

UW Board of Trustees Budget Committee
Open Session Agenda - **Updated**
12/16/25

December 17, 2025, at 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Closed Session: If necessary, a separate agenda and materials for the Closed Session.

Agenda #	Description	Page #
1.	Agenda Item removed.	2
2.	Discussion: Review Structure and Financial Aid Awarding Strategy for AY2027-28 for approval in January 2026 (per Annual Schedule of Items and UW Regulation 7-11)	10
3.	Discussion: ROTC Tuition Waiver	24
4.	Other?	



Undergraduate Student Financial Aid Strategy: Annual Review

Ad Hoc Biennium Budget Committee Meeting

December 17, 2025

Zoom



Financial Aid History & Context: Pre-Commitments

In July 2019, the Board approved the administration to adopt a new scholarship structure for implementation starting in the Fall 2020. The following goals were presented at that time. Financial aid resources at the University of Wyoming (“UW”) should be developed, managed, and deployed to:

- Enroll and deliver a quality education to as many Wyoming citizens as possible
- Maintain affordability of the cost of attending UW for students from lower-income Wyoming families
- Limit student loan debt for Wyoming families
- Retain students through graduation
- Increase the share of financial aid paid by gifts provided to the UW Foundation

Prior to 2020

- Scholarship funding for residents relied heavily on the Hathaway Scholarship, with limited institutional awards.
- Foundation-funded awards provided valuable support but were applied variably and not always early enough to influence student decision-making.
- Awarding practices varied widely, creating unpredictability for students.
- Unrestricted operating funds were the primary source of student support, creating sustainability concerns.

Shift to Commitment-Based Structure (2019 → 2020)

- Adopted transparent, predictable scholarship grids for resident and non-resident students
- Sought to expand access for Wyoming students, enhance affordability, and stabilize aid planning
- Introduced standardized criteria and clearer awarding timelines



Financial Aid History & Context: Post-Commitments

2020-2021

- Test-Optional implemented in response to COVID-19, initially approved through AY25 and recently extended through AY28

2022-2023

- Increased non-resident award tiers by \$500 (excluding the top tier which was 150% of resident tuition)
- Established Dean's Impact Awards which allowed each Dean up to \$10,000 of specified discretionary UW Foundation funds to support strategic recruitment at college-level

2023-2024

- Updated transfer eligibility by removing the associate degree requirement
 - Current Transfer Requirements: 3.0+ Cumulative Transfer GPA and 12 Transfer Credits (post high school)
- Enhance Dean's Impact Awards through increasing amount to \$50,000

2024-2025

- Expanded WUE parameters previously restricted in initial 2020-21 changes
 - 2020-2021 WUE Requirements: GPA/Test Score bands within top tier of Brown & Gold Commitment and WUE State and capped at 50 students per academic year
 - Current WUE Requirements: 3.75+ Cumulative Unweighted High School GPA and 27+ ACT Test Score and WUE State to receive 150% of Resident Tuition renewable for up to eight (8) semesters

2025-2026

- Shift to weighted GPA consideration through an appeal process
- Adjustment to Trustees' Scholars Award (TSA) package utilizing foundation scholarships, as able
- Sunsetting certain 150% non-resident transfer awards

2026-2027

- Increased resident award grid tiers by \$500 (excluding the top tier)
- Launched stackable Good Neighbor Award for bordering states (\$2,000/year for first two (2) years)
- Reshaped the Cowboy Need Grant to provide targeted, need-based support to resident students



Total Financial Aid Summary

The Administration has reviewed the FY2025 Actuals (July through December) and FY2026 Actuals (through October) Student Financial Aid budget grouping and presents the following summary.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID GROUPING	FY2025 ACTUALS (JULY - DECEMBER)	FY2026 ACTUALS (THROUGH OCTOBER)
Tuition Waivers (40301)	841,728	922,326
Undergraduate (40302)	19,613,064	19,618,022
Graduate (40303)	4,147,299	4,630,756
Professional (40304)	1,086,442	1,168,476
Other (40305)	8,514	35,218
Room and Board (40306)	2,550,064	2,131,362
Fellowships (40307)	158,128	122,474
Total Student Financial Aid Awarded	28,405,239	28,628,637



Current Position & Impact

The following is a summary of the FY2026 activity to date:

ACTIVITY SUMMARY	FY2026 STUDENT COUNT	FY2026 AWARD AMOUNT
Resident (New First-Time) Award*	2,364	10,028,748
Non-Resident (New First-Time) Award	877	5,873,064
Transfer (Resident/Non-Resident) Award	940	2,450,620
Admissions Scholarships Awarded	4,181	18,352,432
<i>Funded by Unrestricted Operating</i>	-	13,129,048
<i>Funded by Foundation Funds</i>	-	5,223,384

NOTE: The following figures represent full-time undergraduate degree seeking students who meet the requirements to receive or retain an institutional scholarship, which are awarded upon admission to resident and non-resident (new first-time and transfer) student populations. The amounts include Fall 2025 paid and Spring 2026 offered.*

Institutional Scholarship: Limited to new first-time and transfer student admission awards and the corresponding foundation and institutional funds identified to fulfill those commitments.

**Resident (New First-Time) Award is inclusive of Trustees Scholars Award.*



Current Position & Impact

Impact on Students

- Institutional, state, and Foundation aid collectively support affordability and access
- Scholarship structure provides predictable pathways for families and help reduce unmet need
- Expanded programs (WUE, Good Neighbor, transfer commitments, etc.) support regional competitiveness and enrollment stability
- Systematic enhancements to increase transparency in the student experience remains an opportunity

Impact on Institutional Resources

- Growing reliance on unrestricted operating funds has created budget pressure
- Current structures have not reduced this reliance as originally intended
- A more balanced and sustainable aid structure is needed to support long-term financial planning

Impact on Foundation & Compliance

- Scholarship fundraising may be impacted due to fulfilling nature of scholarship structure
- Scholarship structure supports Office of Civil Rights alignment in the continued awarding of protected class defined funds
- Strategic alignment between University scholarship needs and Foundation fundraising priorities remains an opportunity



Summary Recommendations

The Financial Aid Strategy approved in July 2019 was implemented for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 awarding cycles. This strategy was most recently modified in January 2025 for the 2026-27 awarding cycle. To utilize institutional and foundation resources strategically and enhance recruitment and retention, the Administration is exploring the following:

1. Retain the current resident (new first-time and transfer) merit student grids and matrix for awarding and renewing.
2. Retain the current non-resident (new first-time and transfer) merit student grids and matrix for awarding and renewing.
3. Effective for the 2026-27 aid year, expand the consideration of weighted GPA by removing the appeal process. By doing so, UW will accept a weighted GPA for consideration of the matrix.



Financial Aid History & Context: Commitments

Cowboy Commitment 2026-2027 (Wyoming Residents)

ACT		36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	TEST OPTIONAL*
SAT		1600- 1570	1560- 1530	1520- 1490	1480- 1450	1440- 1420	1410- 1390	1380- 1360	1350- 1330	1320- 1300	1290- 1260	1250- 1230	1220- 1200	1190- 1160	1150- 1130	1120- 1100	1090- 1060	
H I G H	4.00																	\$4,000
	3.95																	
	3.90		\$6,500															
	3.85																	\$2,000
S C H O O L	3.80																	
	3.75																	
	3.70						\$4,000											
	3.65																	
U N W E I G H T E D	3.60																	
	3.55																	
	3.50																	
	3.45																	
G P A	3.40									\$2,000								
	3.35																	\$1,000
	3.30																	
	3.25																	
	3.20																	
	3.15															\$1,000		
	3.10																	
	3.05																	
	3.00																	



Financial Aid History & Context: Commitments

Brown & Gold Commitment 2026-2027 (Non-Residents)

ACT		36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	TEST OPTIONAL *
SAT		1600-1570	1560-1530	1520-1490	1480-1450	1440-1420	1410-1390	1380-1360	1350-1330	1320-1300	1290-1260	1250-1230	1220-1200	1190-1160	1150-1130	1120-1100	1090-1060	
H I G H	4.00																	
	3.95																	\$8,000
	3.90		\$12,000															
	3.85																	
S C H O O L	3.80																	
	3.75																	
	3.70						\$8,000											\$5,000
	3.65																	
U N W E I G H T	3.60																	
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E I G H T	3.40									\$5,000								
	3.35																	
	3.30																	
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D E P A	3.20																	
	3.15															\$3,000		
	3.10																	
	3.05																	
	3.00																	



Financial Aid History & Context: Commitments

Transfer Commitments 2026-2027 (Wyoming Residents & Non-Residents)

WY Transfer Commitment (Residents)		Pokes Transfer Commitment (Non-Residents)	
Cumulative Transfer GPA	Annual Award Amount	Cumulative Transfer GPA	Annual Award Amount
3.00 – 3.30	\$1,000	3.00 – 3.30	\$2,000
3.31 – 3.84	\$2,000	3.31 – 3.84	\$4,000
3.85 – 4.00	\$3,000	3.85 – 4.00	\$6,000

12 Transfer Credits*

*post high school



Proposed Enhancements

- **Guiding Principles for Proposed Enhancements**

- Maintain a competitive and equitable scholarship structure
- Ensure long-term financial sustainability
- Increase clarity, consistency, and compliance
- Strengthen donor engagement and fund utilization
- Improve student experience through transparency

- **Proposed Enhancements**

- Introduce additional scholarship stacking based on defined criteria
- Increase coordination with the UW Foundation and Campus to optimize use of donor-funded scholarships



Proposed Enhancements

- **Additional Application**

- Scholarships with donor criteria not identifiable within the student information system, requiring applicants to submit additional materials for review and selection.

- **External Committee**

- Scholarships with donor criteria requiring review and selection by a committee composed of individuals external to the institution.

- **Financial Need**

- Scholarships with donor criteria that include financial need, as determined by the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid (current metric: completion of the FAFSA with a calculated financial need).

- **GPA**

- Scholarships with donor criteria that specify a GPA requirement below the institutional commitment minimum (currently 3.0).

- **Native/Tribal Affiliation**

- Scholarships with donor criteria intended to support students with verified Native American and/or Tribal affiliation, as determined through student-provided documentation.

- **Other**

- Scholarships with donor criteria that include support for summer enrollment and/or research activities.

- **Participation**

- Scholarships with donor criteria requiring student participation in both university-affiliated and external activities as part of the review and selection process.



Proposed Enhancements

CATEGORY	FUND COUNT	2025-2026 ESTIMATED IMPACT
Additional Application	109	811,313.30
External Committee	31	99,524.00
Financial Need	198	1,392,563.76
GPA	31	104,855.91
Native/Tribal Affiliation	9	20,129.00
Other	11	32,500.00
Participation	41	112,520.02
Totals	430	2,573,405.99



Proposed Enhancements

Foundation & Campus Partnership

With a shift in allowing additional funds to stack in excess of the current scholarship structure, the partnership with the UW Foundation and Campus would require enhancement.

Opportunities include:

- Collaborative planning with UW Foundation colleagues
- Clearer alignment between fundraising priorities and institutional needs
- Improved centralized fund administration for consistency and impact

Summary of Current ROTC Students Fall 2025

CATEGORY	Current 1 year	All-Years	Proposed Adjustment to In-State	Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) Per Year	Mandatory Fees	Est. Program Fees & Advising Fee	Current # of Students	# of Students with <3.0 GPA	# of Students with Anticipated Graduation by Summer 2026	Anticipated # of Continuing Students in Fall 2026
Resident (Scholarship)	\$ 82,944.00	\$ 326,376.00			\$ 24,752.00	\$ 11,700.00	13	5	1	12
Resident (No Scholarship)	\$ 129,600.00	\$ 518,400.00			\$ 45,696.00	\$ 21,600.00	24	4	-	24
Non-Resident (Scholarship) -National Guard, In-State Tuition	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 97,200.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ -	\$ 9,520.00	\$ 4,500.00	5	1	2	3
Non-Resident (Scholarship)	\$ 330,300.00	\$ 1,045,950.00	\$ 81,000.00	\$ (249,300.00)	\$ 28,560.00	\$ 13,500.00	15	2	5	10
Totals - Non-Resident (Scholarship)	\$ 357,300.00	\$ 1,143,150.00	\$ 108,000.00	\$ (249,300.00)	\$ 38,080.00	\$ 18,000.00	20	3	7	13
Non-Resident (No Scholarship) - National Guard, In-State Tuition	\$ 75,600.00	\$ 302,400.00	\$ 75,600.00	\$ -	\$ 26,656.00	\$ 12,600.00	14	2	-	14
Non-Resident (No Scholarship)	\$ 286,260.00	\$ 1,167,060.00	\$ 70,200.00	\$ (216,060.00)	\$ 24,752.00	\$ 11,700.00	13	4	-	13
Totals Non-Resident (No Scholarships)	\$ 361,860.00	\$ 1,469,460.00	\$ 145,800.00	\$ (216,060.00)	\$ 51,408.00	\$ 24,300.00	27	6	-	27
Alumni	\$ 91,044.00	\$ 356,076.00	\$ 66,744.00	\$ (24,300.00)	\$ 19,040.00	\$ 9,000.00	10	2	2	8
Totals	\$ 1,022,748.00	\$ 3,813,462.00	\$ 320,544.00	\$ (489,660.00)	\$ 178,976.00	\$ 84,600.00	94	20	10	84