

Tuition Freeze

A tuition freeze agreement between Governor Steve Bullock, the Montana University System (MUS), and the Legislature was signed during the 2015 Legislative Session. The agreement states that the MUS will implement a resident-student tuition freeze for the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years if certain funding levels are provided. The agreement hinges on the following factors:

Present Law Adjustment at Resident Rate: The MUS Educational Units must receive funding to cover present law adjustments at a rate equal to the resident-student enrollment percent share.

State Employee Pay Plan

The ability to freeze resident student tuition relies on a state appropriation to the MUS to fund any raises that the Legislature approves in a state employee pay plan.

Performance Funding

The MUS will continue with performance funding and commit to allocating a total of \$30,000,000 to the MUS Ed. Units through performance-based funding in the next biennium (FY16 and FY17).

No Shifting of Costs to Fees

The MUS must commit to not increasing fees beyond what would be required for the normal programs that fees support. The MUS campuses will not shift costs from current unrestricted funding to fee supported programs.

Outcome: The 2015 Legislature appropriated sufficient levels of funding for the tuition freeze agreement to be implemented.

- **HB 2** - the state general fund appropriation act, provides an increase of **\$26.8** million in *present law adjustments* and *pay plan funding*. (note: includes MUS RP funding)

Charts: [Ed Unit Funding Charts](#)
[CC Funding Chart](#)

- **Performance Funding** – the MUS is prepared to continue with performance funding; an [Action Item](#) in the Administration, Budget, & Audit Committee will be presented for the Regents' consideration.

System Initiatives / Funding Increases

Total Funding = \$24 million

Research Initiative: state funding that will serve as seed money to leverage university-based research into strategic advancements for Montana's economy. The fundamental purpose of this research initiative is to: (1) solve Montana problems with Montana solutions; (2) create good Montana private-sector jobs, and/or; (3) grow emerging and important research sectors that contribute to the diversity of Montana's economy. [MUS Research Initiative](#)

Total = \$15 million biennial (OTO)

WWAMI Expansion: base funding to fully fund the increase in slots in the WWAMI program from 20 to 30. **Total = \$1.4M** biennial

Veterinary Medicine: base funding to fully fund the Montana Cooperative Veterinary Medicine Program, a joint program between MSU and Washington State University that admits 10 students per year. **Total = \$976,730** biennial

MUS Agencies: base funding increases for the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Services, Fire Services Training School, Bureau of Mines & Geology, and Forest & Conservation Experiment Station (includes present law adjustments) **Total = \$4,941,827** biennial

Extension Service-Local Government Center: funding to continue service through the Local Government Center at MSU Extension. **Total = \$360,000** biennial

Coal & Mine Data Records: funding for the Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology to assist with making data records of mines and coal available online to the public.

Total = \$600,000 biennial (restricted OTO)

AES Seed Lab: funding to assist with seed sample testing conducted by the lab.

Total = \$250,000 biennial (OTO)

AES Wool Lab: funding to assist with research, service, and education conducted by the lab.

Total = \$120,000 biennial (restricted OTO)

Increase Tribal College Assistance: additional funding of non-beneficiary student assistance at Montana's tribal colleges. **Total = \$322,756** biennial (restricted OTO)

Deferred Maintenance/Building Projects (HB 403)

Maintenance/Projects = \$8.7M

- Deferred Maintenance, \$4.5M
- Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU Bozeman – Phase 1, \$2,480,000
- Automotive Technology Center, MSU Northern, \$1.0M
- Land Acquisition – Great Falls College MSU, \$750,000

Authority Only Projects = \$65.2 million

- Engineering Building, MSU, \$60M
- Automotive Technology Center, MSU Northern, \$1.0M
- Bitterroot College Facility, \$4.2M

Other Legislation

SB 29 - Remove college tuition waiver requirements

- ❖ Removes legislative limits on the number of non-resident tuition waivers the U-system is allowed to provide
- ❖ Strikes the provision that limits non-resident waivers to no more than 2% of enrollment
- ❖ Regents' policy requires campuses to generate more non-resident tuition revenue than the actual amount of expenditures for non-resident students, producing additional revenue that is *used to subsidize resident students*.

HB 617 - Montana STEM Scholarship

- ❖ Establishes a new state funded scholarship program designed to incentivize students to prepare for, enter into, and complete degrees in fields related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and healthcare
- ❖ Eligibility Criteria: Students must earn a 3.25 GPA or higher and complete 4 years of math and 3 years of science in high school, and enroll full-time in the MUS as a declared STEM or healthcare major
 - When fully funded, students meeting above criteria receive \$1000 in year one
 - Students completing at least 30 credits in year one and earning a 3.0 GPA or higher receive \$2,000 if they return for a second year of enrollment and remain enrolled in a STEM or healthcare field
- ❖ The program is fund by a statutory appropriation with Montana Lotto proceeds
- ❖ Request for approval of the policy to enact and administer this program is in the Academic & Students Affairs Committee, [Action Item](#)

Other Legislation (cont.)

SB 143 - Clarify constitutional provisions and law related to board of regents/u-system

- ❖ a.k.a. Guns on Campus, TABLED

SB 418 - Authorizing transfers to implement provisions of House Bill 2

- ❖ includes Pay Plan and Benefits enacting language

SB 74 - Revise PERS employer contribution laws for the Montana University System

HB 59 - Increase university system supplemental contribution to TRS

- ❖ TABLED

SB 168 – Provide academic protections for students called to active duty

HB 512 - Establish an eastern Montana crime laboratory

Master List of MUS Bill Tracking