



## 2024-25 Tuition and General Fee Adjustments Institution Formal Written Proposal

### **Summary**

With the completion of the 2024 General Session of the Utah Legislature and the appropriation of state tax funds for the fiscal year 2024-25, the next step in determining sources of financing for the university's operating budget is setting tuition and general fee levels. This formal written proposal from the president requests for the WSU Board of Trustees to recommend and the Utah Board of Higher Education (UBHE) to approve the following 2024-25 tuition and general fee adjustments:

- Increasing general tuition rates by **2.75%** for all undergraduate and graduate tuition tables, including resident and non-resident rates.
- Establishing a differential tuition, flat-rate amount of **\$95** per credit hour for selected general education courses offered at Davis and Ogden-Weber Technical Colleges.
- Setting a differential tuition surcharge of **\$154.36** per credit hour for the Master of Science in Systems Engineering and the Master of Science in Data Science.
- Increasing the general fee amount by **1.75%**.

### **Background**

One of the significant responsibilities of the Utah Board of Higher Education (UBHE) is to approve tuition and fee rates for the 16 institutions in the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). Specifically, Utah Code states UBHE "may fix the tuition, fees, and charges for each institution at levels the board finds necessary to meet budget requirements" ([UCA 53B-7-101.\(8\)\(b\)](#)).

In November 2023, UBHE approved the "2024-25 Guidelines for the Review and Recommendation of Tuition and General Fee Adjustments by Institutional Boards of Trustees" (USHE Guidelines), along with several review materials as a resource for tuition considerations, which is included as Attachment 1.

In addition to the USHE Guidelines, [USHE Policy R510, Tuition](#), and [USHE Policy R511, Tuition Disclosures and Consultation](#), establish overall protocols for setting tuition rates, and [USHE Policy R516, General Student Fees](#), does the same for general fee rates.

The sections that follow provide the details specified in the USHE Guidelines for each of the four proposed tuition and fee adjustments.

### **General Tuition Rate Increase**

The first adjustment to tuition and fees proposed for 2024-25 is a 2.75% general tuition rate increase. USHE Guidelines specify the following general principles for tuition increases:

1. Tuition increases may occur for three reasons: (a) to match legislative funding for compensation and other mandatory costs; (b) as an offset for a reduction in student fees; and (c) to increase revenue for specific institutional needs.
2. Tuition increases for institutional needs should be rigorously scrutinized to ensure they meet specific institutional needs, are justifiable, and are affordable.
3. All alternative funding sources should be considered and demonstrated to be nonviable before increases to tuition are proposed.

The USHE Guidelines also specify that “Boards of Trustees should scrutinize proposals to increase tuition rates and provide a written recommendation to the Board that details:”

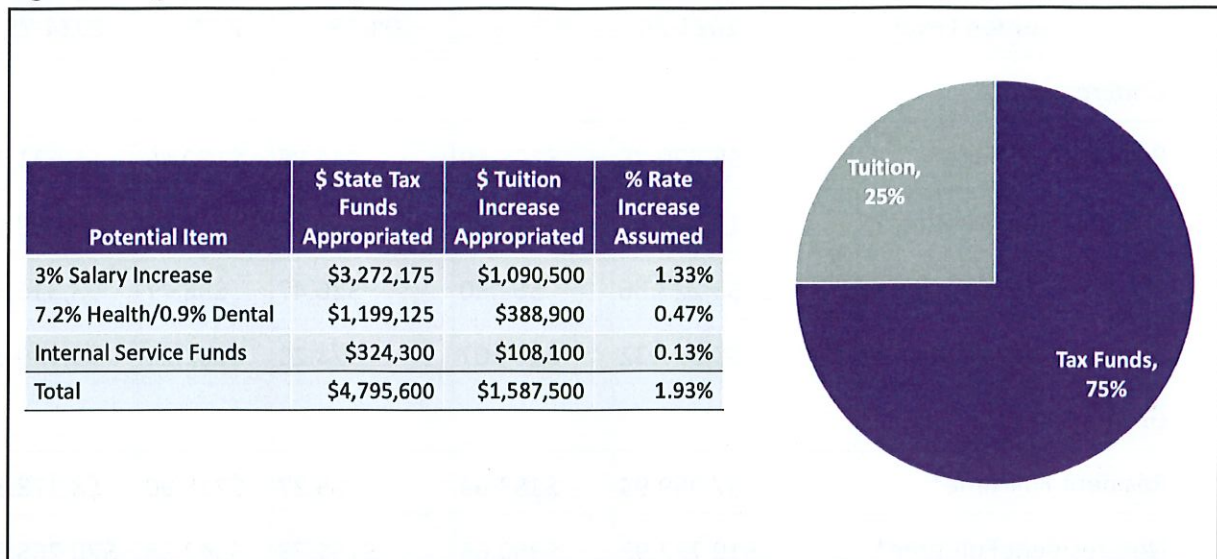
1. **Justification:** does the institution provide adequate detail and description of the need and uses of the new revenue, and does the institution adequately justify the need to increase tuition?
2. **Alternative Funding:** has the institution explored and exhausted other funding sources for the need before proposing a tuition increase?
3. **Affordability Impact:** how will a tuition increase affect the affordability for all Utah students in the institution’s service region?
4. **Compliance with Policy:** do tuition charges and recommendations comply with Board Policy R510, *Tuition*, and R511, *Tuition Disclosures and Consultation*?”

The general tuition rate increase proposed by WSU for 2024-25 of 2.75% is expected to generate revenue of \$2,293,775 to address two categories of budgetary needs for the university:

- Legislative funding match – a 1.93% increase to fund 25% of the legislature’s adopted increases of 3% for salaries and wages, 7.2% for health insurance, 0.9% for dental insurance, and internal service fund increases (mostly property and risk insurance) which total \$1,587,500.
- Specific institutional needs – a 0.82% increase to fund mandated and unavoidable operating budget cost increases, including fuel and power rate increases of \$500,000 and necessary cybersecurity IT software support of \$206,275, which total \$706,275.

**Legislative Funding Match** – The legislative funding match is a practice of the appropriations process to fund 75% of increases for higher education employee salary, wages, and benefits increases, along with increases to internal service fund charges, with state tax funds. Appropriators build in the remaining 25% with an assumed tuition increase (unless there is a tuition freeze like in 2023). Figure 1 displays the breakout of state tax fund appropriations and assumed tuition increases that are built into the 2024 Legislature’s appropriations acts for WSU.

**Figure 1. Legislative Funding Match**



**Specific Institutional Needs** – Because the USHE Guidelines specify that tuition increases for specific institutional needs “should be rigorously scrutinized to ensure they meet specific institutional needs, are justifiable, and are affordable,” the following demonstrates the specific needs, justifiability, and affordability.

The revenue for the tuition increase above the legislative matching requirements is targeted for the two most specific and urgent institutional needs for the 2024-25 budget cycle:

- Fuel and power rate increases reflect bills that the university must pay. WSU Facilities Management staff, specifically our energy manager, has estimated an 8-10% increase in fuel and power bills for the 2024-25 fiscal year which amounts to approximately \$500,000. Fuel and power inflation is being particularly driven by forecasted price increases for natural gas due to the conversion of coal-fired power plants.
- Through the use of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) granted by the federal government as part of the COVID-19 response, WSU acquired vital cybersecurity software tools and support through multi-year contracts. Now that HEERF dollars are no longer available and contracts need to be renewed, it is necessary to provide base budget dollars to maintain these tools as protective measures against current and future cybersecurity threats.

Table 1 highlights the annual, two-semester dollar impact for full-time and part-time, resident and non-resident, and undergraduate and graduate students of the legislative match and institutional need tuition increase requests.

**Table 1. Tuition for Two Semesters**

Tuition Level	Actual 2023-24	Legislative Match 1.93%	Institutional Needs 0.82%	Total Change 2.75%	Proposed 2024-25
<i>Undergraduate</i>					
Resident Full-time*	\$5,470.76	\$105.59	\$44.86	\$150.45	\$5,621.21
Non-resident Full-time*	\$16,164.42	\$311.97	\$132.55	\$444.52	\$16,608.94
Resident Part-time (6 hrs)^	\$3,227.86	\$62.30	\$26.47	\$88.77	\$3,316.63
Non-resident Part-time (6 hrs)^	\$9,537.32	\$184.07	\$78.21	\$262.28	\$9,799.60
<i>Graduate~</i>					
Resident Full-time*	\$7,959.94	\$153.63	\$65.27	\$218.90	\$8,178.84
Non-resident Full-time*	\$19,722.92	\$380.65	\$161.73	\$542.38	\$20,265.30
Resident Part-time (6 hrs)^	\$4,521.70	\$87.27	\$37.08	\$124.35	\$4,646.05
Non-resident Part-time (6 hrs)^	\$11,462.08	\$221.22	\$93.99	\$315.21	\$11,777.29

\* Full-time rates plateau from 11 to 18 credit hours.

^ Part-time rates vary by credit hour from 1 to 10 credit hours. Six is shown here as a part-time example.

~ Graduate tuition rates are based on the master's in education tuition schedule as a graduate example.

**Justifiability** – The request to include funding for the specific needs of fuel and power rate increases and cybersecurity software and support contracts is justifiable. The sources of financing for the university's education and general budget (the primary operating budget of the university) are state tax funds and tuition revenues. Efforts are made on an annual basis to seek increases in state funding from the Utah Legislature to cover the regular increases in these budgets, which typically exceed normal rates of inflation.

Because the outcomes of state funding from the 2024 Utah Legislature include both limited new state funding allocations and ongoing budget reductions, it is necessary and justifiable to seek a limited tuition increase of an additional \$44.86 per year for a full-time resident student targeted at financing the mandated needs of fuel and power rate increases and cybersecurity software and support contracts.

**Affordability** – Judging the affordability of a tuition increase requires analysis of multiple factors, including truth-in-tuition hearings, comparisons with other institutions and inflation indexes, and USHE's affordability analysis which compares the cost of four-year attendance to financial aid and the "Rule of 10" (working 10 hours a week at \$10 per hour to pay for school).

Maintaining affordability for students is the first budget principle of Weber State, as shown in our



Budget Guiding Principles (Attachment 2). This principle drives considerations for requesting a tuition increase.

Maintaining affordability also is a key factor for WSU's high marks for return on investment (ROI). In a 2022 study published by the Center for Education & the Workforce and Georgetown University, [Ranking 4,500 Colleges by ROI](#), WSU is in the top 10% of 4,500 U.S. colleges and universities for return on investment after 10, 15, 20, 30, and 40 years. In addition, Utah Foundation published [Bang for your Buck: Which Utah Schools have the Best Return on Investment](#) in 2023. Listed as the first key finding, the report states "Weber State University tops the list in Utah for students' 10-year net present value of their education."

As required by [USHE Policy R511, Tuition Disclosures and Consultation](#), institutions must advertise and hold consultations with students known as "Truth in Tuition" before requesting tuition increases. After following the appropriate posting and notification requirements, WSU President Brad Mortensen presented the truth-in-tuition information included as Attachment 3 to the WSU Student Association Student Senate meeting that was open to all students, faculty, and staff on February 26, 2024. Pending final legislative decisions, at that time it was proposed to have a total 2% to 3.5% range for the general tuition increase. In response to the presentation, the Student Senate adopted the resolution included as Attachment 4 demonstrating their receipt and unanimous support of the proposal. Receiving support from students for the increase is one factor indicating the affordability of the request.

Other comparisons provided by USHE in Attachment 1, and also found in the Attachment 3 truth-in-tuition presentation, have the following indications of affordability:

- The average WSU tuition and fees increase over the last ten years of 2.5% is less than the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) average increase nationally of 2.8% and the average CPI-U increase of 3.3% for the West region.
- WSU tuition and fees are \$1,900 to \$2,550 less per year compared to Rocky Mountain, Western Interstate Cooperative for Higher Education (WICHE), and national peer institutions.
- Compared to its 11 USHE-approved peer institutions, WSU tuition and fees are within \$100 of its two lowest peers (Utah Valley University and University of North Florida), and 46% to 60% of the total charged by its five most expensive peers.
- WSU students pay less than the USHE average (35.8% compared to 37.9%) of their share of the total appropriated budget of the university.
- To support affordability through scholarships and financial aid (including the 'CATapult Scholarship and Dream Weber programs), WSU provided \$88.1 million to support student affordability to 12,241 students in 2022-23. This means 70% of students receive aid with an average yearly award of \$5,499.

**Alternative Funding Sources** – USHE Guidelines specify that "all alternative funding sources

should be considered and demonstrated to be nonviable before increases to tuition are proposed.” There are two sources of financing for the university’s appropriated general operating (known as education and general) budget, which includes state tax funds and “dedicated credits” in legislative appropriations acts, which for higher education is tuition. Clarifying conversations with the staff at USHE, including the interim commissioner and associate commissioner of finance and facilities, indicate that the expectation for alternative funding sources other than tuition is state tax funds and institutional reallocations.

State funding allocations for performance funding were significantly less in the 2024 Legislative Session than in the prior year. In the 2023 session, WSU was allocated \$3,571,400 that became ongoing performance funding plus an additional \$1,069,050 of one-time performance funding dollars. In 2024, that amount has been reduced to \$968,900. The reduction is a result of several factors, including (a) a smaller pool of performance funding to be allocated (\$20,000,000 compared to \$35,000,000), (b) 20% of the performance funding being allocated to technical colleges for the first time, and (c) all institutions falling short of the combined “access” goal, so one-third of the money is held back to be earned and allocated in future years.

In addition, the Legislature chose to include a 1.5% tax funds base budget reduction for universities and a 0.5% tax funds base budget reduction for community and technical colleges. This amount totals \$1,936,900 for WSU. One-time legislative funds were provided to offset the budgetary impact until the 2025-26 fiscal year. This pending reduction inhibits our ability to allocate new performance funding.

Nonetheless, WSU has identified three pools of funding to support other critical university priorities for the 2024-25 fiscal year. First, we anticipate an increase of about \$600,000 in tuition collections for enrollment growth in 2024-25. We also will reallocate approximately \$500,000 from our 2023-24 performance funding allocation for 2024-25 priorities outlined directly below. Finally, another \$200,000 is being reallocated from other central accounts for facilities maintenance and employee benefits costs to university needs.

With all of that said, we have \$1,300,000 to address other budgetary requirements and investments. Those amounts are quickly consumed by three items. The first is funding graduate program commitments, including the pass-through of their tuition collections, totaling \$260,000. Second is associated with salary increases that accompany faculty promotions and tenure, as well as the post-tenure performance compensation plan, which will require approximately \$533,000. We would plan to dedicate the remainder to initiatives identified in the Weber State Student Success Playbook which were developed in partnership with the National Institute of Student Success at Georgia State University. Specific funding items from the playbook include additional academic advisors and providing base funding to build the support structure needed to establish our “ground truth” for data.



Several other budgetary priorities for the 2024-25 budget, including almost \$1.9 million in Weber State *Amplified* strategic plan priorities, will be unfunded. Examples of these unfunded *Amplified* priorities include expanding outreach to underserved populations, adding instructors who emphasize personalized learning in high-demand fields, acquiring an online counseling tool, expanding high-impact educational experiences, and marketing and branding the university. Enhancements to these budgets will need to wait or be funded with internal reallocations.

The second principle of the WSU Budget Guiding Principles in Attachment 2, “internal reallocations and efficiencies,” will play a pivotal role in the university’s ability to move forward with unfunded strategic plan priorities. WSU has a documented track record of addressing budgetary needs through internal reallocations and efficiencies. In FY 2022-23, internal efficiencies and reallocations addressed budget needs to a total of \$4,637,755, as shown in Attachment 5. Through this process, the university achieved the following:

- Reduced 13.5 full-time equivalent faculty and staff positions.
- Reallocated savings to provide salary enhancements for employee retention.
- Eliminated positions to create new positions in high-need areas.
- Reinvested energy savings into additional energy efficiency enhancements.

Through the reallocations described above and prioritization of budget needs, alternative funding sources for the institutional needs funded with the 0.82% tuition increase above the legislative match level are not available.

***Impact on Access, Retention, and Completion*** – USHE Guidelines dictate that proposals for tuition adjustments also include information on the anticipated impact of the adjustments on student access, retention, and completion. While the proposed increase of 2.75% or \$150.45 per year for a full-time resident undergraduate student represents an increased expenditure burden, several strategies in place at the university preserve our ability to continue improving access, retention, and completion.

WSU is committed to assisting students with financial needs, and that commitment will expand as tuition rates change. Beyond helping students maximize the amount of grant and scholarship support they can receive from other federal and state programs, the university also offers targeted programs to ensure student access and completion. The [Dream Weber program](#) provides full tuition and fees support for 8 semesters for Utah residents who have a household income less than \$50,000, qualify for at least a partial Pell Grant, and enroll for 12 or more credit hours per semester. The [‘CATapult Scholarship](#) supports current students who have completed 50% or more of their graduation requirements and encounter financial challenges.

Since December 1, 2023, WSU students have a new scholarship application tool known as Scholarship Universe. This tool allows students to be matched with and track applications for on-campus and national scholarships. While delays in Department of Education financial aid

upgrades for FAFSA are slowing down need-based awards for all students in the U.S., WSU students can apply within their eWeber portal through the specialized scholarship application linked on the [financial aid website](#).

Dedicating funding from the tuition increase for mandated costs like fuel and power and cybersecurity allows the university to make strategic investments from other reallocated funds, including additional advisors and data support, that are specifically identified as initiatives in our student success playbook to promote access, retention, and completion. Over the last five years, WSU's six-year, first-time, full-time, completion rate has climbed from 31% to 46%, and we know we have more work to do to meet our strategic plan outcomes.

Allocating potential funding for faculty promotions and student success playbook initiatives to cover the fuel and power costs and cyber security contracts would have seriously negative impacts. Forgoing faculty promotions would undermine faculty morale and retention efforts. Delaying the next phase of student success playbook initiatives for advising and data would hamper our ability to deliver proven student support.

If a tuition freeze were to be implemented, it would be necessary to reduce an additional 8 to 12 faculty and staff positions across the institution to meet budgetary needs. This would be challenging and also have negative effects on student access, retention, and completion because it would lower the availability of course offerings and support services and also reduce capabilities to maintain physical and IT infrastructure.

### **Differential Tuition: Select General Education Courses at Tech Colleges**

The second adjustment to tuition and fees proposed for 2024-25 is to seek UBHE approval for a flat-rate tuition of \$95 per credit hour for select general education courses to be offered on the campuses of Davis Technical College (DTC) and Ogden-Weber Technical College (OTC).

[USHE Policy R510.8.3, Tuition](#), allows UBHE to authorize differential tuition schedules on a case-by-case basis. Typically differential tuitions are considered as an additional surcharge, most commonly for graduate programs, that are designed to benefit the program and support related campus services.

In this case, WSU is proposing a differential tuition that is significantly lower than the regular tuition rate for select general education courses that will be taught on our partner technical college campuses to promote and streamline stackable credential pathways.

The proposed rate of \$95 per credit hour matches the tuition rate charged at OTC and DTC for their certificate programs. We anticipate that by matching their tuition rates we will increase access to general education coursework while students are completing tech certifications. This



will allow for a more seamless transition to an associate's or bachelor's degree program after graduation and ultimately increase the transfer rate between regional tech colleges and WSU.

The courses that will be offered at DTC and OTC will include courses that satisfy requirements for composition (ENGL 1010 - English Composition), American Institutions (ECON 1740 - Economic History of the United States, POLS 1100 - American National Government, or HIST 1700 - American History), and quantitative literacy (MATH 1030 - Contemporary Math, MATH 1035 - Contemporary Math with Prereq Topics, or MATH 1050 - College Algebra). Anticipated enrollment is approximately 60 students per year.

Table 2 demonstrates the amount students would pay under the current tuition schedule and under the proposed \$95 per credit hour schedule. Technical college students who capitalize on the opportunity to complete three general education courses on their technical college campus could save up to \$1,595.

**Table 2. Differential Tuition - Select General Education Courses at Technical Colleges**

Tuition Level*	Actual 2023-24	Proposed \$95 per credit hour	% Change	\$ Saved
3 credits	\$941.06	\$285.00	-69.72%	\$656.06
6 credits	\$1,613.93	\$570.00	-64.68%	\$1,043.93
9 credits	\$2,286.80	\$855.00	-62.61%	\$1,431.80
12 credits	\$2,735.38	\$1,140.00	-58.32%	\$1,595.38

\* All of the potential courses are 3 credits except MATH 1035 is 6 credits, therefore a student can earn up to 12 credits on this differential model.

Since the proposed adjustment for a flat rate differential tuition for select general education courses at technical colleges represents a significant tuition decrease for a limited number of students, this addresses the issues related to justifiability, affordability, alternative funding sources, and student access, retention, and completion.

**Differential Tuition: Surcharge for Master of Science in Systems Engineering & Master of Science in Data Science**

The third adjustment to tuition and fees proposed for 2024-25 is to seek UBHE approval for a graduate tuition surcharge of \$154.36 per credit hour for the Master of Science in Systems Engineering and Master of Science in Data Science. This will set the tuition for these programs on par with other master's degree programs in the College of Engineering, Applied Science, and Technology (EAST).

The three other master's degree programs in EAST (Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering,

and Computer Science) each are authorized with a \$154.36 per credit hour differential tuition surcharge (assuming the 2.75% general tuition increase is approved). The revenue from this differential is targeted back to support the programs. Because the systems engineering and data science programs came forward as new programs during a tuition freeze, they could not be considered for the tuition differential. Establishing the differential for the tuition was always included as an important source of financial support for the quality of these new programs. Each program expects to generate around \$50,000 in differential tuition revenue from the 20-30 students in each program. The funding is targeted to support hiring qualified faculty for the programs.

Both of the programs were developed based on requests to support workforce and expertise demands from industry, particularly the aerospace and defense industry in Northern Utah. Many companies and organizations that have approached the university seeking opportunities to upskill current employees in such programs offer tuition support, helping to ensure the affordability of the programs for potential students. These organizations include Northrup-Grumman, Boeing Airplane Inc., Lockheed Martin, Hill Air Force Base, and Autoliv.

Table 3 demonstrates the dollar and percentage impact of the proposed differential tuitions. When reviewing, it is important to consider that the differential surcharge is the same per credit hour regardless of full-time/part-time or resident/non-resident status. Because the dollar amount change is the same for both resident and non-resident students, the percentage impact is higher for resident students because they have a lower base amount.

**Table 3. Differential Tuition - Master of Science in Data Science, Master of Science in Systems Engineering**

<b>Tuition Level</b>	<b>Actual 2023-24</b>	<b>Proposed 2024-25</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Resident Full-time	\$6,017.86	\$9,888.12	\$3,870.26	64.31%
Non-resident Full-time	\$17,780.84	\$21,974.45	\$4,193.61	23.59%
Resident Part-time (6 hrs)	\$3,550.66	\$5,500.62	\$1,949.96	54.92%
Non-resident Part-time (6 hrs)	\$10,491.04	\$12,631.86	\$2,140.82	20.41%

The highly successful track record of access, retention, and completion for the other EAST master's degree programs with this same differential surcharge, addresses the justifiability, affordability, alternative funding sources, and student access, retention, and completion.

#### **General Fee Increase**

The final adjustment to tuition and fees proposed for 2024-25 is to seek UBHE approval for a

general fee increase of 1.75%, or \$16.08 for a full-time student for two semesters. In addition to the USHE Guidelines, [USHE Policy R516, General Student Fees](#), prescribes processes for establishing, reviewing, revising, and repealing general student fees.

According to the USHE Guidelines, “general student fees are institution-wide mandatory fees assessed to students upon registration to benefit students broadly and to support student inclusion, enrichment, and success as a campus community.” Furthermore, “institutions may not use revenue from general student fees to fund instruction, academic support, general administrative expenses, or other expenses that should reasonably be covered with state appropriations, tuition, or non-general miscellaneous student fees.”

Each institution is required to have a general student fee advisory board, made up primarily of students, who recommend adjustments in general fees. At WSU, that group is established in [PPM 6-8, Student Fee Philosophy](#), as the Student Fee Recommendation Committee (SFRC).

Full details about the operations of SFRC can be found on [its website](#). The membership of SFRC includes the Weber State University Student Association (WSUSA) President, the WSUSA Executive Vice President, one additional WSUSA Executive Officer or Senator selected by the WSUSA President, two WSUSA student senators, five students-at-large, two full-time faculty members, the Vice President of Student Access and Success (non-voting), and an ex officio designee by the Vice President of Student Access and Success.

WSU has a unique process for allocating student fee revenues within USHE institutions. Other institutions charge a set fee to each student for each service. For example, Utah State University charges an activity fee of \$37.09 per semester to each full-time student. All the revenue from that fee flows directly to the groups which program student activities. Their student fee advisory committee approves the \$37.09 fee rate.

However, at WSU, all revenue from general fees is pooled, and SFRC determines dollar allocations to qualified student-oriented activities and projects. A total of 36 departments at WSU receive funding from student fees. Each department is required to submit an annual report to SFRC on their funds utilization, including remaining balances, which SFRC uses in determining dollar budget allocations for the upcoming year.

A significant portion of student fee funds across the 36 departments are devoted to staff salaries and wages as well as scholarship funds. The recommended 1.75% general fee increase for 2024-25 is needed to provide funding for the 3% salary and wage increase, 7.2% health insurance increase, and 0.9% dental insurance increase for the staff funded by student fees, as well as to cover the 2.75% tuition increase for student scholarships paid by student fees. The expected revenue from the 1.75% increase is \$250,700 and will be entirely devoted to covering those salary and wage, benefits, and tuition cost increases.

**Table 4. General Fee Proposal**

Fee Level	Actual 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	\$ Change	% Change
Full-time	\$919.90	\$936.00	\$16.08	1.75%
Part-time (6 hrs)	\$582.40	\$592.59	\$10.19	1.75%

\* Full-time rates plateau for 11 credit hours and up.

^ Part-time rates vary by credit hour from 1 to 10 credit hours. Six is shown here as a part-time example.

It is estimated that we will have increased student fee collections due to enrollment growth of \$150,000 for base budget increases. SFRC considered requests from campus departments and programs, reviewing fund balances and the use of previous allocations based on the annual reports that are required from organizations that receive student fees. A master spreadsheet tracks all submissions. Presenters speak to their applications, and SFRC members are encouraged to raise questions about requests, balances, and any concerns from the committee. Final recommendations by SFRC were completed on February 9, 2024. In addition to the base funding of \$150,000 due to enrollment growth, SFRC also allocated \$150,000 of one-time supplemental funds from available balances to fund one-time requests. Attachment 6 outlines the base budget and funding allocations for SFRC that are proposed for recommendation by the Board of Trustees and approval from UBHE. These amounts will be cross-walked to USHE student fee categories for comparability in reporting to USHE.

Attachment 7 is the letter of support from WSUSA President Ashley Potokar indicating the involvement of WSU students in the process and support for a 2% to 3.5% student fee increase.

USHE Guidelines and Policy R516 require special consideration for any student fee increases that are dedicated to funding revenue bonds or capital facility projects. No such adjustments are being proposed this year. No multi-year or large expenditure projects need approval for 2024-25. The adequacy of student fee fund balances is included for review as part of Attachment 8.

Justification for the 1.75% fee increase comes from the necessary increases to salaries and wages and scholarship funds funded currently from student fee budgets. Allocating funding increases from enrollment growth to programmatic increases determined and supported by SFRC allows for programmatic needs to be addressed without increasing overall fee levels. Using the growth funds to address inflationary increases would circumvent the support decisions made by SFRC.

Alternative funding sources for fee increases include switching funding sources from student fees to tuition or doing reallocations within student fee budgets. No changes in funding sources are proposed for 2024-25. The SFRC has the ability to make reallocation decisions and elected not to do so, instead allocating additional revenue from enrollment growth for programmatic



enhancements.

The affordability of the proposed 1.75% student fee increase, by virtue of being just \$16 per year for a full-time student, is minimal. In fact, the 1.75% increase is below the range of 2% to 3.5% which received support from the WSUSA Student Senate and WSUSA President Ashley Potokar.

**Combined General Tuition/General Fee Proposal**

Table 5 below shows the combined impact of the proposed general tuition and general fee increases for 2024-25. For the largest population of WSU students the combined tuition and fee increase is 2.6% or \$166.22 for undergraduate resident full-time students.

**Table 5. Combined 2024-25 General Tuition/General Fee Proposed Adjustments**

<b>Tuition Level</b>	<b>Actual 2023-24</b>	<b>Tuition 2.75% Increase</b>	<b>General Fee 1.75% Increase</b>	<b>\$ Total Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Proposed 2024-25</b>
<i>Undergraduate</i>						
Resident Full-time	\$6,390.66	\$150.45	\$16.08	\$166.53	2.61%	\$6,557.19
Non-resident Full-time	\$17,084.32	\$444.52	\$16.08	\$460.60	2.70%	\$17,544.92
Resident Part-time (6 hrs)	\$3,810.26	\$88.77	\$10.19	\$98.96	2.60%	\$3,909.22
Non-resident Part-time (6 hrs)	\$10,119.72	\$262.28	\$10.19	\$272.47	2.69%	\$10,392.19
<i>Graduate</i>						
Resident Full-time	\$8,879.84	\$218.90	\$16.08	\$234.98	2.65%	\$9,114.82
Non-resident Full-time	\$20,642.82	\$542.38	\$16.08	\$567.68	2.75%	\$21,201.28
Resident Part-time (6 hrs)	\$5,104.10	\$124.35	\$10.19	\$140.36	2.75%	\$5,238.64
Non-resident Part-time (6 hrs)	\$12,044.48	\$315.21	\$10.19	\$331.22	2.75%	\$12,369.88

**Board of Trustees Recommendation**

For the recommendations of the WSU Board of Trustees, see ***“2024-25 Tuition and General Fee Adjustments Board of Trustees Recommendations”*** (Attachment 9).





## 2024-25 Guidelines for the Review and Recommendation of Tuition and General Fee Adjustments by Institutional Boards of Trustees

The Utah Board of Higher Education sets tuition and general fee schedules for USHE institutions each spring. The Board asks institutional boards of trustees to review institutional requests and recommend tuition and fee adjustments that are reasonable, justifiable, and ensure affordability for all Utah students. Each institution's board of trustees chair or designee will present recommendations to the Board as part of tuition and fee deliberations on March 22, 2024. Written trustee reports should be submitted to the Office of the Commissioner no later than March 8, 2024.

### Tuition

#### General Principles

1. Tuition increases may occur for three reasons: 1. to match legislative funding for compensation and other mandatory costs; 2. as an offset for a reduction in student fees; and 3. to increase revenue for specific institutional needs.
2. Tuition increases for institutional needs should be rigorously scrutinized to ensure they meet specific institutional needs, are justifiable, and are affordable.
3. All alternative funding sources should be considered and demonstrated to be nonviable before increases to tuition are proposed.

#### Institutional Proposal

Presidents who wish to adjust their institution's tuition rate must submit a formal, written proposal to the Board of Higher Education that includes the following:

1. The total tuition adjustment in both dollars and percentage increase or decrease;
2. A detailed list of how the institution plans to use the additional tuition revenue, which may include tuition adjustments required to meet Legislative funding matches for compensation and internal service fees, faculty promotion and tenure adjustments, and other operating needs identified by the institution;
3. The anticipated impact of the proposed tuition adjustment on student access, retention, and

completion rates;

4. Rationale and justification for why the tuition rate adjustment is necessary, including reference to the institution's efforts to fund the proposed uses with existing resources through internal reallocation or institutional efficiencies and how the institution would meet the corresponding revenue need if tuition were frozen;
5. Documentation that shows support from the Board of Trustees; and
6. Documentation that shows students were advised of the proposed tuition rates through Truth-in-Tuition Hearings, and at degree-granting institutions, Student Body Leadership Councils.

### Trustee Review and Report

Boards of Trustees should scrutinize proposals to increase tuition rates and provide a written recommendation to the Board that details:

1. **Justification:** does the institution provide adequate detail and description of the need and uses of the new revenue, and does the institution adequately justify the need to increase tuition?
2. **Alternative Funding:** has the institution explored and exhausted other funding sources for the need before proposing a tuition increase?
3. **Affordability Impact:** how will a tuition increase affect the affordability for all Utah students in the institution's service region?
4. **Compliance with Policy:** do tuition charges and recommendations comply with Board Policy R510, *Tuition*, and R511, *Tuition Disclosures and Consultation*?

## **General Fees<sup>1</sup>**

### General Principles

1. General student fees are institution-wide mandatory fees assessed to students upon registration to benefit students broadly and to support student inclusion, enrichment, and success as a campus community.
2. Institutions may not use revenue from general student fees to fund instruction, academic support, general administrative expenses, or other expenses that should reasonably be covered with state appropriations, tuition, or non-general miscellaneous student fees.
3. All alternative funding sources should be considered before new fees or fee increases are proposed.

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<sup>1</sup> This section applies to degree-granting institutions; technical colleges are not authorized to charge general student fees (R516, *General Student Fees*)



4. Student fee requests should be rigorously scrutinized to ensure they are justifiable, reasonable, and benefit students.

#### General Student Fee Advisory Board

Each institution's general student fee advisory board shall require an annual report from each student fee program manager that:

1. Reviews institutional enrollment projections and enrollment impact on general student fee revenue,
2. Examines whether each general student fee may be proportionally adjusted with enrollment change, and
3. Assesses fund balances.

The general student fee advisory board shall provide a report of their annual review of each general student fee, including any recommendations for revision or repeal, to the board of trustees, which shall review the information and may make recommendations for revision or repeal of a general student fee.

#### Trustee Review and Report

Boards of Trustees should scrutinize proposals to increase general fees and provide a written recommendation to the Board that details for each fee:

1. **Justification:** does the institution provide adequate detail and description of the need and uses of the new revenue, and does the institution adequately justify the need to increase the fee? For new fees – is the fee for a service that should reasonably be covered by state appropriations, tuition, or non-general miscellaneous student fees?
2. **Alternative Funding:** has the institution explored and exhausted other funding sources for the need before proposing a fee increase?
3. **Affordability Impact:** how will the fee increase affect the affordability for all Utah students in the institution's service region?
4. **Compliance with Policy:** do general fee charges and recommendations comply with Board Policy R516, *General Student Fees*?

Trustees should also assess the adequacy of individual general student fee fund balances and approve multi-year budgets for large expenditures or reserves needing multi-year revenues.

#### Approval of General Student Fees for Facility Construction

Institutions proposing new general student fees for student-approved facility construction or renovation projects are required by Board Policy R516, *General Student Fees*, to conduct a vote of the student body. Boards of trustees are asked to consider the results of the student body vote, including the percentage of

the student body who voted in the election and the percentage of students who voted in favor of the proposal. Regardless of the outcome of the student vote, institutional boards of trustees are asked to evaluate the need for the fee in their annual recommendation to the Board of Higher Education.

#### 5-year Comprehensive Review

Beginning in 2020-21 and every five years thereafter, the general student fee advisory board and the board of trustees shall comprehensively review all general student fees and determine whether each fee should be retained, transitioned to tuition or state appropriations, or repealed. Boards of trustees shall submit a report of their comprehensive review, including the justification for each fee, to the Utah Board of Higher Education.

### **Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education**

The Office of the Commissioner will work with institutions to provide boards of trustees with information to aid in the tuition-and-fee-setting process, including:

- Current and proposed tuition and fees
- Tuition and fee comparisons with peers
- State appropriations per full-time equivalent student
- State appropriations for instructional expenses
- Enrollment and completion metrics
- Affordability measures

# Weber State University Annual Tuition Review

2024-25 Tuition Setting Process

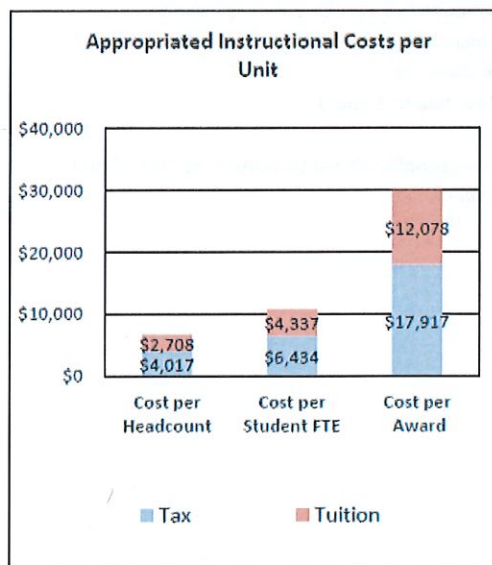
Appropriated Instructional Expenses	2022-23 Actual Expenses	2023-24 Budgeted Expenses
Tax Funds	\$121,390,600	\$150,344,100
Tuition	\$81,829,424	\$82,976,700
Other Funds		
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$203,220,024</b>	<b>\$233,320,800</b>

## 2022-23 Enrollment and Completion

Fall Headcount	Annualized Student FTE	Total Awards
30,222	18,868	6,775

## 2022-23 Inflation, Income, and Costs

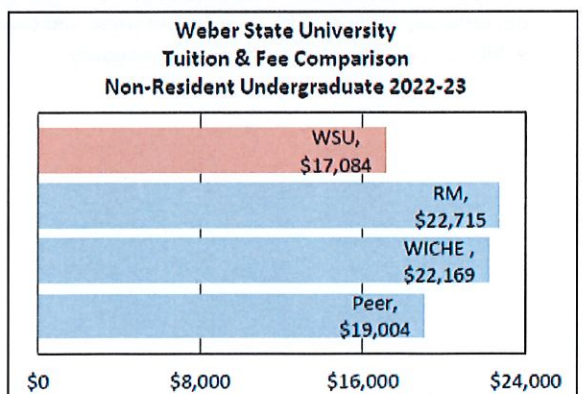
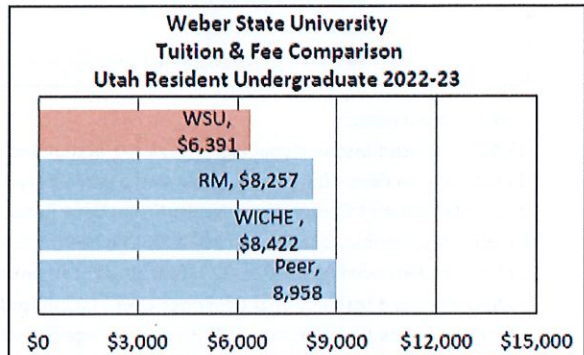
Consumer Price Index	6.30%
Higher Education Price Index	12/15/2023
Median Household County Income	\$74,345
Average Net Cost	\$10,525

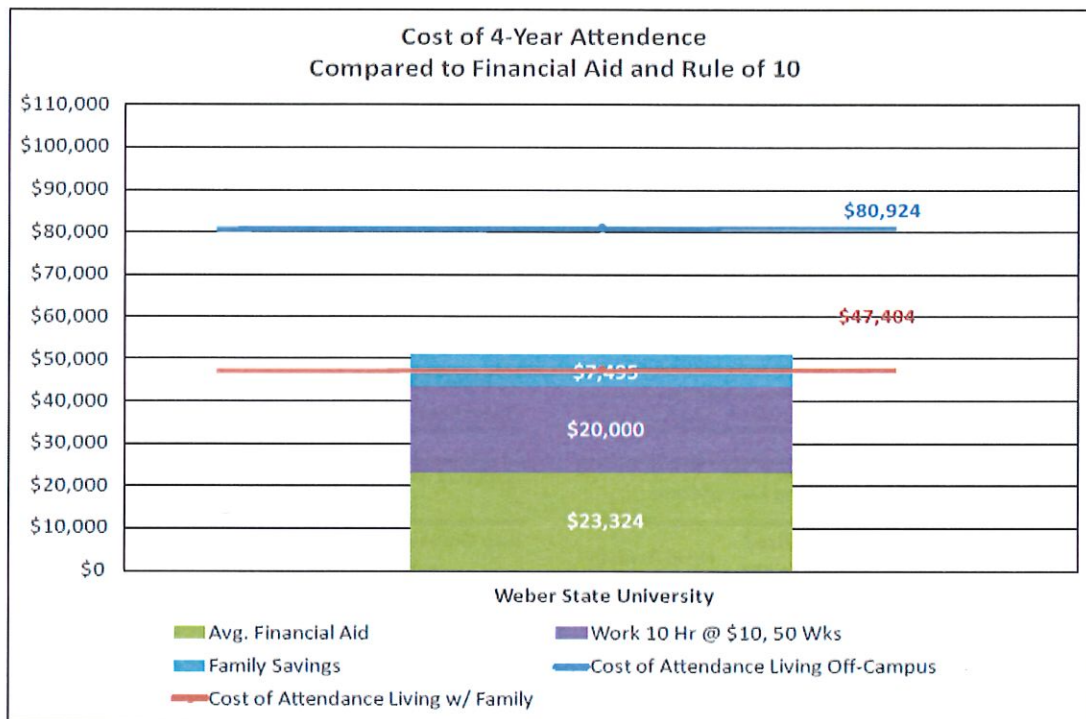


Tuition and Fees	2023-24 Current Tuition & Fees	2024-25 Requested Tuition & Fees
In-State Undergraduate	\$6,391	
Out-of-State Undergrad.	\$17,084	
In-State Graduate	\$8,880	
Out-of-State Graduate	\$20,643	

## 2021-22 Student Financial Aid

	Number	Average
Any Grant or Scholarship	15,935	\$4,476
Pell Grants	5,070	\$4,518
Federal Student Loans	2,961	\$6,566





**Sources and Notes:**

- 1) Appropriated Instructional Expenses - A-1 actual and budgeted total tax and tuition appropriations
- 2) Tuition and Fees - Data Book Table 4 two semesters of 15 credit hours
- 3) Enrollment and Completion - Institutional Data Resources dashboard all enrollments and awards
- 4) Inflation, Income, and Costs - 2022-23 CPI, HEPI, U.S. Census income by county, IPEDS net price
- 5) Student Financial Aid - 2021-22 IPEDS student financial aid all students
- 6) Appropriated Instructional Costs per Unit - Calculated based on data in 1 and 3
- 7) Tuition & Fee Comparison - WICHE and College Board surveys
- 8) 2021-22 Financial Aid and Lumina Rule of 10 - Individuals can reasonably afford to contribute 10% of their discretionary income, work 10 hours per week, and save for 10 years.
- 9) R510.5.1 - Tuition Annual Review Board policy



## Utah System of Higher Education

2024-25 Tuition Increase Estimates by Institution

	(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)		(e)	
	Net Tuition Revenue - FY24 R- 1 Budget		3% Salary & Related Benefits		7.2% Health and 0.9% Dental Insurance		Internal Service Funds (Liability, Fuel Network, Motor Pool, Property, AG, State Travel, Auto, Cybersecurity)		2024-25 Total Changes	
	Amount		Amount	% Change	Amount	% Change	Amount	% Change	Amount	% Change
University of Utah	\$406,766,380		\$4,969,600	1.22%	\$1,174,000	0.29%	\$1,795,700	0.44%	\$7,939,300	1.95%
Utah State University	168,364,000		2,005,000	1.19%	778,600	0.46%	291,400	0.17%	3,075,000	1.83%
Weber State University	82,081,814		1,090,500	1.33%	388,900	0.47%	108,100	0.13%	\$1,587,500	1.93%
Southern Utah University	66,583,000		697,100	1.05%	223,000	0.33%	108,480	0.16%	1,028,580	1.54%
Snow College	12,962,000		242,400	1.87%	109,500	0.84%	58,500	0.45%	\$410,400	3.17%
Utah Tech University	43,910,000		525,100	1.20%	232,200	0.53%	79,000	0.18%	836,300	1.90%
Utah Valley University	148,418,900		1,662,300	1.12%	675,700	0.46%	112,100	0.08%	\$2,450,100	1.65%
Salt Lake Community College	56,811,372		986,600	1.74%	315,300	0.55%	46,000	0.08%	1,347,900	2.37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$985,897,466</b>		<b>\$12,178,600</b>	<b>1.24%</b>	<b>\$3,897,200</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>\$2,599,280</b>	<b>0.26%</b>	<b>\$18,675,080</b>	<b>1.89%</b>

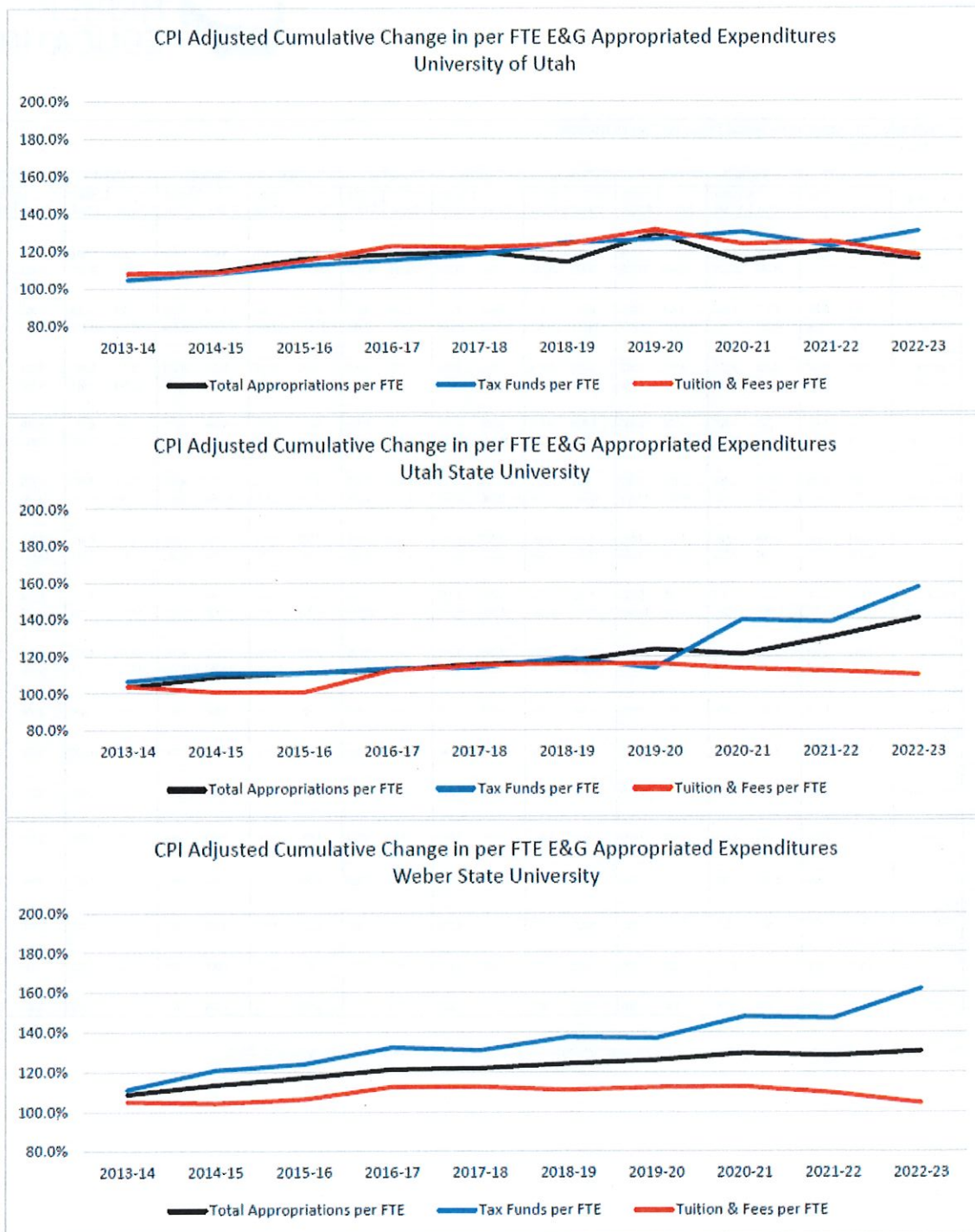


TABLE 1

## USHE 10-Year Changes in Enrollments and Appropriated Expenditures, Tax Funds and Tuition &amp; Fees per FTE

Institution	Budget-related Annualized FTE	Current Dollars			Constant Dollars		
		Expenditures per FTE	Tax Funds per FTE	Tuition & Fees per FTE	Expenditures per FTE	Tax Funds per FTE	Tuition & Fees per FTE
<b>University of Utah<sup>1</sup></b>							
2012-13 Actual	29,335	\$14,421	\$6,744	\$7,562	\$18,680	\$8,736	\$9,796
2013-14 Actual	28,998	\$15,707	\$7,137	\$8,273	\$20,034	\$9,102	\$10,552
2014-15 Actual	28,669	\$16,054	\$7,422	\$8,368	\$20,328	\$9,398	\$10,596
2015-16 Actual	28,580	\$17,204	\$7,791	\$8,920	\$21,639	\$9,800	\$11,219
2016-17 Actual	28,844	\$17,862	\$8,125	\$9,691	\$22,060	\$10,034	\$11,968
2017-18 Actual	29,040	\$18,471	\$8,526	\$9,848	\$22,310	\$10,298	\$11,895
2018-19 Actual	29,300	\$17,997	\$9,165	\$10,207	\$21,295	\$10,845	\$12,078
2019-20 Actual	29,332	\$20,704	\$9,436	\$11,005	\$24,121	\$10,993	\$12,822
2020-21 Actual	29,902	\$18,770	\$9,952	\$10,587	\$21,376	\$11,334	\$12,057
2021-22 Actual	30,866	\$21,136	\$10,045	\$11,460	\$22,460	\$10,674	\$12,178
2022-23 Actual	31,418	\$21,560	\$11,363	\$11,472	\$21,560	\$11,363	\$11,472
% Change	7.1%	49.5%	68.5%	51.7%	15.4%	30.1%	17.1%
<b>Utah State University</b>							
2012-13 Actual	20,385	\$12,357	\$6,504	\$5,686	\$16,006	\$8,425	\$7,365
2013-14 Actual	20,010	\$12,967	\$7,025	\$5,971	\$16,539	\$8,960	\$7,616
2014-15 Actual	20,464	\$13,782	\$7,365	\$5,839	\$17,451	\$9,326	\$7,393
2015-16 Actual	21,399	\$14,115	\$7,420	\$5,870	\$17,752	\$9,332	\$7,383
2016-17 Actual	21,443	\$14,589	\$7,728	\$6,678	\$18,018	\$9,544	\$8,248
2017-18 Actual	21,498	\$15,329	\$7,934	\$7,010	\$18,514	\$9,583	\$8,467
2018-19 Actual	21,835	\$15,832	\$8,468	\$7,183	\$18,734	\$10,019	\$8,500
2019-20 Actual	21,407	\$16,998	\$8,203	\$7,315	\$19,804	\$9,557	\$8,522
2020-21 Actual	21,217	\$17,017	\$10,317	\$7,293	\$19,380	\$11,749	\$8,305
2021-22 Actual	20,661	\$19,622	\$10,967	\$7,724	\$20,850	\$11,654	\$8,208
2022-23 Actual	20,704	\$22,512	\$13,229	\$8,061	\$22,512	\$13,229	\$8,061
% Change	1.6%	82.2%	103.4%	41.8%	40.6%	57.0%	9.5%
<b>Weber State University</b>							
2012-13 Actual	15,299	\$8,443	\$4,092	\$4,310	\$10,937	\$5,301	\$5,583
2013-14 Actual	14,448	\$9,325	\$4,609	\$4,580	\$11,894	\$5,878	\$5,841
2014-15 Actual	14,458	\$9,793	\$5,050	\$4,577	\$12,401	\$6,395	\$5,795
2015-16 Actual	14,396	\$10,185	\$5,214	\$4,702	\$12,810	\$6,558	\$5,913
2016-17 Actual	14,191	\$10,737	\$5,672	\$5,066	\$13,260	\$7,005	\$6,257
2017-18 Actual	14,476	\$11,035	\$5,736	\$5,182	\$13,328	\$6,928	\$6,259
2018-19 Actual	14,691	\$11,471	\$6,151	\$5,216	\$13,573	\$7,278	\$6,172
2019-20 Actual	14,698	\$11,822	\$6,222	\$5,356	\$13,773	\$7,249	\$6,240
2020-21 Actual	14,675	\$12,418	\$6,867	\$5,495	\$14,142	\$7,820	\$6,258
2021-22 Actual	14,318	\$13,184	\$7,320	\$5,725	\$14,010	\$7,778	\$6,084
2022-23 Actual	14,104	\$14,271	\$8,576	\$5,802	\$14,271	\$8,576	\$5,802
% Change	-7.8%	69.0%	109.6%	34.6%	30.5%	61.8%	3.9%







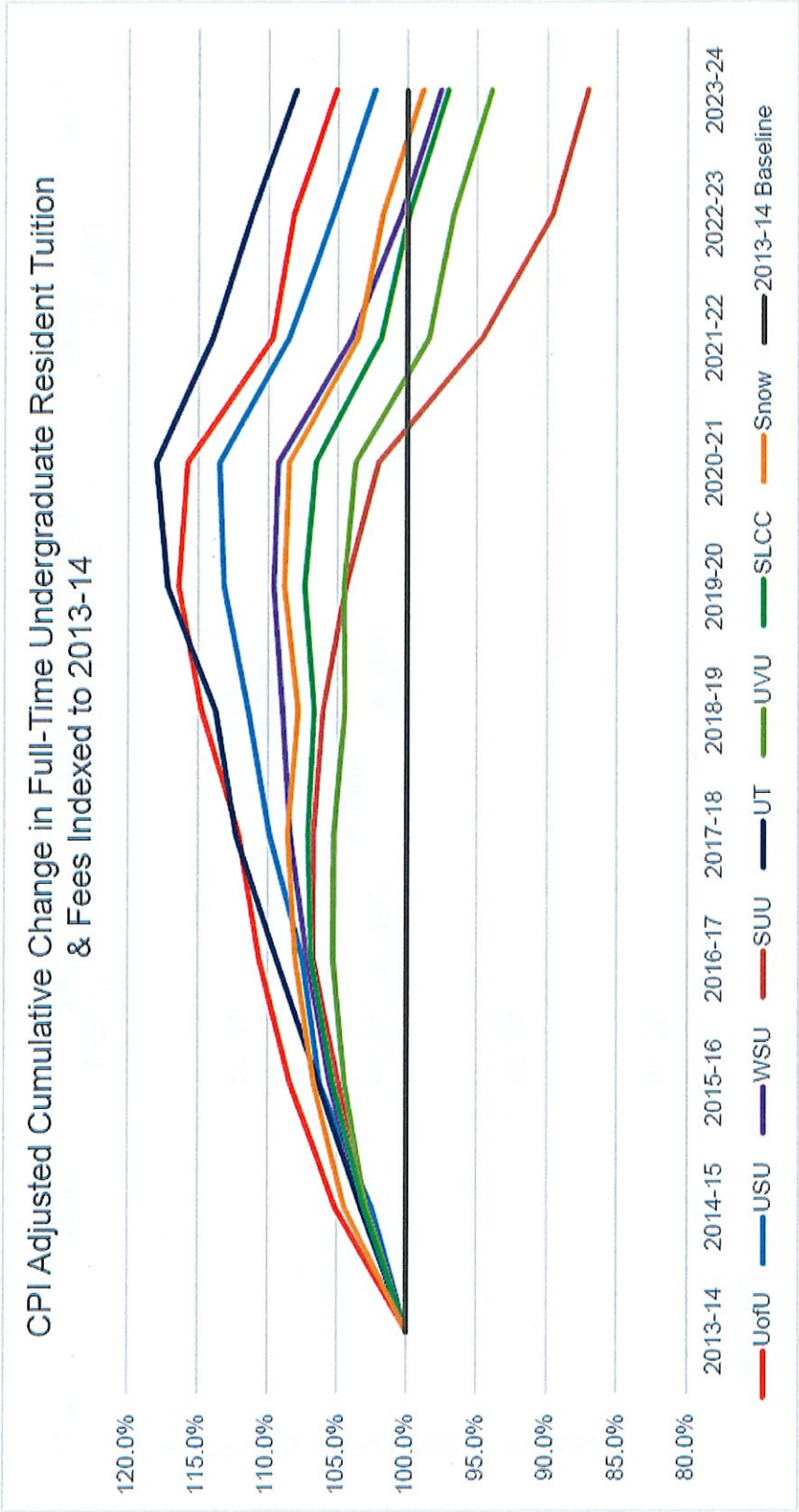
**USHE Summary of Undergraduate Annual Tuition and Fees by Institution**  
2014-15 through 2023-24

Table 4	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Tuition	Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Tuition & Fees	Tuition	Tuition & Fees
UofU <sup>1</sup>																				
Resident	6,889	7,895	7,130	8,197	7,408	8,518	7,697	8,824	7,997	9,222	8,253	9,500	8,418	9,665	8,628	9,817	9,103	10,287	9,103	10,287
Nonresident	24,111	25,178	24,955	26,022	25,929	27,039	26,940	28,067	27,990	29,215	28,886	30,134	29,464	30,711	30,201	31,389	31,861	33,045	31,861	33,045
USU																				
Resident	5,454	6,383	5,617	6,664	5,814	6,866	6,105	7,175	6,342	7,424	6,549	7,659	6,732	7,859	7,137	8,055	7,387	8,305	7,387	8,305
Nonresident	17,561	18,490	18,087	19,133	18,720	19,772	19,657	20,727	20,423	21,505	21,087	22,197	21,677	22,805	22,517	23,434	23,305	24,222	23,305	24,222
WSU																				
Resident	4,326	5,183	4,456	5,339	4,611	5,523	4,773	5,712	4,892	5,859	4,990	5,986	5,090	6,106	5,329	6,228	5,471	6,391	5,471	6,391
Nonresident	12,980	13,837	13,369	14,252	13,837	14,749	14,321	15,260	14,679	15,646	14,973	15,969	15,272	16,288	15,746	16,645	16,164	17,084	16,164	17,084
SUU																				
Resident	5,416	6,138	5,578	6,300	5,774	6,530	5,918	6,676	6,006	6,770	6,006	6,770	6,006	6,770	6,006	6,726	6,006	6,770	6,006	6,770
Nonresident	17,874	18,596	18,410	19,132	19,054	19,810	19,530	20,288	19,822	20,586	19,822	20,586	19,822	20,586	19,822	20,542	19,822	20,586	19,822	20,586
Snow																				
Resident	2,998	3,388	3,088	3,484	3,196	3,592	3,276	3,692	3,326	3,742	3,410	3,836	3,486	3,912	3,616	4,000	3,796	4,180	3,796	4,180
Nonresident	10,952	11,342	11,280	11,676	11,675	12,071	11,966	12,382	12,146	12,562	12,450	12,876	12,450	12,876	13,092	13,476	13,746	14,130	13,746	14,130
UT																				
Resident	3,794	4,456	3,908	4,620	4,104	4,840	4,308	5,080	4,458	5,253	4,680	5,496	4,822	5,662	5,064	5,862	5,267	6,075	5,267	6,075
Nonresident	12,130	12,792	12,484	13,206	13,119	13,855	13,776	14,548	14,256	15,051	14,976	15,792	15,420	16,260	16,188	16,986	16,836	17,644	16,836	17,644
UVU																				
Resident	4,542	5,270	4,678	5,386	4,840	5,530	4,962	5,652	5,036	5,726	5,122	5,820	5,192	5,906	5,368	6,010	5,614	6,270	5,614	6,270
Nonresident	14,074	14,802	14,494	15,202	15,000	15,690	15,376	16,066	15,606	16,296	15,872	16,570	16,092	16,806	16,450	17,092	17,174	17,830	17,174	17,830
SLCC																				
Resident	3,040	3,468	3,130	3,568	3,239	3,689	3,319	3,781	3,369	3,843	3,437	3,929	3,488	3,989	3,632	4,086	3,778	4,257	3,778	4,257
Nonresident	10,582	11,010	10,582	11,020	11,277	11,728	11,558	12,020	11,732	12,206	11,968	12,460	12,208	12,709	12,280	12,733	13,222	13,701	13,222	13,701
BTECH																				
Res/Nonres	1,575	1,575	1,575	1,575	1,665	1,665	1,665	1,665	1,755	1,755	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,850	2,850
DTECH																				
Res/Nonres	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,845	1,845	1,845	1,845	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	2,850	2,850
DXTECH																				
Res/Nonres	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	3,150	3,150
MTECH																				
Res/Nonres	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	3,600	3,600
OWTECH																				
Res/Nonres	1,620	1,620	1,665	1,665	1,710	1,710	1,710	1,710	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,850	2,850
SWTECH																				
Res/Nonres	1,575	1,575	1,575	1,575	1,620	1,620	1,620	1,620	1,755	1,755	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,850	2,850
TTECH																				
Res/Nonres	1,575	1,575	1,575	1,575	1,620	1,620	1,620	1,620	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,550	2,550
UBTECH																				
Res/Nonres	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	3,000	3,000

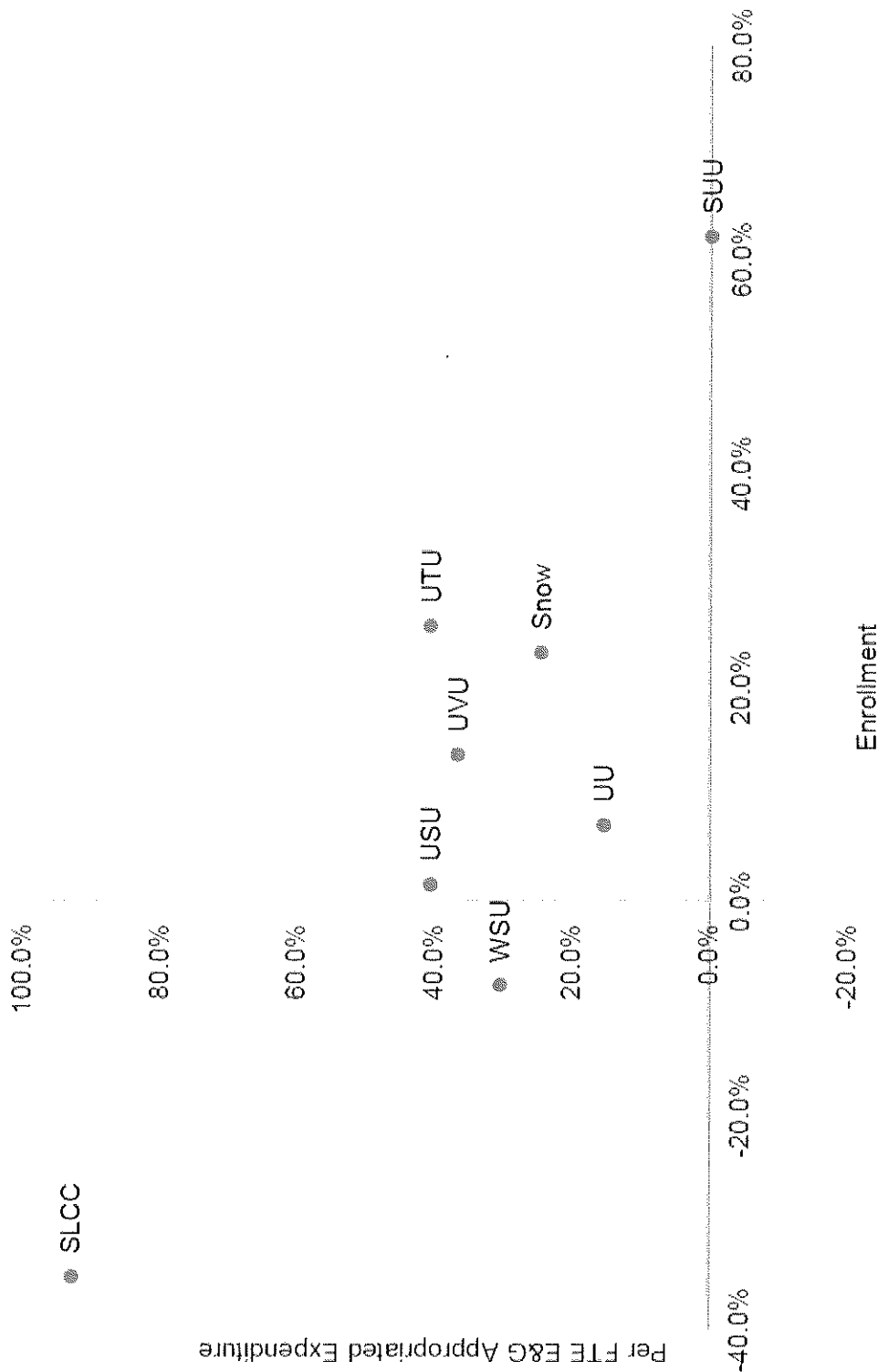
## Notes:

One full-time equivalent (FTE) student of two semesters at 15 credit hours for degree granting institutions, and 900 membership hours for technical colleges prior to 2023-24.

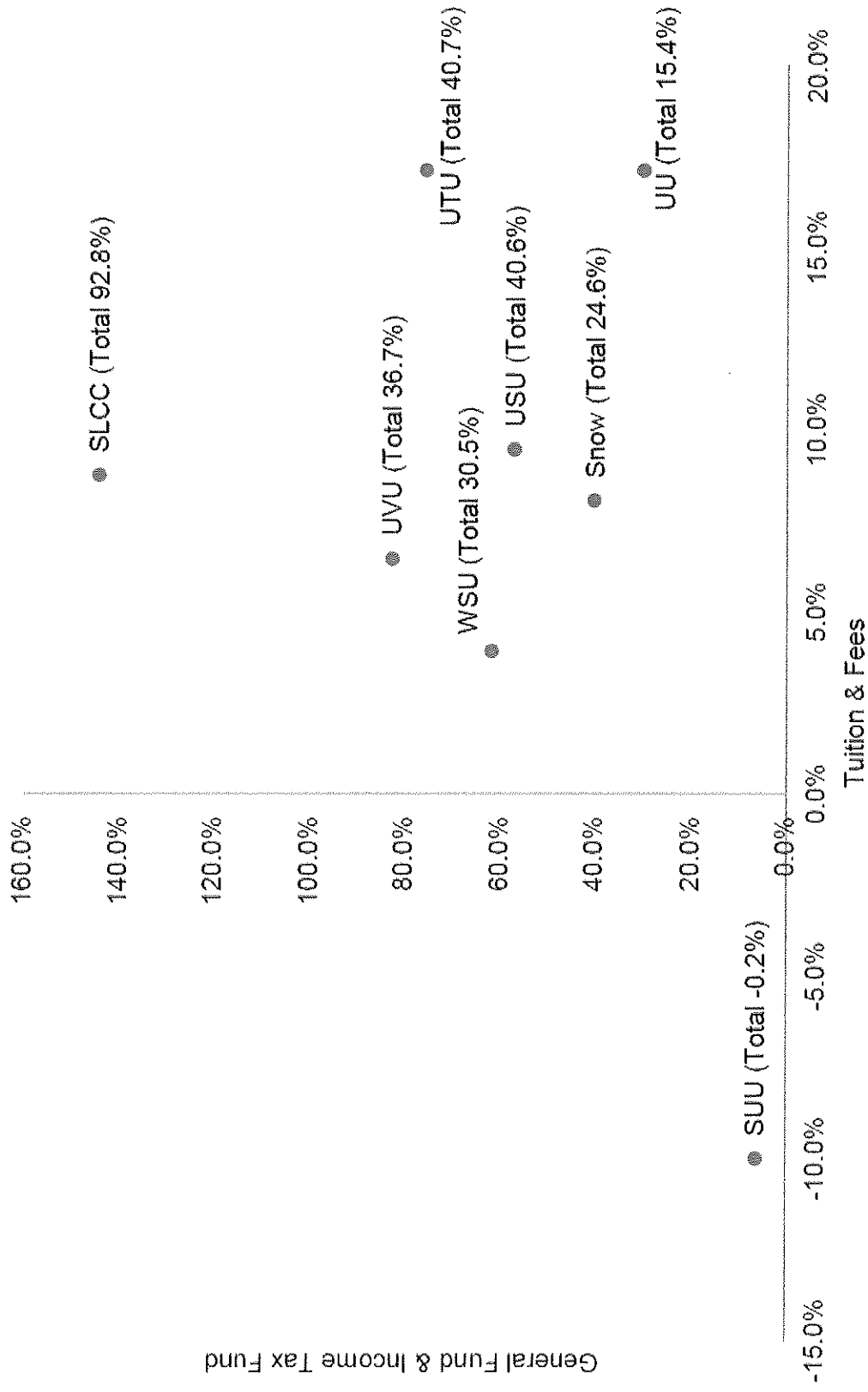




# 2012-13 to 2022-23 CPI Adjusted Change in Per FTE E&G Appropriated Expenditures and Enrollment



# 2012-13 to 2022-23 CPI Adjusted Change in Per FTE E&G Tuition/Fees and General Fund/Income Tax Fund Expenditures







## **WSU FY25 Budget Guiding Principles**

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### ***1. Affordability Compact***

- Maintain low tuition levels while encouraging legislative commitment to higher education
- Keep WSU affordable to low-income families through Dream Weber and other programs

### ***2. Internal Efficiencies/Reallocations***

- Seek first internal sources for current organizational budgetary needs

### ***3. Quality Faculty and Programs***

- Encourage quality teaching, research, scholarship through incentive pay for faculty
- Build and support academic programs that address regional economic development needs
- Foster academic excellence and personal connections between faculty, staff and students

### ***4. Student Success***

- Improve overall retention and graduation rates of the university
- Close completion gaps between overall students and populations of interest
- Identify at-risk students early and provide adequate support for success

### ***5. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion***

- Adjust university practices contributing to unequal student outcomes
- Focus recruitment, hiring, and retention practices to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Connect with local minority communities and build high-school to college bridges
- Achieve the status of an Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution
- Increase support resources for educationally disadvantaged populations

### ***6. Other Strategic Priorities***

- Establish student recruitment as an institutional core competency
- Grow WSU's anchor mission in the areas of community building and sustainability
- Improve the marketing and branding of WSU to key target audiences

### ***7. Budget Maintenance***

- Cover mandated cost increases
- Provide competitive compensation for employees
- Optimize fringe benefit programs





**Best ROI**  
UTAH HIGHER ED  
2022

**BEST 10-YEAR INVESTMENT IN UTAH**  
*Utah Foundation report*

- Georgetown Center for Education & the Workforce: Ranking 4,500 Colleges by ROI
- WSU is in the Top 10% for Return on Investment after 10, 15, 20, 30, & 40 years
- Utah Foundation: Bang for your Buck: Which Utah Schools have the Best Return on Investment
- Key Finding: "WSU tops the list in Utah for students' 10-year net present value of their education."

**Return On Investment Recognition**



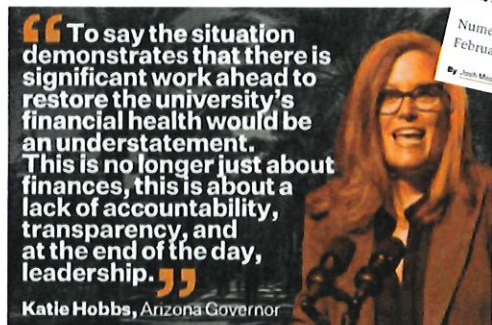
## Higher Education Institution Financial Challenges

January 31, 2024

### University of Arizona Begins to Address Financial Woes

Facing a projected \$177 million budget deficit, UA administrators are working on a recovery plan amid sharp criticism from the governor and others.

By Josh Moody



May 03, 2023

### Slimming Down to Stay Afloat

Projecting an enrollment nosedive, West Virginia University is preparing for a lean future. Some call it an act of surrender, while others say it's a prudent choice to be replicated elsewhere.

By Liam Rouse



WVU president Gordon Gee delivering his State of the University address, where he announced plans to cut the university budget and adjust its strategic vision.

Matt Dunaway/WVU/Photo

**A**t his semiannual State of the University address in March, West Virginia University president E. Gordon Gee gave a blunt assessment to a crowd of faculty, administrators, students and staff: WVU is too big—and its student body, shrinking too fast—to operate sustainably.

### Another Wave of Campus Cuts

Numerous colleges announced or completed plans to cut academic programs or jobs in February. Many of those institutions are in the Midwest—particularly Ohio.

## Truth in Tuition Advertising



### NOTICE OF PROPOSED

## TUITION INCREASE

Weber State University is proposing a tuition increase of 2 - 3.5% meaning an additional \$55 - \$96 per semester for a full-time resident undergraduate student for the upcoming school year. It is proposed this tuition increase be used for the following:

- Required Legislative Match: \$1,400,000 - \$2,000,000
- Mandated Costs: \$250,000 - \$700,000
- IT Security + Support: \$0 - \$300,000

A public hearing on the proposed increase will be held on:

**MONDAY, FEB. 26, 2024**

2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Weber State University Shepherd Union Room 404 or  
via Zoom: <https://weber.zoom.us/j/97372478033>



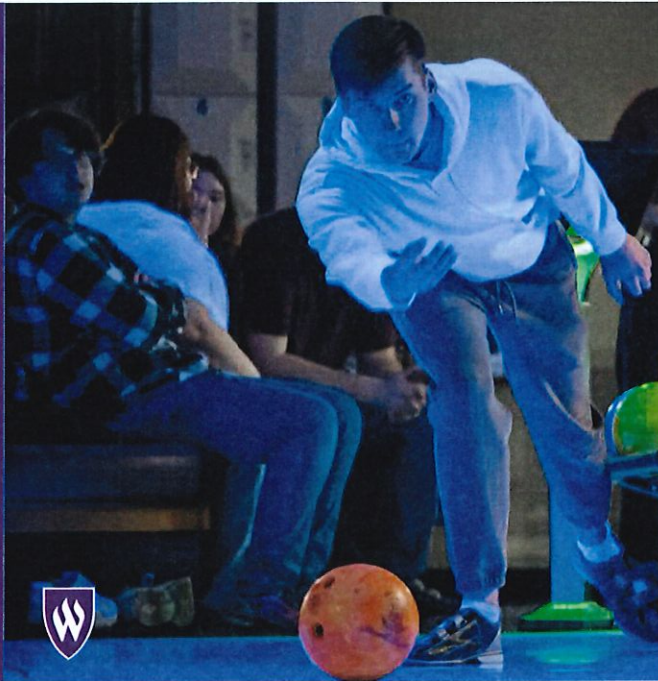
Also advertised via:

- WSU Announcements
- Student Access & Success Student Fee Recommendation Committee Site





## 2024 Tuition &amp; Fee Calendar



## February - March 2024

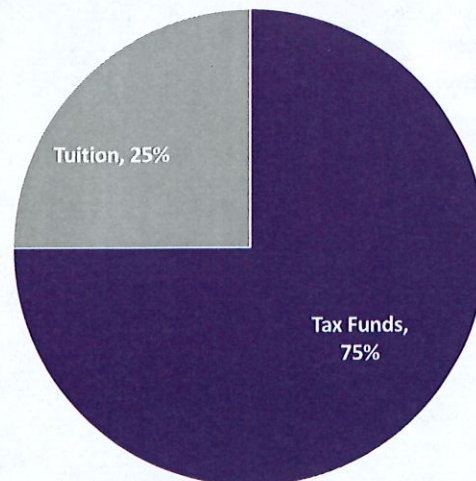
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

- Feb. 16 – State Revenue Forecasts Finalized
- Feb. 23 – Executive Appropriations Committee releases “Additional Proposed Funding Items”
- Feb. 26 – Truth-in-Tuition Hearing
- March 1 – End of 2024 Legislative Session
- March 8 – Submit recommendation to USHE
- March 19 – WSU Board of Trustees Meeting
- March 22 – Public Presentations and Final Decision to Utah Board of Higher Education

## Legislative Funding Match Requirements

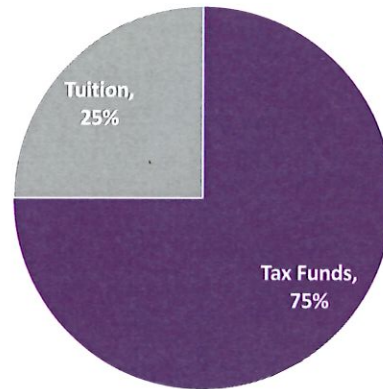
## Matching required for:

- Salary Increases
- Health/Dental Insurance Increases
- Internal Service Funds (Risk/Liability Insurance, etc.)



## 2024-25 Legislative Matching Funding Proposal

Potential Item	% Rate Increase	\$ Rate Increase
3% Salary Increase	1.33%	\$1,090,500
7.2% Health/0.9% Dental Insurance	0.47%	\$388,900
Internal Service Funds	0.13%	\$108,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.93%</b>	<b>\$1,587,500</b>



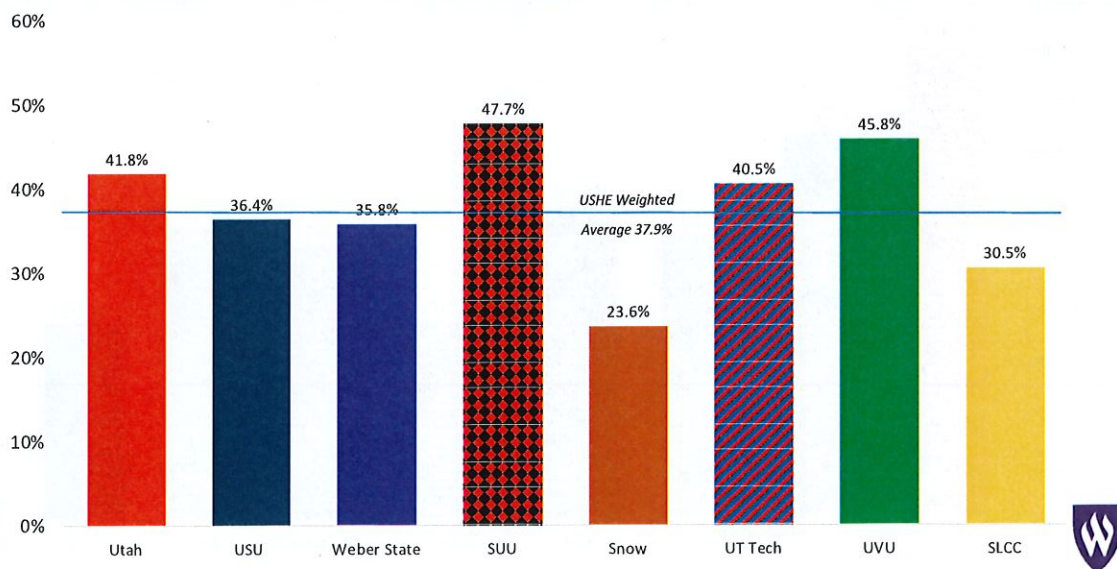
**PERFORMANCE FUNDING REQUEST**

Mandated Costs (Utilities, Risk Insurance, Software, etc.)	\$741,500
Underserved and Economically Disadvantaged Programs	\$589,400
Retention & Completion	\$496,200
Personalized Learning & Academic Excellence	\$299,900
Community Anchor Mission	\$246,100
Marketing & Branding	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,523,100</b>

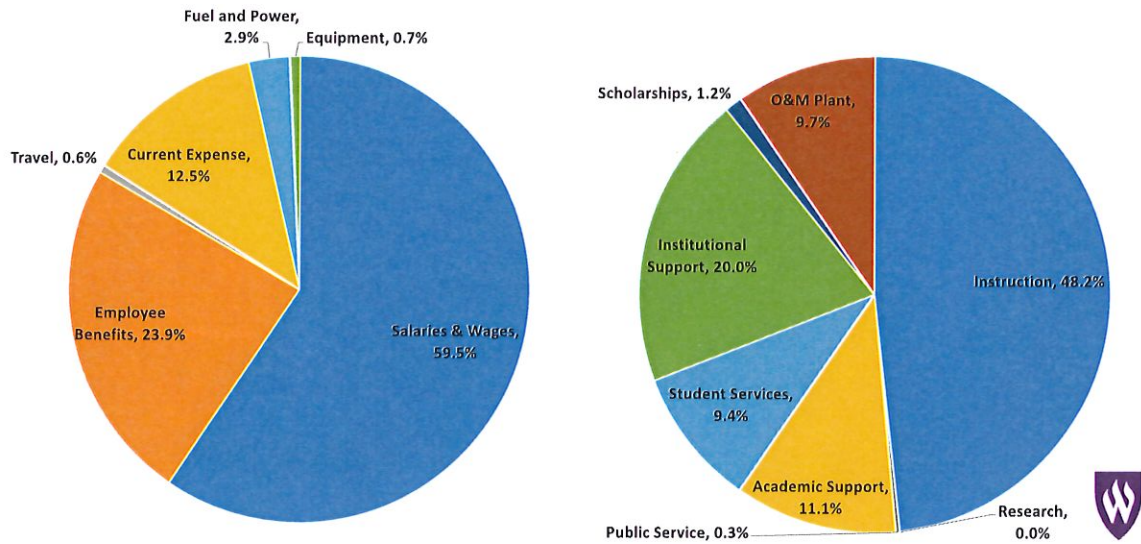




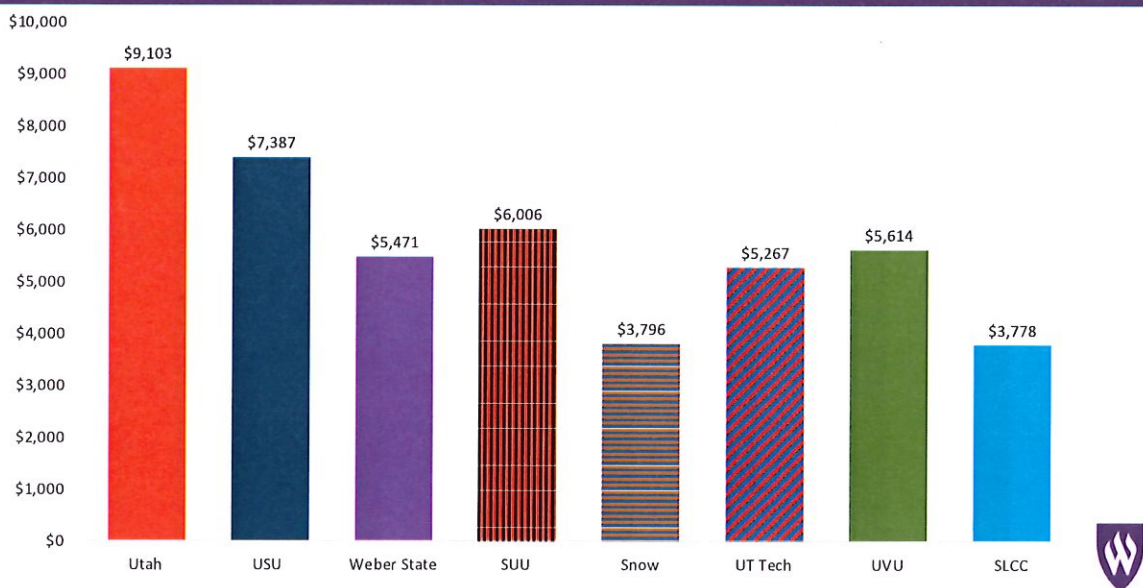
## 2023-24 Tuition Share of Appropriated Budget



## 2023-24 Appropriated Budget Uses

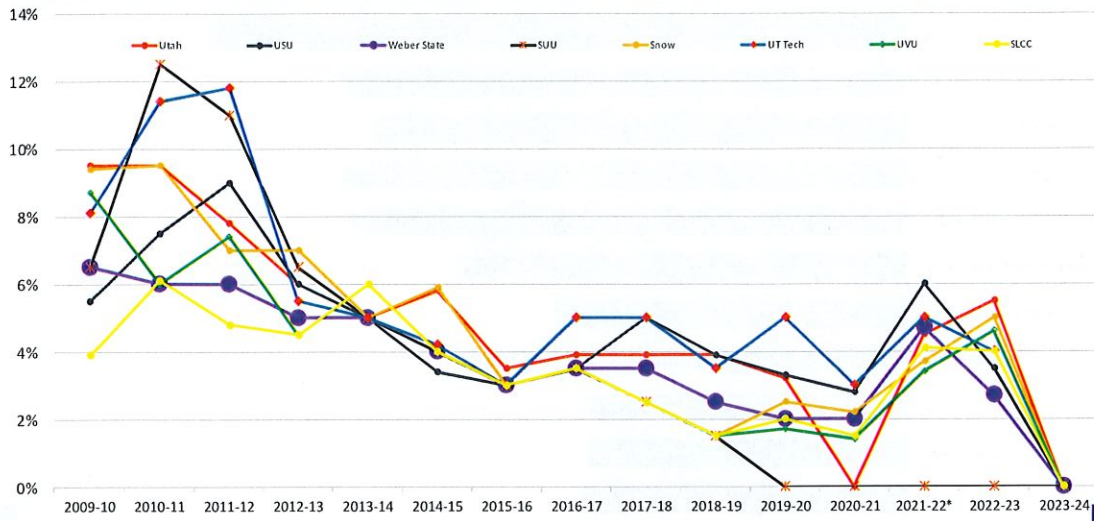


## 2023-24 Resident Full-time Tuition – 2 Semesters



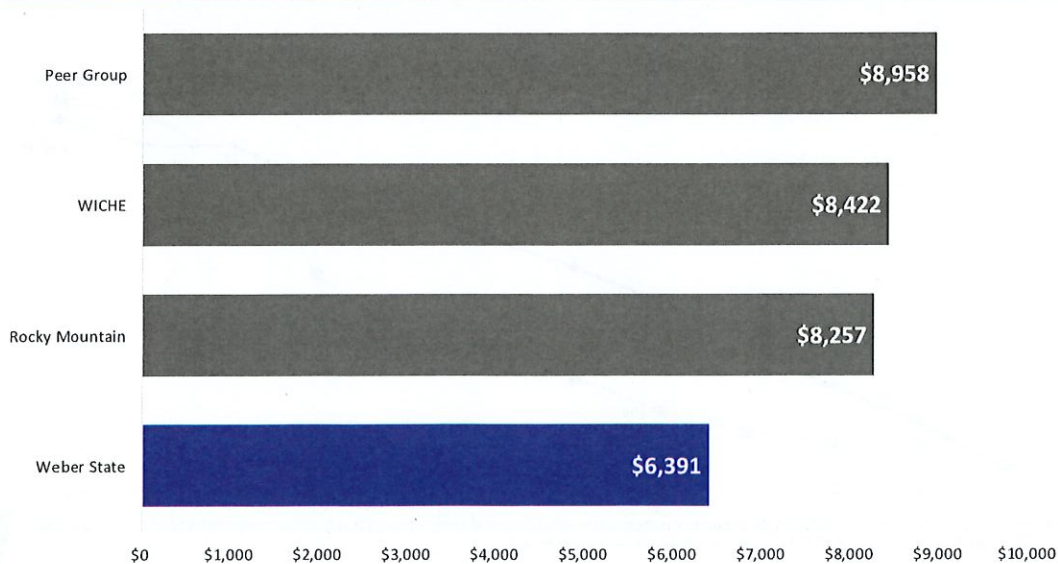


## Utah Tuition Rate Changes 2009-10 to 2023-24

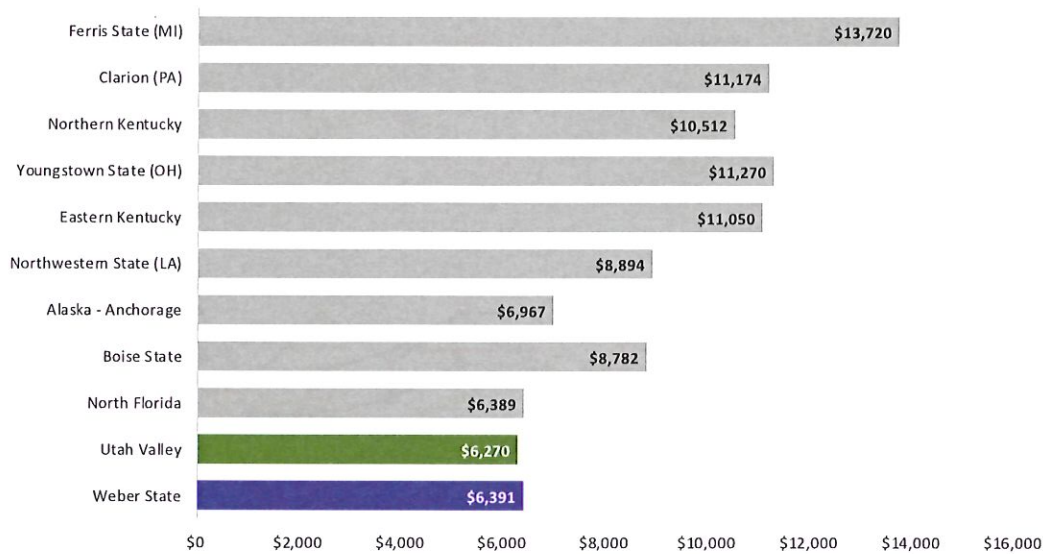


\* Percent increase in 2021-22 includes a tuition increase which was offset with an equivalent fees decrease.

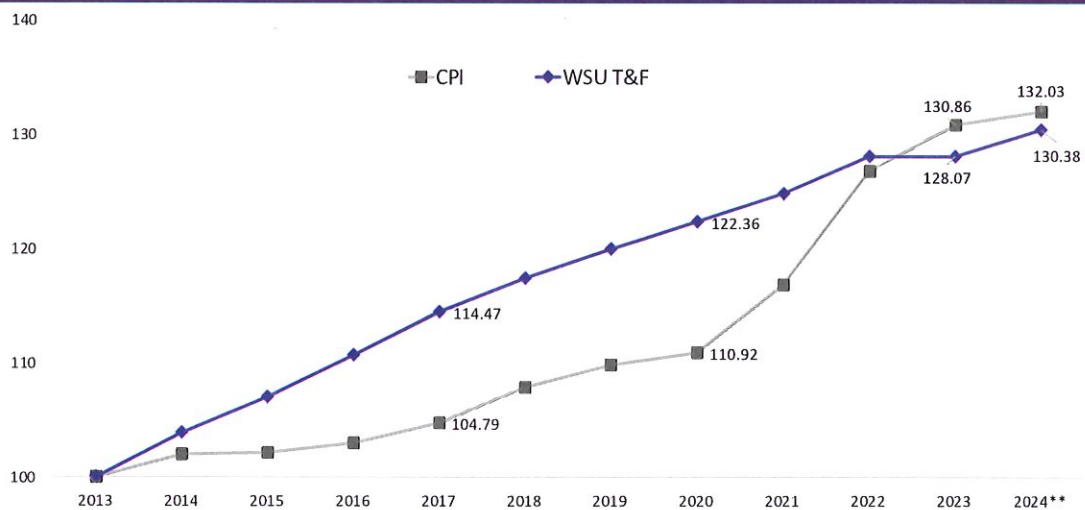
## WSU Comparisons – 2023-24 Tuition & Fees



## WSU Peer Institutions– 2023-24 Tuition & Fees



## WSU Tuition & Fees vs CPI, 2013-2024\*



\* Comparing the July Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers to the WSU Tuition & Fees in place for July of each year. Indexed to July 2013 = 100  
 \*\* Comparison for 2024 is January 2024 CPI-U to low scenario tuition & fee increase



BEYOND STICKER PRICE

WSU PROVIDED MORE THAN  
**\$88.1 MILLION**

IN SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID  
TO **12,241 STUDENTS** FOR THE  
2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR



Full-time students (12+ credits)

- 70% receive aid; average yearly award of \$5,499

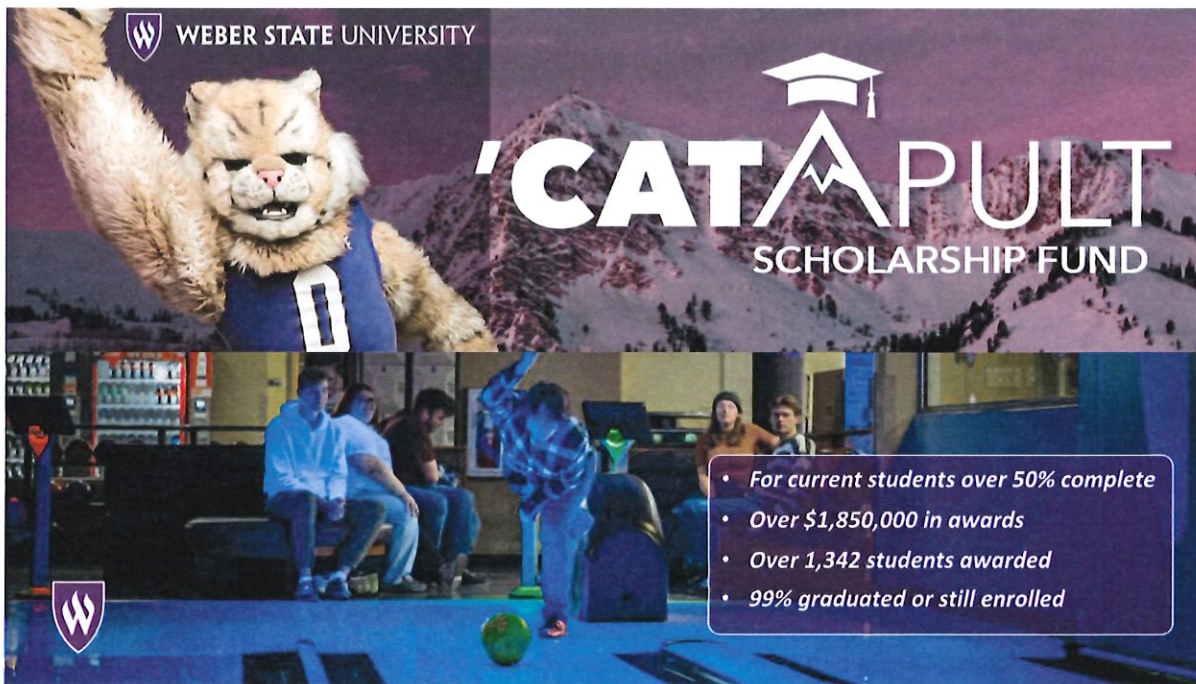
Dream Weber

- Full tuition and fees
- Utah resident
- Pell eligible
- <\$50k HH income
- 12 credits semester
- 2,657 students for 2022-23



**Affordability**

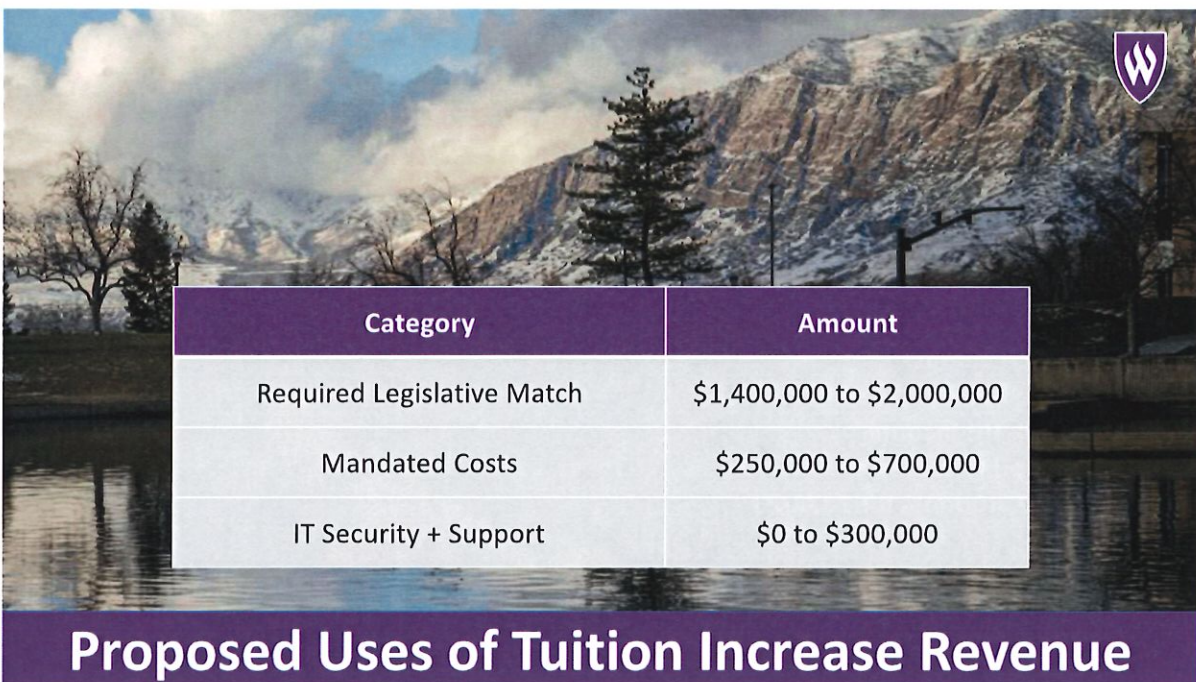




**WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY**

**'CATAPULT**  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- For current students over 50% complete
- Over \$1,850,000 in awards
- Over 1,342 students awarded
- 99% graduated or still enrolled



Category	Amount
Required Legislative Match	\$1,400,000 to \$2,000,000
Mandated Costs	\$250,000 to \$700,000
IT Security + Support	\$0 to \$300,000

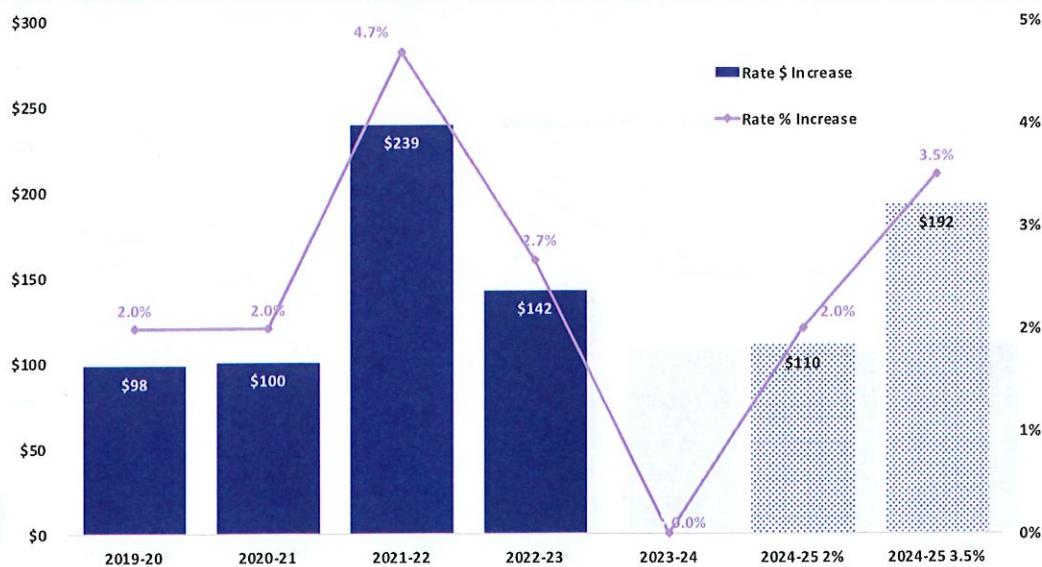
**Proposed Uses of Tuition Increase Revenue**

## Student Fee Recommendation Committee 2023-24 Funding Allocation Increases

Category	Base	1-time	Category	Base	1-time
Alumni Relations		\$5,000	Peer Mentoring		\$10,000
Campus Recreation	\$10,000		Performing Arts		\$18,000
CCEL	\$10,850	\$5,000	SPARC		\$2,855
Belonging & Engagement	\$10,000		Stromberg Complex	\$10,534	
Counseling & Psychological Services	\$9,765		Student Involvement & Leadership	\$6,198	
Disability Services	\$32,225	\$15,000	Sustainability Fund		\$13,018
Esports	\$10,000	\$15,000	Studio 76	\$5,000	\$20,000
International Student Success Center	\$2,000		Veterans Services	\$23,953	
LGBT Resource Center		\$17,577	Women's Center	\$8,719	
Model United Nations	\$8,500		Salaries & Scholarships	\$150,000	
Money Management Center	\$2,257	\$15,000	TOTAL	\$300,000	\$150,000
Nontraditional Student Programs		\$13,550			

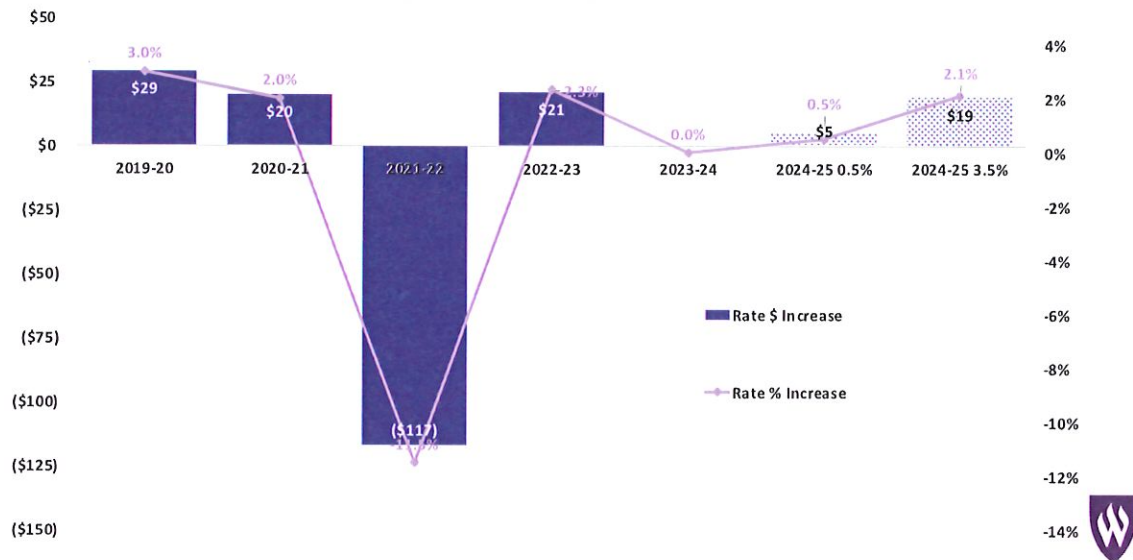


## Five-year History & Proposed Tuition Adjustments





## Five-year History & Proposed Student Fee Adjustments



## Five-year History and Proposed Tuition & Fees Adjustments









*Senate Resolution*

WSUSA Senate: 2023-2024 Session

**SR: 240226-01**

**Sponsor:** Kimberly Baker, LGBTQ+ Senator

**Co-Sponsor:** Senator William Taintor, College of Science

**A Resolution Pertaining to the Truth in Tuition Hearing**

WHEREAS: The Weber State University Administration presented the Truth in Tuition plan for the 2024-2025 academic year to the Weber State University Student Association Senate on February 26, 2024.

**NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE THAT:**

Section 1: Upon the passing of this resolution the Weber State University Student Association Senate acknowledges their receipt of information regarding the changes in tuition for the 2024-2025 academic year, their full understanding of these changes, and their approval thereof.





Weber State University Student Association Senate

*Senate Resolution*

WSUSA Senate: 2023-2024 Session

**ACTIONS**

Date: 2/26/2024

Yea: \_\_\_17\_\_\_      Nay: \_\_\_\_\_      Abstentions: \_\_\_\_\_

Result: **Pass** / Fail

*Isaac Staszko*

02/27/2024

Isaac Staszko

Date

*WSUSA Executive Vice President*

**Student Body President Action**

Veto: Yes / **No**

*Ashley Potokar*

02/27/2024

Ashley Potokar

Date

*WSUSA Student Body President*



Weber State University Student Association Senate

*Senate Resolution*

WSUSA Senate: 2023-2024 Session

**TELLERS' REPORT**

**Vote was conducted by:** (Viva Voce/Show of Hands/Rising Vote/Ballot/Roll Call)

**Senator Lin:** Yes

**Senator Houser:** Yes

**Senator Marker:** Yes

**Senator Baird:**

**Senator James:**

**Senator Mousavi:** Yes

**Senator Hunt:** Yes

**Senator Vejar:** Yes

**Senator Bisamaza:** Yes

**Senator Trips:** Yes

**Senator Dueñaz Lopez:**

**Senator Imoliga:** Yes

**Senator Rabensteiner:** Yes

**Senator Barros Cordeiro:** Yes

**Senator Egli:** Yes

**Senator McKnight:** Yes

**Senator Maharaj:** Yes

**Senator Sorenson:** Yes

**Senator Taintor:** Yes

**Senator Baker:** Yes





## Weber State University 2022-23 Internal Reallocation Report - E&G

### II. Expenditure Reallocation

Date	Source Index & Name	Destination Index & Name	Reason for Transfer	Amount	Net FTE Change
A. 7/1/23	Various	None	Facilities Management Budget Cuts including Heat Plant, Structures, Custodial, Landscape	\$151,400	(4.00)
B. 7/1/23	215310, 215130	215310, 215130	Financial Services reduced position in purchasing and budget offices	\$85,200	(1.25)
C. 7/1/23	215392--Police Services	215392--Police Services	Reduced one position to provide equity increases for police officers	\$31,500	(0.75)
D. 7/1/23	Utilities	Capital Projects	Saved funding from ongoing energy efficiency initiatives and reallocated to new energy projects	\$2,760,000	
E. Various	Various	None	Voluntary Separation Salary Savings--30 employees separated yielding salary savings	\$626,000	(8.00)
F. 7/1/23	215030- Academic Affairs	214315 - Davis Enrl Svcs	Reallocation to Enhancing Dual Enrollment Outreach	\$28,600	
G. 7/1/23	Various	Various	Repurpose Faculty Resources and Positions	\$560,064	0.58
H. 5/1/23	214507 - SA Strategic	None	Budget Reductions Student Access & Success	\$126,000	(1.00)
I. 7/1/23	Various	None	Budget Reductions in University Advancement - Current Expense and Equipment Budgets	\$90,000	
J. 12/15/22	215070- VP for IT Office	215860- Security Office	Reallocation to cover new security tool expenses	\$121,441	
K. 9/14/22	215863- Classroom Tech	215079- Unallotted	Classroom Tech Support - 3 hourly for 1 full-time exchange	\$57,550	1.00
Total				\$4,637,755	(13.42)

## 2022-23 Internal Reallocation Report - Non E&G

### II. Expenditure Reallocation

Date	Source Index & Name	Destination Index & Name	Reason for Transfer	Amount	Net FTE Change
A. 7/1/23	Various	None	Student fee reductions in Athletics, Capital and other student funded programs	\$379,848	(2.00)
B. 1/1/23	Various	Various	Merged Student Affairs Maintenance Group with Facilities Management	\$100,000	(2.00)
C. 7/1/23	Various	None	Reduced positions in Campus Stores	\$88,040	(1.00)



ATTACHMENT 5

D.	4/21/23	270800 - Remedial Support	220309 - Nursing	Transfer to Nursing to cover lab expenses and keep course fees low	\$164,254
E.	6/12/23	270800 - Remedial Support	270802 - Honors Schl	Transfer to Honors Scholarships	\$58,633
Total					<u>\$790,775</u> <u>(5.00)</u>

## 2024-2025 Student Fee Recommendation Committee Full Schedule

Department/Program	Recommended Base Increase	2024-25 SFRC Base Allocation	Recommended One-time Increase	SFRC Allocation (Base + One-time)	Plans for Fund Utilization
Alumni Relations	\$0.00	\$6,749.00	\$5,000.00	\$11,749.00	Creation of "Forever a Wildcat" end of year program intended to help students build a lasting relationship with the institution (fully funded).
Athletics	\$0.00	\$2,229,620.30	\$0.00	\$2,229,620.30	
Campus Recreation	\$10,000.00	\$1,427,591.01	\$0.00	\$1,427,591.01	Received partial funding requested for wage increases for hourly staff.
Career Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Requested funding for a career readiness initiatives coordinator (salaried). They were <b>NOT</b> funded. This was the first time their area was requesting student fees.
Center for Community Engaged Learning	\$10,850.00	\$277,725.91	\$5,000.00	\$282,725.91	Received partial funding requested for alternative breaks or additional compensation for student employees.
Belonging & Engagement	\$10,000.00	\$126,058.17	\$0.00	\$126,058.17	Requested funding for three new advisors and hourly student help; advisors were not funded as the committee didn't know what was next for the centers but did want to provide funding for hourly students in the offices.
Counseling & Psychological Services Center	\$9,765.00	\$856,632.56	\$0.00	\$856,632.56	Increase hourly wages for graduate student interns from \$12 to \$16 to remain competitive with other graduate intern placement sites (fully funded).
Davis Student Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Debate	\$0.00	\$73,200.00	\$0.00	\$73,200.00	
Disability Services	\$32,225.00	\$201,030.93	\$15,000.00	\$216,030.93	Funded request for salaried disability advisor (the department will supplement with hourly funds); funded request for hourly wages with one time funds (fully funded).
Esports	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00	Partially funded requested for travel costs, student employees, and scholarships.
Ethics Bowl/ Mock Trial	\$0.00	\$31,333.00	\$0.00	\$31,333.00	
Health Center	\$0.00	\$665,946.13	\$0.00	\$665,946.13	
ISSC	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Partially funded request for peer mentors.
LGBT Resource Center	\$0.00	\$14,262.33	\$17,577.00	\$31,839.33	Partially funded request for peer educator program and conference travel.
Marketing	\$0.00	\$31,054.54	\$0.00	\$31,054.54	
Metaphor	\$0.00	\$9,387.50	\$0.00	\$9,387.50	
Model United Nations	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00	Partially funded request for travel to competitions.
Money Management Center	\$2,257.00	\$12,495.25	\$15,000.00	\$27,495.25	Fully funded request to increase hourly wages and stock food pantry.



## 2024-2025 Student Fee Recommendation Committee Full Schedule

Department/Program	Recommended Base Increase	2024-25 SFRC Base Allocation	Recommended One-time Increase	SFRC Allocation (Base + One- time)	Plans for Fund Utilization
Nontraditional Student Programs	\$0.00	\$397,001.05	\$13,550.00	\$410,551.05	Partially funded request for hourly employee at Davis Campus.
Ogden Peak Communications	\$0.00	\$1,700.00	\$0.00	\$1,700.00	
Peer Mentoring	\$0.00	\$15,936.45	\$10,000.00	\$25,936.45	Partially funded request with no ongoing funds for wages but \$10k in one time funds to stipend faculty and staff mentors
Performing Arts Summary	\$0.00	\$165,975.85	\$18,000.00	\$183,975.85	Partial funded request (greatly reduced) inflation of material costs for dance, music, and theater.
Radio Station KWCR	\$0.00	\$35,332.45	\$0.00	\$35,332.45	
Shepherd Union	\$0.00	\$1,288,084.24	\$0.00	\$1,288,084.24	
Signpost	\$0.00	\$146,849.57	\$0.00	\$146,849.57	
SPARC	\$0.00	\$1,701.80	\$2,855.00	\$4,556.80	Funding for student employees (fully funded).
Special Projects fund	\$0.00	\$91,125.84	\$0.00	\$91,125.84	
Stress Relief Center	\$0.00	\$10,128.84	\$0.00	\$10,128.84	
Stromberg Complex Customer Service	\$10,534.00	\$117,589.77	\$0.00	\$117,589.77	Increase hourly wages (fully funded).
Student Involvement & Leadership (SIL)	\$6,198.00	\$1,143,827.64	\$0.00	\$1,143,827.64	Partial funding to help with programming at Davis Campus.
Sustainability Fund	\$0.00	\$16,598.40	\$13,018.00	\$29,616.40	Funding for installation of new community garden (fully funded).
Student Wellness	\$0.00	\$194,653.30	\$0.00	\$194,653.30	
Studio 76	\$5,000.00	\$32,670.00	\$20,000.00	\$52,670.00	Partial funding for student staff and equipment purchase/replacement.
UTA	\$0.00	\$204,499.00	\$0.00	\$204,499.00	
Veterans Services	\$23,953.00	\$121,653.59	\$0.00	\$121,653.59	Partial funding (half) for an additional certifying official in the office (salaried).
Visual Arts/ Shaw Gallery	\$0.00	\$6,483.75	\$0.00	\$6,483.75	Request <b>NOT</b> funded for part-time assistant to help director.
Women's Center	\$8,719.00	\$178,871.53	\$0.00	\$178,871.52	Partial funding for hourly wage increases.
Totals:	\$150,000.00	\$10,154,269.69	\$150,000.00	\$10,304,269.68	

Approved by SFRC 2/9/2024



**WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY**

Student Access & Success

February 26, 2024

Geoffrey Landward  
Utah Interim Commissioner of Higher Education  
Board of Regents Building  
60 S. 400 W.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1284

Dear Commissioner Landward:

In compliance with Utah Board of Higher Education Policy, I am writing to express my support for Weber State University's proposed 2-3.5% student fee increase for 2024-2025.

As is the case every year, students at Weber State University play a key role in our student fee allocation process. This year was no different. I can say with confidence that our students support these increases.

Sincerely,

Ashley Potokar  
Student Body President

cc: Dr. Brad Mortensen, President  
Dr. Jessica Oyler, Vice President for Student Access and Success





## Student Fee Fund Balance Adequacy

Department/Program*	Carry Forward Amount July 1, 2023	Carry Forward Justification
Belonging & Engagement	\$69,000.00	Accumulated savings from vacant positions during the 2022-23 year. Funds will be used for programming, equipment, and resources in 2023-24.
Bonded Facilities Repairs & Improvements^	\$428,171.00	Provides for repairs and improvements to student bonded facilities including: UB, housing, stadium, DEC and Student Services. This amount equals about four months of working capital for most years in case capital emergencies arise, e.g. mechanical or electrical failures that must be taken care of immediately.
Community Engaged Learning (CCEL)	\$116,993.61	Accumulated savings from vacant positions during the 2023-23 year. Funds will be used for compensation for covering vacant position responsibilities and programming in 2023-24.
Counseling & Psychological Services Center	\$19,708.58	Accumulated savings from vacant positions during 2023-23. Funds will be used to cover supplies, training, technology, and creative solutions to provide care to our students.
Davis Student Services	\$13,271.53	DSS was defunded as of FY 23-24 per budget cuts and the balance transferred to Special Projects.
Debate	\$97,134.51	Accumulated due to eliminated tournaments, registration fees, and travel costs for debate and speech during COVID. Membership numbers also declined. Teams have returned and have more regular travel. Debate has grown and is expanding high school outreach and events. Funds will allow for increased travel and events to showcase speech and debate team opportunities.
Disability Services	-\$4,515.37	Negative balance due to purchasing adaptive technology last year to be eliminated in 2023-24.
Ethics Bowl/Mock Trial	\$84,979.24	Carry-forward fluctuates since funding is in place to compete in national championships, but some years teams do not advance past regional qualifying competitions. Additional funds accumulated due to COVID cancellations and limitations. Funds will be used to participate in additional competitions to allow students to hone skills and qualify for nationals more regularly.
LGBTQ+ Center	\$2,118.52	This balance will be accounted for in hourly wages in the coming year.
Marketing	-\$888.92	Will be accounted for in the next year.
Metaphor	\$901.39	Accumulated due to changes in hourly staffing levels and programming changes. As the cost of production varies from year to year, some variance in balances is not unusual.
Mentoring Programs (Peer Mentors)	\$10,071.87	One-time funding was awarded to host a mentoring conference in spring 2023, but because of the transition from student affairs to academic affairs, the conference was postponed to spring 2024.
Military-Affiliated Student Center	\$7,023.30	Funds to be used for student workers for the upcoming academic year.
Money Management Center	-\$6,529.92	All funds fully spent; will adjust to account for negative balance in the future.
Ogden Peak Communications	\$1,716.51	Planned to be used for scholarships in fall 2024.
Radio Station KWCR	\$80,742.54	Accumulated due to conservative expenditures by new manager and low student participation during COVID. Plans include enhancements to equipment, furnishings, events (including Battle of the Bands), and new technology, including a revamped website and possibly an app for KWCR.
Shaw Gallery/Visual Arts	\$2,566.23	Will be used toward hourly wages.
Signpost	-\$13,394.04	Negative balance because of the need for new computers in 2022-23. Planning to reduce expenditures in 2023-24 to dig out of that hole.
Special Projects Fund	\$674,934.37	This is the central Student Fee index, used to fund exceptional projects or initiatives based on unspent funds from previous allocations. Such expenditures have been impacted by cancellations or changes to Student Fee activities due to COVID-era revenue patterns. Funds will be sought to remodel disabilities and centers for belonging in 24-25.
Stress Relief Center	\$20,953.80	Accumulated due to temporarily paying student worker wages from a different account. The discrepancy has been corrected.
Stromberg Complex	\$13,947.25	Funds were saved from 2022-23 to offset a projected \$10,000 shortfall in 2023-24 due to wage increases and expanded hours of operation.
Student Health & Wellness	\$27,503.49	The transition to off-campus health care services resulted in a balance due to low student utilization at the end of the year. The balance will be helpful to provide flexibility during the transition.
Student Involvement & Leadership	\$87,986.51	Accumulated savings from vacant positions, COVID era program suspension, restructuring of organizations, and staffing changes. Funds will be used for programming and resources in 2023-24.
Studio 76	-\$846.20	Will be accounted for in the next year.
Sustainability	-\$2,944.15	Hourly wages overspent during fiscal year. This will be compensated for in 2023-24 spending.
<b>TOTAL~</b>	<b>\$1,730,605.65</b>	

\*The 15 departments and programs not shown here have a \$0 balance.

^Not reviewed by Student Fee Recommendation Committee.

~ Of the total carry forward amount, \$1,103,105.37 is in two accounts for Bonded Facilities Repairs & Maintenance and Special Projects.





(WSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVED MARCH 19, 2024)



## 2024-25 Tuition and General Fee Adjustments

### Board of Trustees Written Recommendations

The Weber State University Board of Trustees submits this written report and recommendation to the Utah Board of Higher Education to recommend the following tuition and general fee adjustments at Weber State University for 2024-25:

- Increasing general tuition rates by **2.75%** for all undergraduate and graduate tuition tables, including resident and non-resident rates.
- Establishing a differential tuition, flat-rate amount of **\$95** per credit hour for selected general education courses offered at Davis and Ogden-Weber Technical Colleges.
- Setting a differential tuition surcharge of **\$154.36** per credit hour for the Master of Science in Systems Engineering and the Master of Science in Data Science programs in the College of Engineering, Applied Science, & Technology (EAST).
- Increasing general fees by **1.75%**.

#### **Justification**

- **General tuition increase** – Uses are for the following:
  - Legislative funding match – a 1.93% increase to fund 25% of the legislature's adopted increases of 3% for salaries, 7.2% for health insurance, 0.9% for dental insurance, and internal service fund increases (mostly property and risk insurance) which total \$1,562,750.
  - Specific institutional needs – a 0.82% increase to fund mandated and unavoidable operating budget cost increases, including fuel and power rate increases of \$500,000 and necessary cybersecurity IT software support of \$206,275, which total \$706,275.
- **Tech college general education differential** – Saves technical college students up to \$1,595 when completing three WSU general education courses on their technical college campus by charging the same \$95 per credit hour tuition rate used for technical college courses.
- **EAST master's degree differentials** – Supports instructional quality for two high-demand master's degree programs, the Master of Science in Data Science and Master of Science in Systems Engineering. This will set the tuition for these programs on par with other master's degree programs in the College of Engineering, Applied Science, and Technology



(EAST).

- **General Fees** – Provides funding for a 3% salary and wage increase, 7.2% health insurance increase, and 0.9% dental insurance increase for the staff funded by student fees, as well as covers the 2.75% tuition increase for student scholarships paid by student fees.

#### ***Alternative Funding***

- The university has identified reallocated funds to fund faculty tenure and promotion increases and the highest priority investments in the student success playbook.
- Almost \$1.9 million in Weber State Amplified strategic plan priorities will be unfunded.
- WSU's strong track record of making internal reallocations to fund priorities in the past, which totaled over \$4.6 million in 2022-23, will play a pivotal role in moving forward unfunded strategic plan priorities.
- If a tuition freeze were to be implemented, it would be necessary to reduce between an additional 8 and 12 faculty and staff positions across the institution to meet budgetary needs. This would be challenging and also have negative effects on student access, retention, and completion because it would lower the availability of courses, direct student support services, and reduce the ability to maintain physical and IT infrastructure.

#### ***Affordability Impact***

- WSU's cost of four-year attendance is within available financial aid and the rule of 10 as calculated by USHE staff.
- The average WSU tuition and fees increase over the last ten years of 2.5% is less than the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) average increase nationally of 2.8% and the average CPI-U increase of 3.3% for the West region.
- WSU tuition and fees are \$1,900 to \$2,550 less per year compared to Rocky Mountain, Western Interstate Cooperative for Higher Education (WICHE), and national peer institutions as identified by USHE.
- Compared to its 11 USHE-identified peer institutions, WSU tuition and fees are within \$100 of its two lowest peers (Utah Valley University and University of North Florida), and 46% to 60% of the total charged by its five most expensive peers.
- WSU students pay less than the USHE average (35.8% compared to 37.9%) of their share of the total appropriated budget of the university.
- To support affordability through scholarships and financial aid, WSU provided \$88.1 million to 12,241 students in 2022-23.
- WSU's return on investment (ROI) has been cited by the Georgetown University Center for Education & the Workforce and Georgetown University and the Utah Foundation for having the best return on investment for its graduates.

#### ***Compliance with Policy***

## ATTACHMENT 9

- WSU has confirmed to the Board of Trustees that the university has demonstrated compliance with the policies R510, *Tuition*, and R511, *Tuition Disclosures and Consultation*, and R516, *General Student Fees*.
- The chair of the WSU Board of Trustees and WSU Trustee and WSU Student Association (WSUSA) president attended the truth-in-tuition hearing before the WSUSA Student Senate on February 26, 2024.
- The WSUSA Student Senate adopted a resolution acknowledging receipt, understanding, and approval of the proposed tuition and fee changes.
- The WSUSA president submitted a letter supporting a 2% to 3.5% student fee increase and affirming the role of students in the process.

