

Agency 365 – Washington State University
2009-2011 Operating Budget Request

The Land Grant University for the 21st Century
Performance Level Decision Package – Policy Level “GR”

Graduate Program Restoration

Agency Recommendation Summary:

\$1.6 million is requested by Washington State University to provide expansion from current levels for graduate student appointments. The funding will be used for graduate student research assistants or teaching assistants in WSU’s focused areas of investment: including Global Animal Health, Clean Technologies, Plant Biosciences, and Agriculture. This request, restoring the cut in the 2007-09 biennial budgets, improves the quality of education for all students, and helps attract and retain the brightest scholars Washington to improve the economy and the quality of life. In a recent survey, Washington ranked 6th in the US for hiring Masters degree students and 13th for hiring Ph.D. students. Many (over 50%) of WSU Ph.D. alumnae choose to stay in Washington and contribute to the leadership of our economy. Despite these facts, Washington ranks in the bottom quartile for graduating MS/Ph.D. students. This investment will build this essential pipeline for the leadership of our high technology industries.

Fiscal Details:

By Fund	2009-10		2010-11		2009-11 Biennium
	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars	Dollars
General Fund State	21.0	800,000	21.0	800,000	1,600,000
Total	21.0	\$ 800,000	21.0	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,600,000

Package Description:

Washington State University requests \$1.6 million to provide restoration for the graduate programs so that more graduate assistant appointments may be provided. This will assist greatly to:

- Attract and retain the brightest available scholars.** The best graduate students expect and need competitive financial packages to support their studies. These financial packages must include out-of-state tuition waivers to be competitive. The revenue that graduate students bring into the university emanate directly from their in-state tuition that is paid, but indirectly from the substantive contributions they make to the research enterprise to support the application of new grants and publications. The Graduate School at WSU has determined that over 65% of the research publications generated by WSU are authored by senior Ph.D. students. Graduate students are an important driver of our research universities.

- **Address workforce needs.** WSU is a national and international leader in many of the disciplines expected to dominate the work force in the next two decades – but the current output of masters and doctoral graduates in these disciplines does not meet the current or anticipated need. For the university to meet the minimum expectations of the state, it will need a significant investment in graduate education immediately. Graduate education is critical to providing Washington residents with access to the best jobs available in the state. In 2003, the state of Washington ranked 5th in the United States as a high-tech employer, 6th in hiring at the masters level, and 13th in hiring at the doctoral level. However, there is evidence that Washington residents simply are not satisfying this demand.
- **Add more Research Assistants.** New graduate assistant appointments will be targeted to the focused areas of WSU investment including Global Animal Health, Clean Technologies, Plant Biosciences and Agriculture. This is consistent with the major research foci of WSU and further advances our ability to attract extramural competitive funding in these strategic areas.
- **Addressing the HEC Board Master Plan.** In its recent report, the Washington Higher Education Commission Board has stated that Washington should “reach the 50th percentile of the Global Challenge States in graduate degrees by 2020 by awarding 19,800 advanced degrees each year (8,600 over current level), and make a commitment to move to the 75th percentile over the following decade.”
- **Fueling the economy with new talent and technologies.** Graduate students at WSU have provided leadership in several areas of importance to Washington. For instance, one of our Ph.D. graduates has more patents in the area of air pollution scrubbing than any other person or company. In just the past two years, WSU graduate students have started, or helped start, four new biotechnology companies.
- **Teaching Assistants for undergraduate programs.** One of the critical roles of a research university is to develop the scholars and research scientists of the future. Part of that development includes developing outstanding teaching skills. The Graduate School at WSU has recently developed a comprehensive approach to helping our graduate students acquire these critical teaching skills. With this experience, these teaching assistants are able to contribute to our mission for undergraduate education as well.

Background:

A reduction of out-of-state graduate funding was made by the 2007 Legislature. This is especially troublesome in that this type of funding reduction makes it more difficult for WSU to attract high quality and diverse graduate students. Since resident and out-of-state students attend the same classes, reduced funding for out-of-state students adversely impacts programs for all students.

Outcomes:

- With this funding, WSU will recruit 30 new Ph.D. students per year. This investment positions WSU to grow the size and quality of our graduate programs as we meet the challenges of producing the talent necessary to drive the economy expected in a globally competitive environment.
- Additional access to graduate student education. The graduate assistant positions created by this request provide stipends that make it possible for many graduate students to afford financially to attend Washington State University.

- Better instruction for all students. Many of the graduate assistant position created by this request will be actively involved in teaching undergraduate coursework and fostering undergraduate research experiences within our laboratories.
- Enhanced Research. Graduate students contribute enormously to the research mission of WSU. They author publications, generate data needed for new grant proposals, and contribute to the innovative thinking that propels our best science. This funding will directly impact WSU's ability to attract more federal funding.
- Many graduate students, both resident and non-residents, remain in the state where they earned their advanced degree. Thus the graduate appointments provided by this request will help attract and retain bright students to Washington where they can assist in growing the state's economy and its quality of life.

Calculations:

FISCAL DETAIL TABLES - GRADUATE PROGRAM RESTORATION					
	2009-10		2010-11		2009-11 Biennium
By Program	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars	Dollars
Instruction	-				
Research	-				
Public Service	-				
Primary Support	21.0	800,000	21.0	800,000	1,600,000
Libraries	-				
Student Services	-				
Institutional Support	-				
Plant	-	-	-	-	-
Total	21.0	\$ 800,000	21.0	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,600,000
By Object					
Salaries					
Faculty					-
AP					-
TA/GA	20.0	680,000	20.0	680,000	1,360,000
Classified	1.0	30,000	1.0	30,000	60,000
Benefits		90,000	-	90,000	180,000
Goods/Services		-		-	-
Travel		-		-	-
Equipment		-		-	-
Total	21.0	\$ 800,000	21.0	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,600,000

For more information, contact Larry Ganders, Assistant to the WSU President, Olympia at 360-534-2333