

June 17, 2013

WSU Response to the OFM Request for Contingency Planning

Washington State University would strive to continue providing necessary services to our students, our constituents and our state, in the event that there is no state budget by July 1. Under normal circumstances, WSU would utilize both appropriated funds and tuition funds to meet its expense obligations. Since only tuition funds would be available, WSU would use tuition funds to address such a challenge, after a careful scrutiny of all activities. It is important to note that tuition funds would be limited and unsustainable as a long-term approach. WSU would require the backfill of appropriated funds, when a budget is determined.

As specified in the OFM memo, we believe that some of these services fall into category #2, services that do not require an appropriation and some would fall into categories 3 and 4, compliance with federal laws and public safety or avoidance of loss of state property.

Services and activities that fall under category #2 would include instruction for which our students and their families have paid; housing and dining for students on campuses and the related support such as the libraries and the transit system. Our students and their families have also paid for auxiliary services such as the student union and the student recreation center.

Services and activities that fall under category #4 are the maintenance of the police force; Health and Wellness services for students; the maintenance of the utilities that provide heating, cooling and sanitation as well as the maintenance of critical information systems infrastructure.

Also included in category 4 are any services required to protect sensitive research to avoid catastrophic loss, including but not limited to research related to crops, animals or other ongoing research projects that could be significantly impaired or destroyed by a period of inactivity and specific laboratory analyses and functions related to these projects.

Also included in both categories 3 and 4 would be the following services, which include essential operations, support for essential operations, and support for federally-mandated programs, such as:

Payroll, purchasing and the maintenance of the fiscal, physical and infrastructure systems;
Performing required federal reporting and administration of federal and state financial aid programs (and associated obligations) for our students as well as Registrar, student accounts and other such functions;
and Performing required reporting for grants and contracts.

With regard to capital projects currently underway and for which there are commitments beyond 6/30/13, both the Riverpoint Biomedical/Health Sciences building and MCR Preservation projects could be impacted.

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