a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by colleges and universities each year, therefore more accurate than the CPI for the higher education industry.



Source: Commonfund, Higher Education Price Index 2013-2024 reported through August 2025

The factors that impact HEPI include:

Salaries for faculty, administration, and other employees | Fringe benefits | Utilities | Supplies and materials | Miscellaneous services



Undergraduate and Graduate Tuition Rates Proposed Changes for Academic Year 2026-27

Annual Tuition Rates	Current	Proposed	\$ Change	% Change
Undergraduate Resident	\$11,678	\$12,063	\$385	3.3%
Undergraduate Non-Resident	\$28,784	\$29,734	\$950	3.3%
Undergraduate Resident Global Campus	\$11,678	\$12,063	\$385	3.3%
Undergraduate Non-Resident Global Campus	\$13,065	\$13,496	\$431	3.3%
Graduate Resident	\$13,486	\$13,931	\$445	3.3%
Graduate Non-Resident	\$29,623	\$30,601	\$978	3.3%
Graduate Resident Global Campus	\$13,486	\$13,931	\$445	3.3%
Graduate Non-Resident Global Campus	\$13,486	\$13,931	\$445	3.3%

3.3% increase recommendation based on the percentage authorized under RCW28B.15.067

Rates shown are full-time annual rates for students enrolled in between 10-18 credits.



State of Washington Resident Undergraduate Tuition & Fees

School	Resident Tuition	Mandatory Fees*	AY2025-2026
Eastern Washington University	\$7,775	\$1,155	\$8,930
The Evergreen State College	\$7,506	\$1,971	\$9,477
Central Washington University	\$7,469	\$2,186	\$9,655
Western Washington University	\$7,746	\$2,196	\$9,942
University of Washington – Seattle	\$12,260	\$1,146	\$13,406
Washington State University – Pullman	\$11,678	\$2,210	\$13,888

* Eastern Washington University Services & Activities (S&A) Fee reflected in Resident Tuition.



Resident Tuition and Fees WSU vs. Comparator Institutions

School	Resident Tuition	Mandatory Fees	AY2025-2026
Oklahoma State University**	\$5,417	\$3,827	\$9,243
University of Arkansas**	\$8,093	\$1,973	\$10,065
University of Oklahoma – Norman**	\$5,370	\$4,810	\$10,180
Mississippi State University **	\$10,454	\$150	\$10,604
University of Nebraska – Lincoln	\$8,730	\$2,171	\$10,901
University of Iowa*	\$9,565	\$2,057	\$11,622
University of Tennessee – Knoxville**	\$11,560	\$2,316	\$13,876
Washington State University – Pullman	\$11,678	\$2,210	\$13,888
University of Arizona**	\$12,168	\$1,738	\$13,906
Oregon State University	\$12,675	\$2,577	\$15,252
University of Kentucky	\$13,907	\$1,435	\$15,342
University of Missouri – Columbia*	\$14,333	\$1,214	\$15,547
University of Massachusetts – Amherst	\$17,601	\$886	\$18,487

* Tuition charges differ by college or department. The figures reported represent the lowest applicable tuition rate.

** Indicates base tuition and fees only. Program-specific fees assessed by the institution are not included.



Student Affordability



Washington College Grant , College Bound & Bridge Grant

- Generous Washington College Grant for WA residents with financial need
- Full and Part time awards: \$12,287 to \$1,229
- College Bound Students receive an additional \$500 award

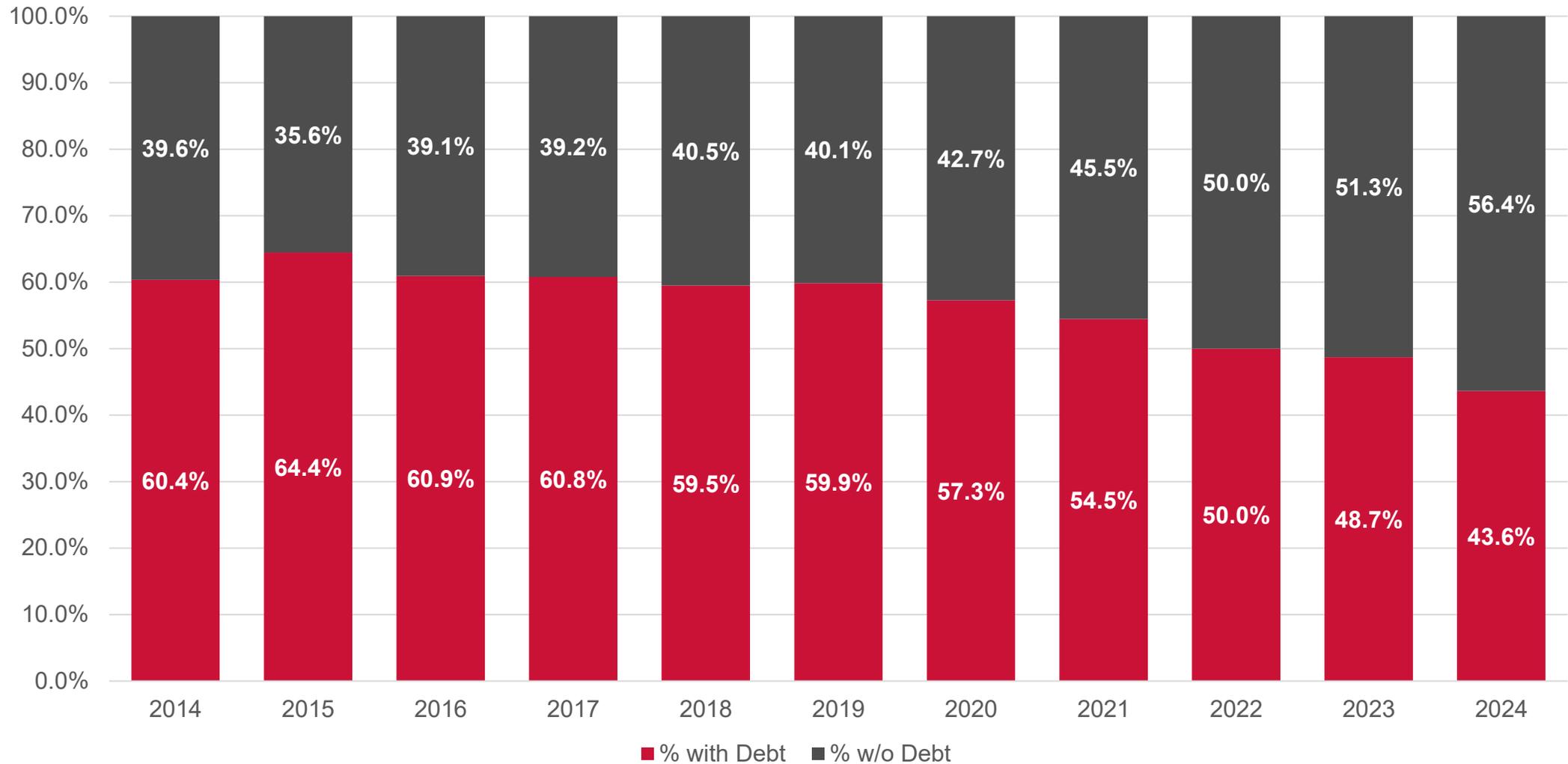


Outcomes of Affordability Efforts

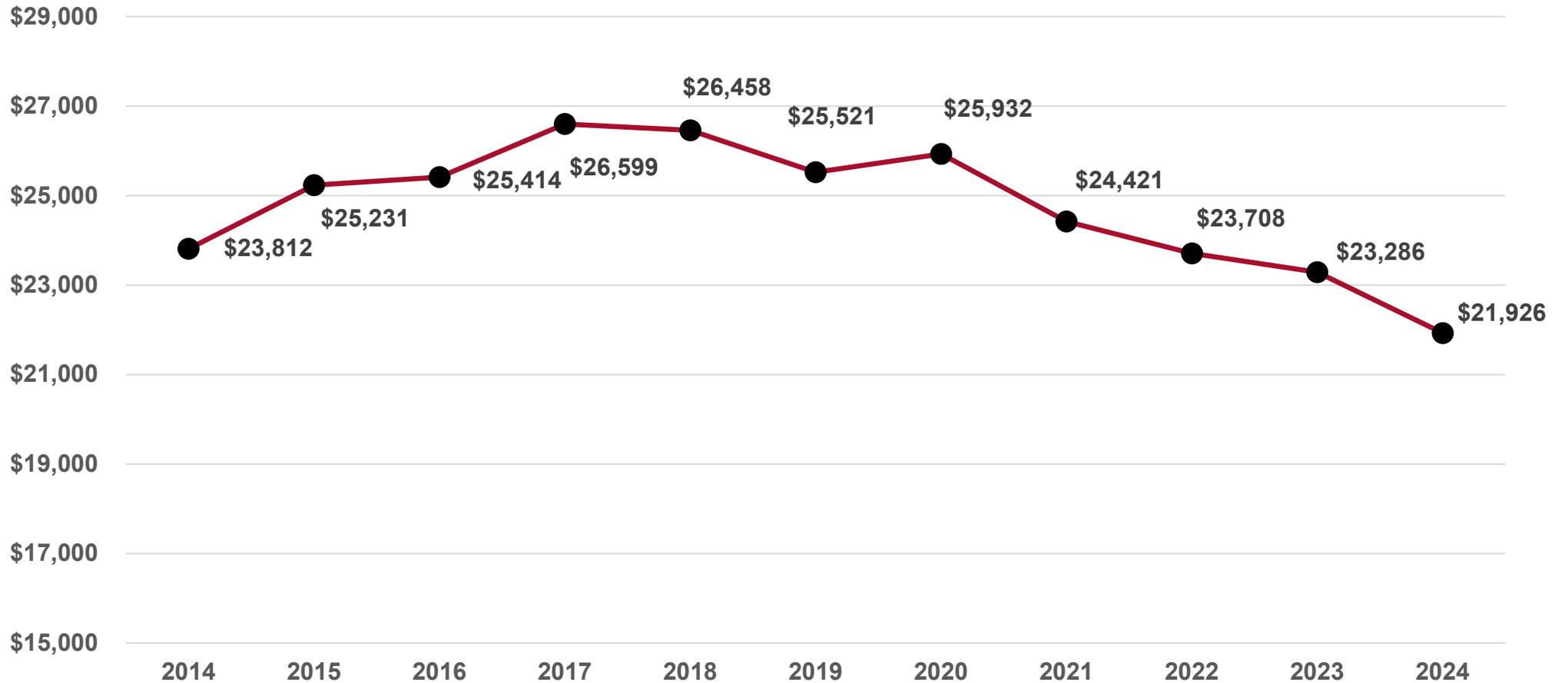
- Resident undergraduates who pay no tuition has improved from 31% in 2014 to 36% in 2024.
- Resident undergraduates who pay full tuition has fallen from 42% in 2014 to 35% in 2024.
- Resident undergraduates graduating with no loan debt jumped from 39.6% in 2014 to 56.4% in 2024.



Trends in Resident Undergraduate Debt upon Completion (2014–2024)



Average Resident Undergraduate Debt at Completion (2014-2024)



Outcomes of Affordability Efforts

Full impact of the Washington College Grant has not been experienced:

- Eligible student from a family of four with income of \$78,500 or less per year would get a full award of \$12,287.
- As an example, public college tuition would likely be free for a family with three children and a single parent earning \$37 per hour.
- For middle-income families, grant amounts are lower. Yet even someone from a family of four earning up to \$131,000 per year can get some money to help pay for college.



WSU Outreach for FAFSA/WAFSA

- Campaigns for *both* prospective/new Cougs and current Cougs.
- Communications – written, electronic throughout the cycle.
- Virtual events and in person events to help students and families complete the FAFSA/WAFSA (<https://financialaid.wsu.edu/event-registration-and-requests/>)
- SFS (Student Financial Services) has a dedicated Communication Center to assist students and parents with a variety of questions about financial aid and scholarships.



WSU Outreach for FAFSA/WAFSA

- Workshops/events at high schools and on WSU campuses to help students complete the FAFSA/WAFSA.
- SFS participates in Visitation and Recruitment Events, assisting students and parents with financial aid & scholarship questions.
- SFS offers appointments for students to meet in person or virtually to assist with any financial aid and scholarship questions, including Spanish assistance option.
- SFS has offers Financial Aid & Scholarships Outreach events for all students throughout the year.



Navigating Federal Shifts

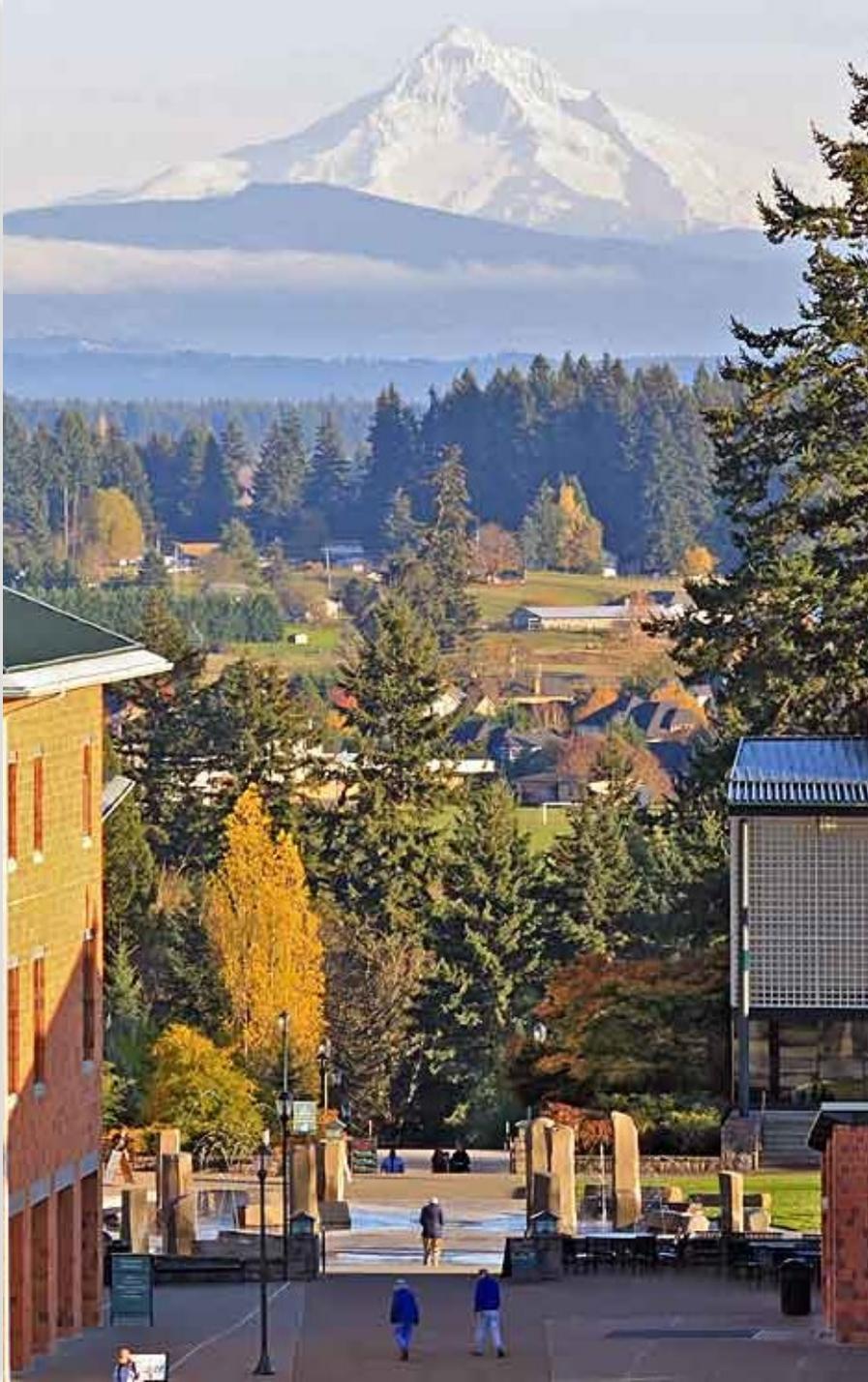
- Financial aid was delivered successfully for Fall 2025, and 2025–26 processing is moving forward as expected.
- The Department of Education opened the 2026-27 FAFSA on time on October 1, returning to a more predictable timeline.
- WSU continues to actively plan and support students and maintain aid access amid evolving regulations and funding uncertainties.





Next Steps – Tuition Rates

- November 13, 2025 - Action item on undergraduate and graduate tuition increase proposal considered by the Board of Regents
- January 22, 2026 – Future Action Item on professional tuition rates
- March 5, 2026 – Action Item on professional tuition rates



Next Steps – Student Fees

January 2026

- Housing & Dining Rates – Future Action
- Student Tech Fee – Future Action
- Student Services & Activities – Future Action
- Other Mandatory Student Fee Increases – Future Action

March 2026

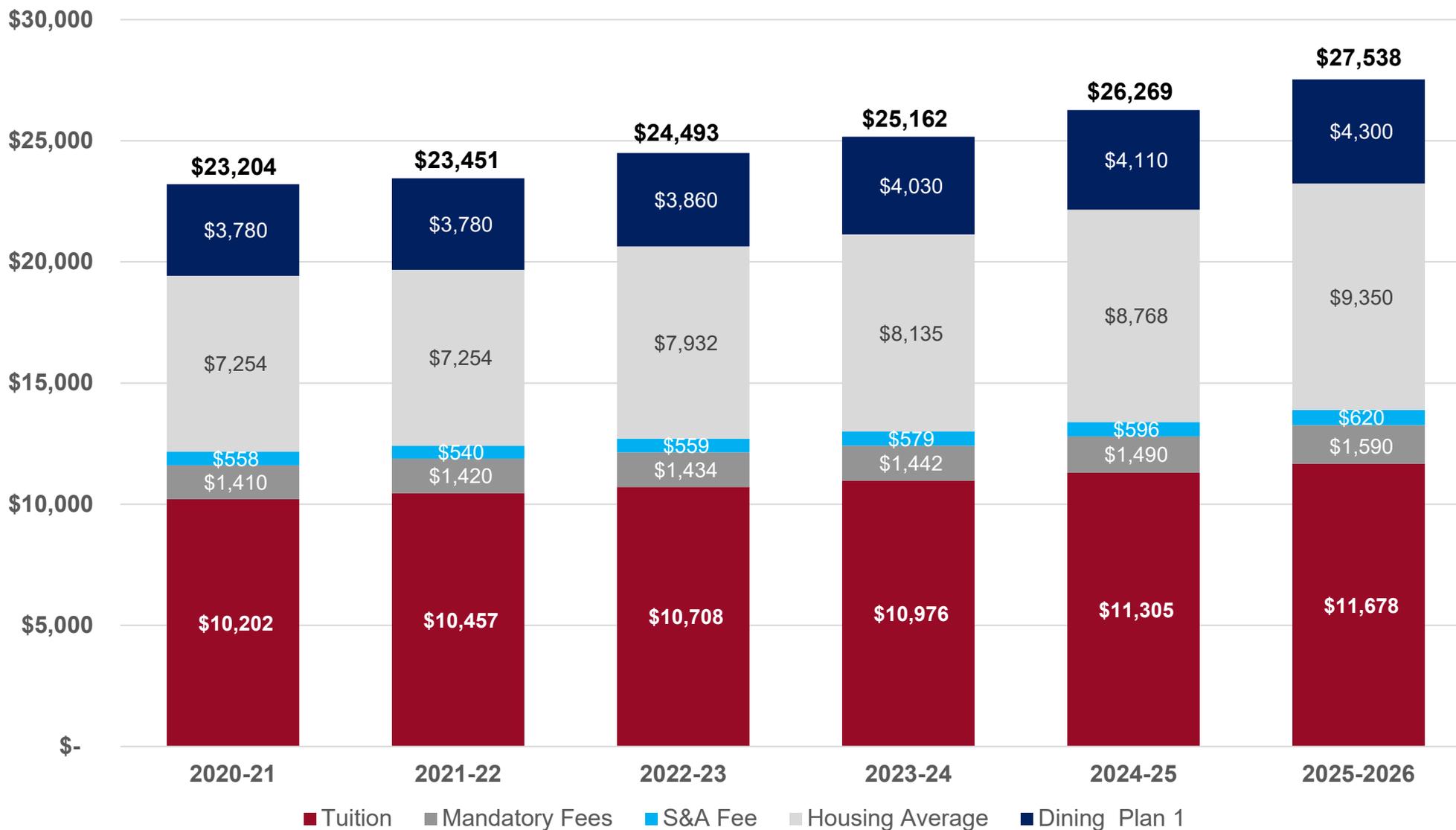
- Housing & Dining – Action Item
- Student Tech Fee – Action Item
- Student Services & Activities – Action Item
- Other Mandatory Student Fee Increases – Action Item



Appendix



Resident Undergraduate Tuition and Required Fees with Average Housing & Dining Charges



10 Year Tuition Rate Change History

AY	Resident Undergraduate	Non-Resident Undergraduate	Non-Resident Undergraduate Global	Resident Graduate	Non-Resident Graduate	Non-Resident Graduate Global
2015-16	-5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2016-17	-10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2017-18	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2018-19	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2019-20	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%
2020-21	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
2021-22	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
2022-23	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
2023-24	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
2024-25	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
2025-26	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
2026-27 (proposed)	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%



10 Year Tuition Rate Change History

AY	Resident Undergraduate	Non-Resident Undergraduate	Non-Resident Undergraduate Global	Resident Graduate	Non-Resident Graduate	Non-Resident Graduate Global
2015-16	\$10,356	\$23,956	\$10,874	\$11,224	\$24,656	\$11,224
2016-17	\$9,324	\$23,956	\$10,874	\$11,224	\$24,656	\$11,224
2017-18	\$9,530	\$23,956	\$10,874	\$11,224	\$24,656	\$11,224
2018-19	\$9,720	\$23,956	\$10,874	\$11,224	\$24,656	\$11,224
2019-20	\$9,953	\$24,531	\$11,135	\$11,493	\$25,248	\$11,493
2020-21	\$10,202	\$25,145	\$11,414	\$11,781	\$25,879	\$11,781
2021-22	\$10,457	\$25,773	\$11,699	\$12,076	\$26,526	\$12,076
2022-23	\$10,708	\$26,392	\$11,980	\$12,366	\$27,163	\$12,366
2023-24	\$10,976	\$27,052	\$12,280	\$12,675	\$27,842	\$12,675
2024-25	\$11,305	\$27,864	\$12,648	\$13,055	\$28,677	\$13,055
2025-26	\$11,678	\$28,784	\$13,065	\$13,486	\$29,623	\$13,486
2026-27 (proposed)	\$12,063	\$29,734	\$13,496	\$13,931	\$30,601	\$13,931



Resident Graduate Tuition Rates Academic Years 2015/16 - 2026/27

