

Annual Operating Budget Report

2024/2025

This University at Buffalo (UB) Annual Operating Budget Report is a comprehensive presentation of the university's 2024/2025 budget and investment priorities.

 University at Buffalo
Division of Finance
and Administration



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Strategic Overview

1. Executive Summary

The objective of the UB Annual Operating Budget Report is to provide the University at Buffalo (UB) community with a comprehensive summary of the university's financial plans for the current fiscal year.

For 2024/25, UB continues to hold a strong financial position. We have significant cash reserves due to forward-looking financial stewardship, long-range planning, and the strength of UB's enrollment. Additionally, New York State continues to invest across the SUNY system including in UB.

2. UB Vision and Strategic Goals

Building on the existing strong foundation of academic excellence, knowledge and understanding, UB's vision is to rank in the nation's top 25 public research universities, thereby expanding the scope of our reach and strengthening our world-wide impact. We will achieve this by accomplishing the following strategic goals:

- **Achieve** greater societal impact locally and globally by enhancing faculty productivity, research funding and recognition; encouraging innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration; and enhancing research environments and faculty support structures.
- **Provide** our students with transformative, innovative, and research-grounded educational experiences while elevating students' academic profile, improving retention and graduation rates, enhancing academic and career support structures, enhancing educational environments, and expanding UB's leadership in international education.
- **Promote** a university-wide culture of equity and inclusion by integrating inclusive excellence into all aspects of our university, further enhancing faculty and student diversity, and implementing best practices in recruitment and retention.
- **Deepen** our engagement in the regional community by continuing to build partnerships in the local community, improving regional health care outcomes, and making Buffalo a destination for health sciences research, education and care.

Top 25: More Than a Number

On October 16, 2020, President Tripathi outlined the university's commitment to becoming one of the top 25 public research universities in the U.S. in the next decade.

Building on UB's strong foundation of academic excellence, knowledge and understanding, the University at Buffalo will advance into the nation's top 25 public research universities, thereby expanding the scope of our reach and strengthening UB's world-wide impact.

Through the Annual Resource Planning Process (ARPP), we set out to align the following characteristics of a top 25 public research university with our strategic goals:

- ✓ Academic programs recognized among the best in the nation.
- ✓ Faculty that competes at the highest levels for research funds and fellowships and are recognized for their excellence.
- ✓ A faculty, staff and student body that is increasingly diverse.
- ✓ Strong academic and student support at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- ✓ A campus environment that is welcoming, inclusive and meets the needs of a modern campus.
- ✓ The cultivation and promotion of faculty impact, institutional success, and alumni/friend engagement.
- ✓ Resources marshalled through philanthropy, research funding, enrollment, and state aid.

Learn about [UB's top 25 goals](#)

3. UB as New York State Flagship Institution

On January 5, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the formal designation of the University at Buffalo (UB) and Stony Brook University (SBU) as New York State's flagship universities. The official recognition of these premier centers of higher

education as joint flagships of the State University of New York (SUNY) system reflects the preeminent role that UB and SBU play statewide, nationally and internationally as models of research and academic excellence. This designation acknowledges the excellence and reputations of our universities, and it will further enhance our ability to continue to recruit the world's most accomplished faculty and attract outstanding students — regardless of their income or socioeconomic background — and draw even more highly competitive federal research funding.

Across the country, flagship universities are those that provide vital leadership in advancing their home state's public higher education mission. These universities, most of which, like UB and SBU, are invited members of the Association of American Universities (AAU), are the preeminent centers for research and graduate education in their respective states. They also provide a comprehensive array of professional schools and degree programs and are proven economic catalysts. Flagships attract the world's best and brightest faculty and students and are nationally and internationally recognized for the quality and impact of their research and academic innovation and rigor.

UB's see this formal designation as further advancing our Top 25 ambition.

Operating Budget

1. Projected University Operating Budget

- **All-funds 2024/2025 budget**

Projected at \$984 million.

- **Tuition revenue**

Projected at \$373 million or 38% of the overall budget. Tuition revenue represents the largest portion of the university's operating budget.

- **Direct state tax support**

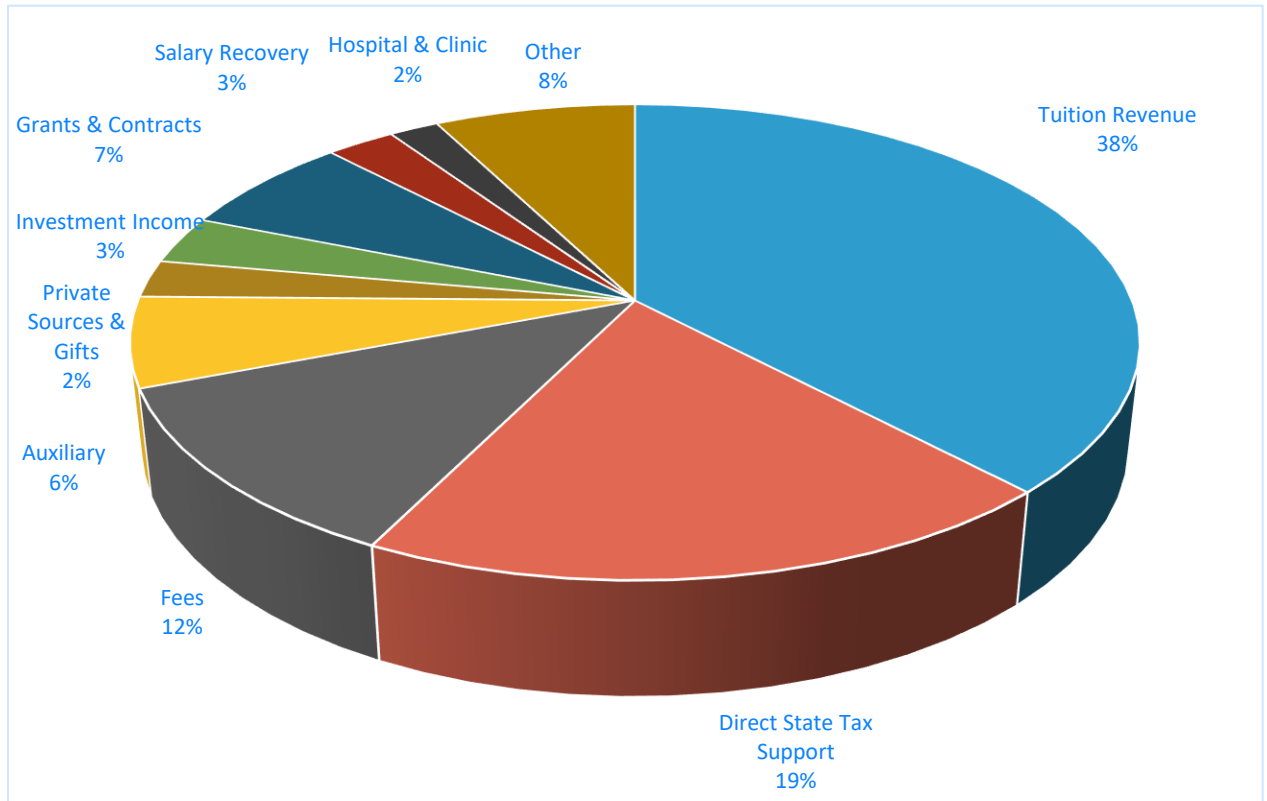
Projected at \$191 million or 19% of the overall budget. Direct state tax support represents the second largest portion of the university's operating budget and includes a \$14.2 million increase in this year's enacted state budget.

- **Fee revenue**

Projected at \$116 million or 12% of the overall budget. Fee revenue includes the Comprehensive Fee, Academic Excellence Fee, Course Fees, and other service fees.

- **Auxiliary revenues**

Projected at \$60 million or 6% of the overall budget. Auxiliary revenues come primarily from student housing. They also include athletics, parking, and other rent revenues. This money is collected and spent within collecting units and cannot be used for other purposes.



2. State Impact on Operating Budget

Highlights from New York State’s 2024/2025 budget:

- **Additional State-Operated Campus and Statutory College Operating Monies of \$114 million ongoing**

From these funds, UB will receive \$14.2 million annually. \$605 thousand is allocated directly to support research and \$545 thousand allocated to directly

support student internships. The remaining support is unrestricted to support faculty and staff.

Highlights from New York State's 2022/2023 and 2023/24 budgets that will continue to impact UB in 2024/25 and beyond:

- **Elimination of the TAP Gap beginning 2022/2023.**

This saves UB almost \$10 million annually.

- **Annual reset of the Excelsior Scholarship tuition rate to align with the current undergraduate in-state rate beginning in 2022/23.**

This saves UB over \$1 million annually.

- **\$53 million in support for new full-time faculty across SUNY beginning in 2022/23.**

From these funds, the state commitment to UB is \$12.1 million.

- **Additional State-Operated Campus and Statutory College Operating Monies of \$163 million ongoing beginning in 2023/24**

From these funds, UB receives \$26.3 million annually.

- **Direct State Tax Endowment Match**

University Centers including UB are eligible to receive a 50% match (up to \$500 million) on up to \$1 billion dollars of privately raised endowment funds.

- **\$75 million Transformational Innovation Fund**

From these funds, UB received \$385 thousand in one-time funds.

- **Differential Non-Resident Tuition for State-Operated Campuses**

Provides the SUNY Board of Trustees additional flexibility in setting differential non-resident undergraduate and graduate tuition rates for state-operated institutions for a three-year period beginning 2023/24.

These historic investments by NYS into higher education the past few years are welcome. As UB's enrollment has grown to exceed 30,000 students, we have remained steadfastly committed to keeping a UB education accessible to students. However, as enrollments grew so did the cost of supporting these students. Even with these new

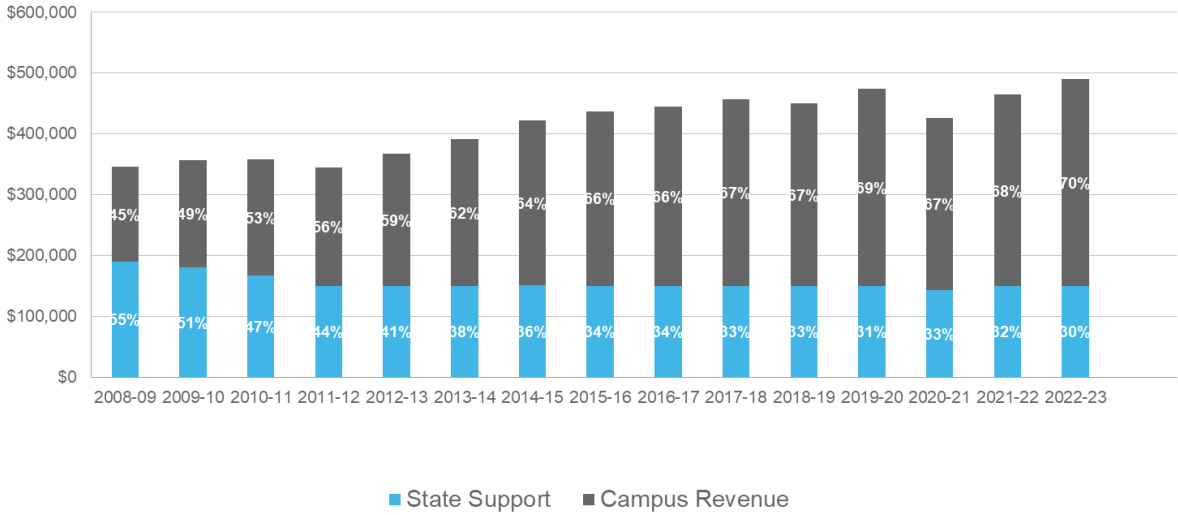
investments, UB bears the responsibility to cover the increasing cost of supporting a large student body.

While UB has taken a number of critical steps to help defray the impact of rising costs, the university will continue to advocate for additional state support and for tuition and fee rates that allow UB to maintain resources on par with peer institutions.

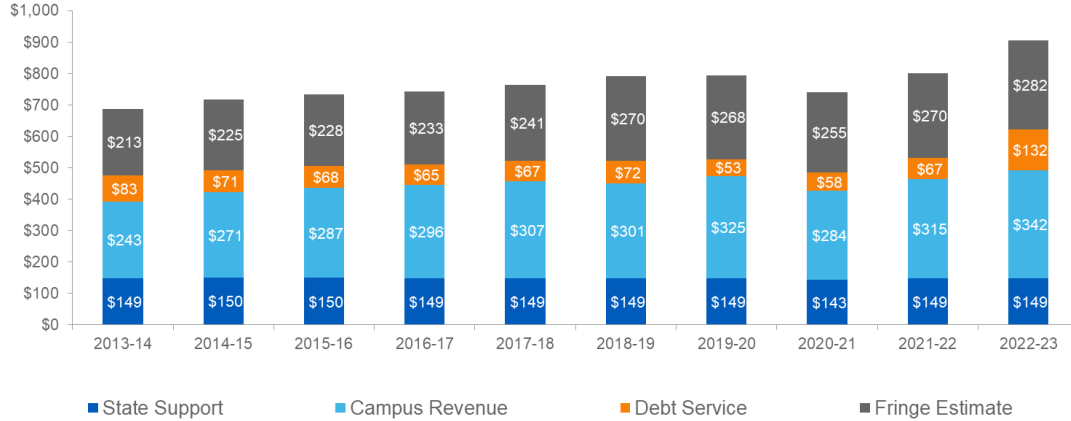
3. Additional State Impact Information

Over time, UB has become more reliant on tuition revenue as the primary source of funding. The chart below (\$ in millions) highlights this fact. As new state funds are committed to UB, the ratio of state funds to tuition revenue will increase in future years.

Note: the decrease in 2020/21 revenues is pandemic related, specifically, the state reduced funding by 5% and tuition revenue decreased significantly due to the decline in international enrollment.



In addition to providing direct state tax support, New York State also covers debt service and fringe benefit cost for UB. The chart below (in millions) shows annual state support trends and sources to UB.



Based on information provided by SUNY Budget and Controller Office

Issues and Actions

1. Issues and Challenges Affecting UB Budgets

While UB remains strong financially, the university continues to face several challenges. Among them are unfunded mandates, critical maintenance needs, limited availability of resources, and the evolving role public universities are asked to play in the community and in the lives of its students and faculty who make our work possible.

Contractual Obligations

Personnel (approximately \$70 million impact)

Unfunded negotiated salary increases continue to be the university’s most pressing long-term financial concern. A long-term strategy will need to be reached to address this issue.

- The United University Professions (UUP) and the state agreed on a new that will go into effect retroactively to July 1, 2022. The previous contract expired June 30, 2022.
- One-time costs over the life of the contract are expected to be \$20 million.

- In 2025/26, the final year of the contract, additional recurring costs will be \$50 million. The prior contract recurring cost exceeded \$30 million. The university continues to address this recurring obligation and to find efficiencies to offset these costs; however, the current model is unsustainable long term if the university is expected to meet its mission.

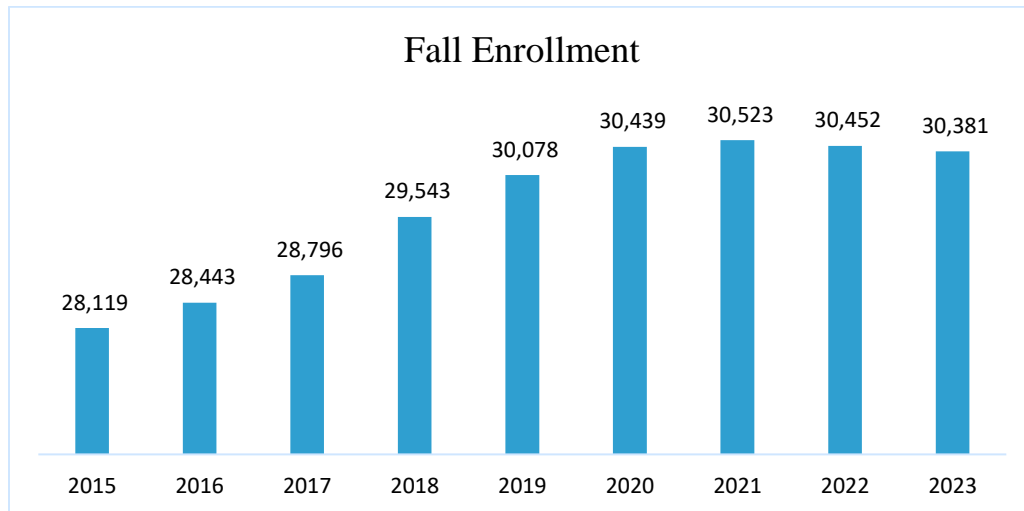
Tuition Revenue and Enrollment

Tuition Revenue

State budget approval allowing the SUNY board to consider applying differential non-resident tuition rates was a critical first step toward aligning UB’s rates with those of our peers. UB’s tuition and fee rates remain low compared to peer public research institutions. While this means UB is a great value for students and families, it makes it challenging for the university to fulfill its mission.

Enrollment

The chart below shows UB’s strong enrollment growth. As enrollment grows, this pressures UB’s overtaxed infrastructure and increases costs for academic support services such as academic advising, university libraries and student services.



Through our Integrated Resource Planning process, UB makes a concerted effort to use data to identify trends and forecast enrollment. Our forecast for fall 2024 was:

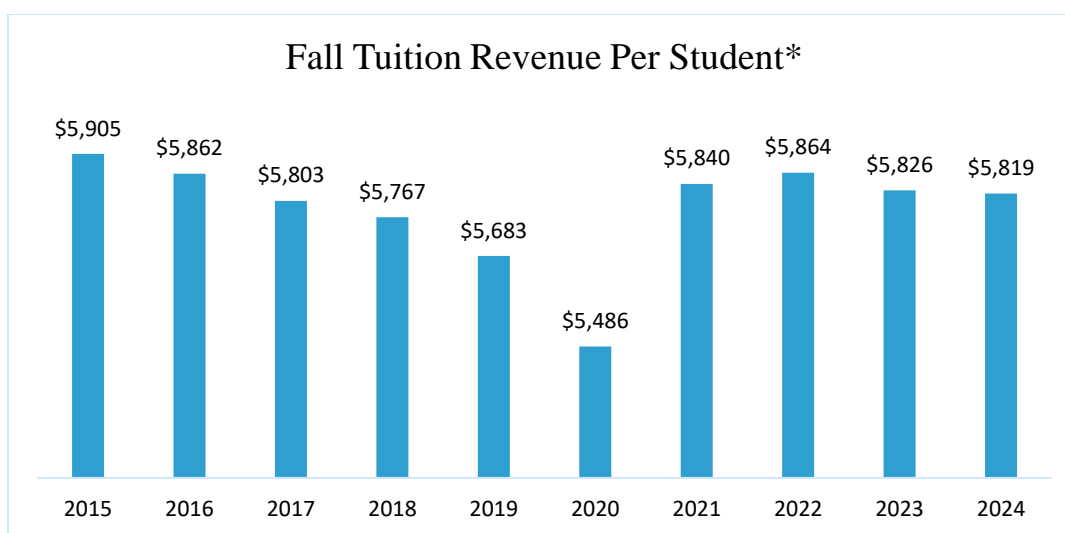
- Flat undergraduate enrollment over fall 2023. These past three years are a decline over peak enrollment years. Two of the drivers are a reduction in

transfer students and in continuing students. Improving undergraduate retention is a current focus across campus.

- Growth in graduate enrollment largely driven by the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the School of Management.
- Flat professional program enrollment.

The graph below (normalized at 2024/25 rates for all years to remove the impact of tuition rate increases) illustrates how average tuition revenue for all students declined for several years as the resident undergraduate population (which pays the lowest tuition rate) grew in relation to all other enrollment groups.

Following fall 2020, which was highly impacted by the pandemic, the fall 2021 revenue demonstrates the impact of a rebound in graduate enrollment (primarily international students who were most impacted by COVID). We expect to see tuition per student to continue to recover as graduate programs grow in relation to undergraduate enrollment.



* Tuition revenue is expressed in 2024/25 dollars; 2024 is a projection.

PhD Student Stipends and Program Enhancements

In 2019, as part of the PhD Excellence Initiative, UB established a floor for stipends paid to full-time, fully-funded PhD students with TA/RA/GA appointments. In fall 2021, the university began covering fees charged to these students, and, as part of our regular review of this initiative, the decision was made to increase the stipend floor in fall 2023. Additionally, academic deans were asked to review their programs and create plans that:

- Ensure PhD student obligations are balanced between scholarship and teaching.
- Provide funding for all full-time funded PhD students for the duration of their PhD programs, and
- Attract exceptional students to our programs.

Capital

Academic Space Needs

We were pleased with the capital allotment in this past year's budget; however, the amount of capital funding does not meet the needs of our aging campus.

UB's deferred maintenance needs have grown exponentially and have risen above \$626 million. Recent investments have led to a sizeable increase in faculty; the need for additional office and research space is also stressing our infrastructure. Continued enrollment growth will be highly dependent upon our ability to expand our physical capacity to accommodate additional students and faculty.

In addition to our capital allotment for critical maintenance, we are excited that the state budget included \$250 million dollars to support the Empire AI consortium, which consists of SUNY, CUNY and other public and private institutions. This \$400 million publicly- and privately-funded state-of-the-art artificial intelligence computing center will be located on UB's North Campus, creating a tech hub where research institutions across the state can together leverage the vast possibilities of AI to solve a spectrum of societal problems.

Previous one-time capital investments exceeding \$60 million have helped modernize UB's South Campus, relieve space constraints on the North Campus and realize our vision of devoting South Campus to community-facing professional programs. Crosby Hall is newly renovated and construction to renovate Foster Hall is scheduled to be completed April 2025. Additional capital funds have also been provided for Clark (\$80 million) and Parker (\$135 million) Halls on the South Campus.

Additional state investment in capital from the 2023/24 budget:

\$200 million in capital funding for SUNY Flagship Institutions

These funds are designated for new and renovated research buildings, laboratories, and state-of-the art instrumentation at Stony Brook University and the University at Buffalo. UB will utilize their \$100 million of funding to build a

new interdisciplinary research building on the North Campus alongside the new Empire AI computing center.

Additional state investment in capital from the 2022/23 budget:

\$68 million in Funding for a new engineering building at UB

UB will fundraise the remaining \$42 million toward the projected total cost of \$110 million.

Holistic Capital Planning

Expectations surrounding UB's ability to address capital issues in a comprehensive manner also remain an area of concern.

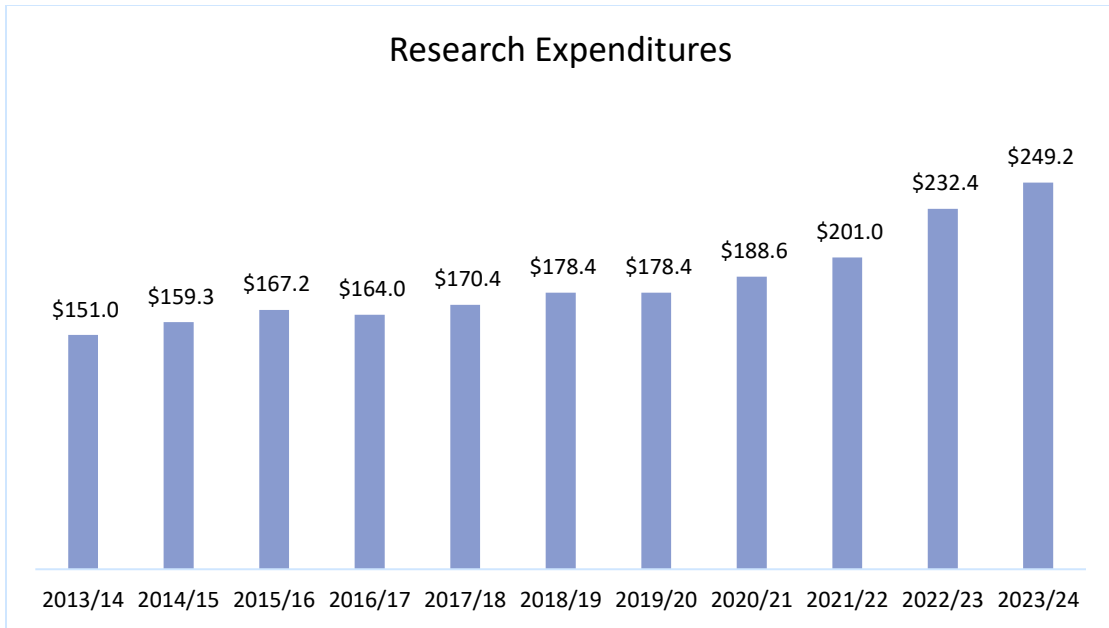
Though the university is pursuing efficiency measures to defray these costs, without consistent and adequate funding aligned with our deferred maintenance needs, academic quality, faculty recruitment and retention, and the student experience will be negatively impacted.

While the university continues to support efforts to diversify and grow our student body while also providing a safe and inclusive campus, these efforts come at a cost. We consider the cost to be a sound investment in our future and the future of our students; however, allocating resources to these initiatives requires shifting resources away from other areas of investment.

Research Support

As we grow our research enterprise, we continue to invest our resources in support of research and scholarly excellence. Among these investments, we are integrating economic development and scholarship at multiple levels to ensure economic impact, positive community outcomes and sustainable innovation; improving customer service across the research enterprise; and have an ongoing commitment to providing world-class research facilities and equipment. These investments are critical to our commitments to being recognized among the top 25 public research universities and doubling our research expenditures by 2030 to achieve the \$400 million mark.

The graph below represents UB's research expenditures in millions.



2. Actions to Address Fiscal Challenges

To address and prepare for fiscal challenges, we evaluate operations to identify efficiencies, maximize our current resources, review and adjust our financial projections, and advocate for additional support from the state. Our Annual Resource Planning Process (ARPP) continuously evolves to ensure resources are allocated in a manner that best aligns with university priorities.

Below is an overview of some of the steps we have taken to maintain our fiscal strength and prepare for inevitable change, challenge, and opportunity:

- In 2021/22, we revised the academic-year budget model, and, in 2022/23, we updated the summer and winter budget models. These models provide additional funding to academic units that grow their revenue above target. Conversely, for units with declining revenue, we are able to quickly adjust revenue to those units and chart a path for future success. The models are outlined later in this document.
- In 2023/24, we revised our IFR fringe policy for support units to help alleviate the fringe costs associated with salaries on IFR funding.
- Workforce planning is now a critical piece of the ARPP as we continue to prepare for unfunded negotiated salary increases and other personnel challenges.

- We convened a Space Utilization Study, adopted new space policies and standards, and made progress in aligning our space allocation with current needs.
- We created a data analytics function that provides both central administration and units with department and program-level data. This data is used to forecast enrollment and tuition for resource planning.
- We implemented multi-year utilities planning to achieve energy savings.
- We support the continued implementation of the Enrollment and Resource Planning Calendar.
- We developed a multi-phased approach to achieve our Capital Master Plan aspirations.

Technology and Business Process Solutions

UB has embraced a number of technological and business process solutions to reduce costs and better manage our resources, as part of our university-wide Operational Excellence initiative.

Learn more about [UB's Operational Excellence initiative](#)

- In Fall of 2024 we are implementing **UPlan, a new budgeting, planning and forecasting system** that will improve accuracy and efficiency and will support scenario planning. In addition, the system will create a standard format for development of department-level budgets across the institution. In 2021, the initial module for commitment management was implemented centrally and to all units across campus. This module improves tracking, management and delivery of multiyear commitments made to units, departments and faculty.
- The implementation of the **ShopBlue e-procurement system** has enabled UB to streamline its purchasing process, enhance spending visibility and control and fully utilize the contracts negotiated by the purchasing department.
- The implementation of new **systems including the EDGE learning management system, travel solutions like Concur Travel and Expense system, and Time and Attendance system** are reducing costs, simplifying processes, creating a culture of continuous improvement, and maximizing human resources.
- We are streamlining our **capital rehab project process** to be more efficient.

State-Controlled Dependencies

The university continues to advocate for state support and tuition and fee rates that, together, keep UB's resources on par with peer institutions.

Capital funding will remain a priority during this year's budget. Capital funding advocacy must include funds for critical maintenance and strategic priority projects including major building renovations and new buildings.

UB is experiencing an increase in demand for STEM programs. STEM programs require modern laboratories and facilities. Campus space for both classroom and laboratories is strained.

Budget Planning

1. Annual Resource Planning Process (ARPP)

The ARPP provides a framework for the university to review our financial capacity, align our current resources to support our priorities, and assess potential areas for new investment.

During the ARPP, we make collaborative and thoughtful decisions about the degree to which a program helps us achieve our strategic goals. We consider how it supports our faculty's groundbreaking research, how it serves our students' changing needs, how it supports our neighboring communities, and how it can enable us to achieve our goal of being recognized among the top 25 public research universities in the nation.

Each funding request herein is critically reviewed and combined with our ongoing programs to find efficiencies and other cost-savings, allowing UB to continue making valuable contributions locally, nationally, and globally.

Guiding Principles

UB utilizes the ARPP to plan for its financial needs. Guided by five principles, our planning process takes a holistic approach to identifying university needs and allocating available funds to support both individual unit needs and the strategic priorities of the university a whole.

- 1) **Strategic** - The plan aligns incentives with our mission and strategic behaviors.

- 2) **Predictable** - The plan builds models that provide a reliable foundation for planning.
- 3) **Flexibility** - The plan builds models that anticipate and are responsive to changes in the economic environment as well as incorporating appropriate risk management strategies.
- 4) **Integration** - The plan considers the university as a whole and makes intentional connections between organizational needs and priorities.
- 5) **Stewardship** - The plan exercises prudence in managing university resources, diversifies revenue streams to promote resilience, maintains appropriate reserves, and rewards efficiency and effectiveness.

Tightly woven into our ARPP are UB's four strategic goals that help us advance our vision of ascending into the nation's top 25 public research universities.

Collaborative Approach

During the ARPP, UB's Provost and the Division of Finance and Administration collaborate closely with units to plan for future years. The process encompasses the review of many factors including enrollment, tuition revenue, staffing, research expenditures and proposals, endowments, unit spending plans, capital/space, risks and contingencies, and investment proposals. The budget planning process looks at funding priorities through these lenses:

- Comprehensive asset/liability management
- Integrated, single-institutional point of view
- Long-term in nature
- Analyze returns on investments
- Proactive
- Dynamic and scenario-based
- Transparency

In addition, during the ARPP, the Division of Finance and Administration's Resource Planning team collaborates with UB's Division of Student Life to set student fees for specific services and ensure that the university is accommodating their needs. The outcomes of the ARPP are submitted to SUNY for approval before implementation.

Planning Phases

The ARPP consists of three phases:

- 1) **Phase 1** (September – Mid-January): Three-Year Plan information collection
 - Key Outcome: Communicate guidance to VP/Deans and unit business officers based on the university’s financial position to assist units in providing their input and needs through the Three-Year Plan workbook.
- 2) **Phase 2** (Mid-January-March): Analysis, discussion and decision-making
 - Key Outcome: VP/Deans present the unit’s position to senior leadership to gain a shared understanding of needs and inform resource planning decisions.
- 3) **Phase 3** (April-August): Closure of Annual Resource Planning Process
 - Key Outcome: Communicate unit expectations and outcomes to VP/Deans to finalize Three-Year Plans and implement resource planning decisions.

The Division of Finance and Administration loads new fiscal year budgets into the financial system for July 1 implementation.

2. Financial Capacity

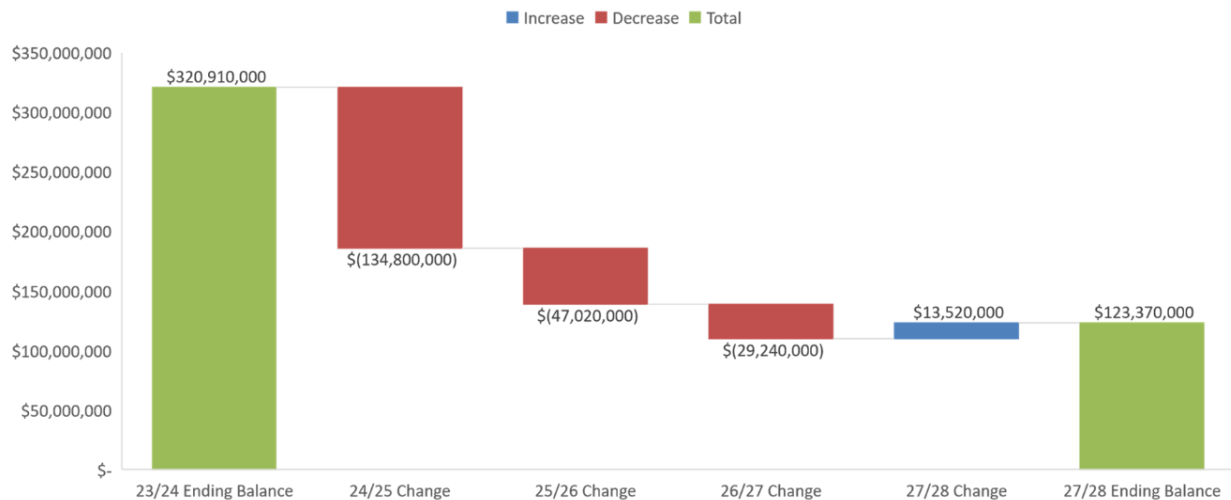
UB’s financial health is a result of thoughtful planning and committed financial stewardship. This foundation allows us to maintain a long-term strategic plan and manage through periods of volatility. For 2024/25, some important factors influenced our beginning fund balances:

- Our five-year rolling financial planning process anticipates and considers major economic opportunities and challenges.
- Our multi-year planning effort to address unfunded negotiated salary increases means that decanal and divisional units have plans to absorb these costs in the short term.
- We continue to maintain contingency reserves which helps create confidence that we can maintain our strategic focus and meet our long-term goals.

The graph below represents projected centrally managed Internal Financial Plan (IFP) balances in millions over the next five years. Beginning IFP balances are strategic reserves set aside to fund investments committed through the ARPP.

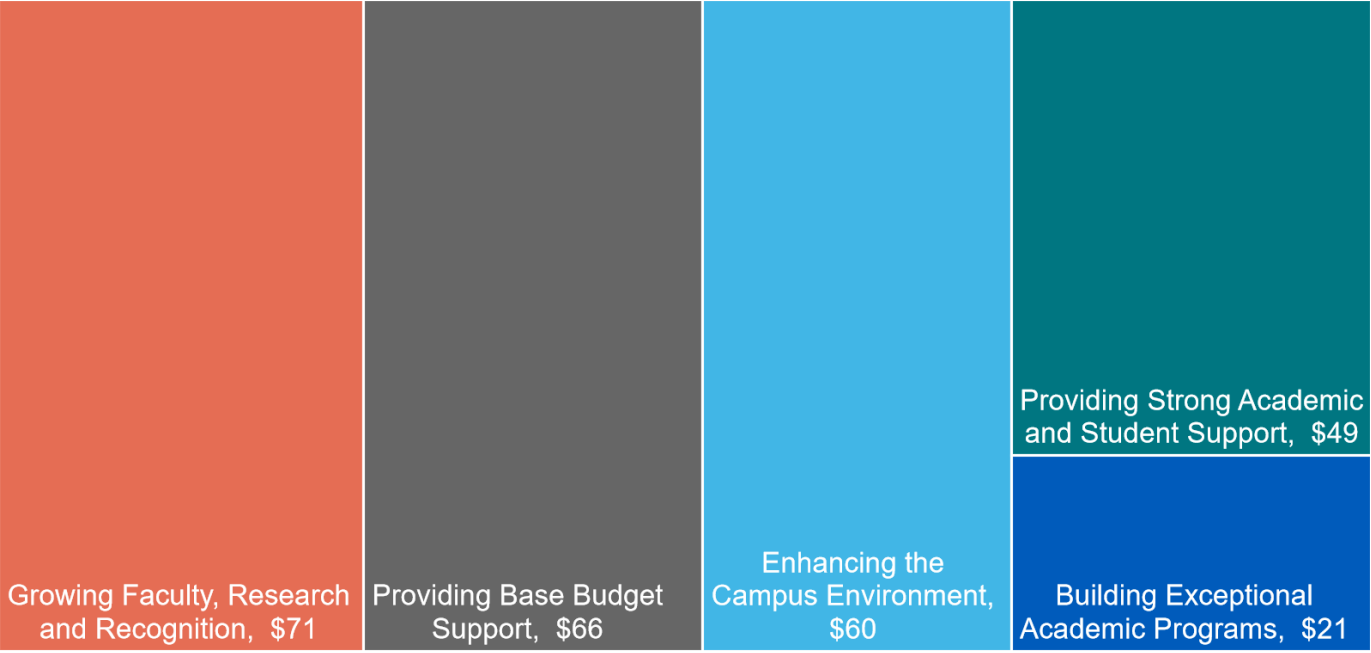
The graph excludes the university’s \$40 million emergency reserve intended to manage unforeseen events, which can only be used if the President, Provost and Vice President for Finance and Administration agree it is necessary.

The overall decline reflects investment commitments made during the 2024/2025 and previous ARPPs. The new commitments for 2024/25 are outlined in the next section.



3. Investment Requests and Funding

For the 2024/2025 ARPP, commitments were made to invest \$267 million over three years. The below graph shows the breakout by funding priority. For 2024/25, in addition to funding initiatives to help us reach our strategic goals, the largest investment to unit base budgets in over a decade was made. Recurring amounts were added each year for a three-year total.



The following is a list of all investments made during the 2024/2025 ARPP by priority.

Investment Priorities

Growing Faculty Research and Recognition

Unit	Title	Recurring Funding	One-Time Funding
Central University	AI Hiring Initiative	2,500,000	10,000,000
Central University	Backfill non-resident tuition differential for research funded PhD students	2,000,000	-
Central University	Expanded Research Advancement, Research Award Support, and Data Management	5,000,000	-
Graduate School of Education	Sustaining Ph.D Excellence	300,000	-
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	Build a Sustainable Portfolio of Core Facilities	-	6,409,765
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	Cultivating PhD Excellence through the MD/PhD Program	-	1,780,484
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	Internal Medicine Investment	611,627	-
Provost	Expanding Research	1,000,000	540,000
Research and Economic Development	Consulting-Research Infrastructure Enhancements	-	375,000
Research and Economic Development	Large Equipment Funding	-	6,000,000
Research and Economic Development	Research Support; Innovation Engines Program	-	4,500,000
Research and Economic Development	UB Commons Lease-Additional Funding	100,000	750,000
Research and Economic Development	CTSA Matching 1/1/2025-12/31/2031	-	4,800,000
School of Architecture and Planning	Expanding Research Scope and Impact – Climate Resilience	-	600,000
School of Law	Entrepreneurship (e) Law Center Support	170,000	-

Enhancing the Campus Environment

Unit	Title	Recurring Funding	One-Time Funding
Central University	Martin Room Renovations	-	99,000
Central University	Instructional Facilities Renovation Projects	-	9,550,272
Central University	CTRC Card Access Project	-	626,692
College of Arts and Sciences	Facility Safety - Chemical Storage	-	510,000
Finance and Administration	Staff Support Spaces	-	2,583,190
Finance and Administration	Campus Entrance Signage	-	402,538
Finance and Administration	Card Access FTEs	120,000	-
Finance and Administration	Elevator Contractor Cell Lines	10,000	-
Finance and Administration	Fleet Replacement	2,565,000	-
Finance and Administration	IFR Funds for OTPS	2,500,000	-
Finance and Administration	Beane Center Renovations	-	10,000,000
Finance and Administration	Transportation Services Electrification	5,500,000	-
Central University	Capen Restroom Renovations	-	300,000
Student Life	Student Union Phase 2	-	3,500,000

Providing Strong Academic and Student Support

Unit	Title	Recurring Funding	One-Time Funding
Central University	Shorelight Support	170,000	-
Central University	Centralized Software Escalation Costs	261,537	1,292,000
Central University	Roswell Park Tuition Scholarship Credit	474,805	-
Central University	Build out CRM to support student communication, admission, student retention and alumni communication	2,000,000	2,000,000
College of Arts and Sciences	Consultation and Repatriation of Native American Human Remains & Objects	-	350,000
Division of Athletics	Primary Insurance - Domestic Student Athletes	-	300,000
Finance and Administration	Duty of Care	100,000	-
Graduate School of Education	Brainy Bulls	-	270,000
Graduate School of Education	GSE Strategic Retention	47,926	25,000
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	Pediatric Obesity Faculty Cluster Hiring Planning	-	150,000
Provost	Student Experience and Retention	980,000	-
School of Dental Medicine	SDM Clinical and Student Renovations	-	9,225,000
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences	SEAS Enrollment Growth: Recruitment & Retention Initiatives	-	1,620,000
School of Management	SOM student retention	-	845,097
School of Management	SOM undergraduate enrollment growth	-	750,000
School of Nursing	Addressing the Nursing Workforce Shortage	-	620,125
School of Nursing	Nursing Capital Infrastructure: Simulation and Research	-	10,225,000
School of Social Work	Safe Exchange Fellowship	-	228,000
Student Life	LGBTQ+ Center	94,444	-
University Advancement	Transitioning to Top 25 Campaign	-	1,425,000
University Advancement	Continuation of Philanthropic Giving Investment	1,000,000	-
University Communications	Brand Expression and Messaging Refresh	-	500,000
University Communications	Brand Marketing and Management Initiative	-	3,925,000

Building Exceptional Academic Programs

Unit	Title	Recurring Funding	One-Time Funding
Central University	AI Initiative for Teaching	-	149,000
College of Arts and Sciences	Building a Sustainable Future for the Arts and Humanities Planning	-	150,000
College of Arts and Sciences	Strengthening Frontline Departments	1,000,000	10,000,000
Graduate School of Education	Enhancing Counseling and Mental Health Program	-	320,000
Provost	Faculty Hiring and Recognition	735,000	352,000
Provost	SUNY Transformation Fund	-	1,155,000
School of Dental Medicine	Digital Dentistry	200,000	1,000,000
School of Law	Discover Law Initiative (Extension)	-	135,000
School of Law	Assist with FFE for Clinic Rehab Overage	-	500,000
School of Management	SOM Data Theater	-	422,500
School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	Interdisciplinary PhD Program Drug Discovery and Development	-	750,000
School of Public Health and Health Professions	Data Lab and Statistical Center	190,000	155,000
School of Public Health and Health Professions	COSHE Center Planning	-	150,000

Providing Base Budget Support

Unit	Title	Recurring Funding	One-Time Funding
Chief Information Officer	5% Increase on Base Allocation	1,050,000	-
College of Arts and Sciences	5% Increase on Base Allocation	3,990,000	-
Division of Athletics	5% Increase on Base Allocation	560,000	-
Finance and Administration	UPD Retro Salary Increase Funding	-	1,216,607
Finance and Administration	5% Increase on Base Allocation	2,250,000	-
Graduate School of Education	5% Increase on Base Allocation	630,000	-
Health Sciences	5% Increase on Base Allocation	70,000	-
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	5% Increase on Base Allocation	3,140,000	-
President	5% Increase on Base Allocation	200,000	-
Provost	5% Increase on Base Allocation	1,830,000	-
Research and Economic Development	5% Increase on Base Allocation	260,000	-
School of Architecture and Planning	5% Increase on Base Allocation	380,000	-
School of Dental Medicine	5% Increase on Base Allocation	970,000	-
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences	5% Increase on Base Allocation	2,220,000	-
School of Law	5% Increase on Base Allocation	590,000	-
School of Management	5% Increase on Base Allocation	1,010,000	-
School of Nursing	5% Increase on Base Allocation	370,000	-
School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	5% Increase on Base Allocation	460,000	-
School of Public Health and Health Professions	5% Increase on Base Allocation	820,000	-
School of Social Work	5% Increase on Base Allocation	360,000	-
Student Life	5% Increase on Base Allocation	140,000	-
University Advancement	5% Increase on Base Allocation	180,000	-
University Communications	5% Increase on Base Allocation	170,000	-

Funding committed or provided outside the ARPP during 2023/24 (Emerging Needs)

All Emerging Needs requests below are one-time funding:

- Research and Economic Development – NSF AI Institute Space Renovation: \$1,000,000
- Central University – Middle States Reviewers: \$65,000
- Central University – James Joyce Museum: \$221,000
- Law – Decanal Transition: \$22,654
- Architecture – Decanal Transition: \$266,675

Budget Model

1. Base Budget

A unit's base budget comprises the following:

- a combination of historical agreements between current and former Provosts and Deans.
- tuition revenue to support base enrollment.
- shares from tuition increases.
- investments to support unit and university special initiatives.

For July 1 budget implementation, the base budget is delivered to the unit in recurring state operating funds at the beginning of the fiscal year.

2. Enrollment and Tuition Revenue

Headcount targets for the next fiscal year are discussed in the fall through meetings with academic units led by the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, in collaboration with the Assistant Vice President for Resource Planning and the Associate Vice Provost and Director of Institutional Research.

Enrollment Growth

Enrollment growth can have a widespread effect on the university by increasing demand for campus housing, dining, classroom space, required classes, and more. Units are therefore required to work closely with the Provost to implement plans for enrollment growth.

If an academic unit receives additional funding to support enrollment growth, funds are delivered in non-recurring state operating dollars the following year by August 15.

Considerations for Growing Enrollment

- Overall enrollment growth mix; university tuition revenue
- Impact on campus housing, dining, classroom space, College of Arts and Sciences classes, and UB Curriculum offerings
- Status of the UB's multi-year financial plan; overall financial health of the university

Tuition Revenue Target (Academic Units Only)

The current budget model aligns unit targets with recent enrollment trends, distributes revenue to growing units, and calculates targets for all units in a consistent manner.

- Targets are reset annually based on a weighted three-year rolling average versus targets in the prior model based on a static single year.
 - 50% weight for the most recent year
 - 30% weight for the next year
 - 20% weight for the third year
- Targets differentiate graduate/professional tuition revenue from undergraduate tuition revenue. This is to offset the impact of international student enrollment for undergraduates not controlled by the various schools.
 - Grad/Professional (G/P) – uses gross tuition revenue as a metric to calculate G/P targets.
 - Undergraduate (UG) – uses university-wide UG credit hour average values and UG credit hours to calculate UG targets.
- Tuition revenue shares are standardized at 70% for growth above target.

- If a unit exceeds its tuition revenue target in a given year, the unit will receive their share the following year in non-recurring state operating funds. Units that do not meet their target in a given year continue to be subject to the Tuition Revenue Shortfall Assessment (TRSA) outlined below.

In order to continue to receive the same base budget each year, each unit must meet its tuition revenue target. Base budgets will be adjusted at the beginning of the fiscal year in alignment with updated tuition revenue target. The change to the base budget will be 70% of the change to the tuition revenue target.

The primary metric that determines the academic base budget is the tuition revenue target; however, total headcount (new and continuing) and total credit hours are important inputs that affect the tuition revenue outcome and therefore need to be managed. For example, a decrease in out-of-state headcount may lead to a decrease in tuition revenue.

If a unit does not meet its tuition revenue target in a given year, the unit will return money to the university the following year in non-recurring state operating funds. The amount returned to the university is determined by the extent the unit fell short of its tuition revenue target.

3. Tuition Revenue Shortfall Adjustment (TRSA)

Band*	TRSA %
>2%	0%
2% to >5%	40%
5% to >10%	60%
10%	80%

*Bands: The purpose of the bands is to recognize that a unit may be unable to anticipate enrollment fluctuations (in which case the risk is shared between the unit and the university), and provide the opportunity for a unit to make short-term adjustments to lessen the impact of unanticipated enrollment shortfalls.

Tuition Rate Increase Revenue (Academic Units Only)

In a year in which there is a tuition rate increase, the additional revenue is distributed through the ARPP. The university focuses distribution of these funds to academic units meeting established metrics or other criteria or in response to requests made through an investment proposal. Through the ARPP, these funds can also support special initiatives and academic infrastructure. Academic support units do not receive tuition revenue share, although these units continue to have an opportunity to discuss budget needs as part of the ARPP.

Summer Session Budget Model

The summer budget model mirrors the academic year model. Summer session revenue does not count in fall/spring total and does not generate state operating funds. Summer tuition shares are delivered in SUTRA funds.

SUNY expects the costs of offering summer session courses to be funded from tuition revenues earned in those courses or from other institutional revenues. The university must also fund the indirect costs from tuition revenues or other institutional sources. For 2024/25, SUNY assesses a 29.7% flat tax on gross summer session revenue to fund fringe benefit costs incurred by faculty.

Winter Session Budget Model

Units do not have winter tuition revenue targets. Effective winter 2022/23, the revenue share was updated to 70% to unit and 30% to central.

Winter session revenue does not count in fall/spring total and does not generate state operating funds. Winter tuition shares are delivered in SUTRA funds.

SUNY expects the costs of offering winter session courses to be funded from tuition revenues earned in those courses or from other institutional revenues. The university must also fund the indirect costs from tuition revenues or other institutional sources. For 2024/25, SUNY assesses a 29.7% flat tax on gross winter session revenue to fund fringe benefit costs incurred by faculty.

4. Fees

General University Service Fee (GUSF) – 13%

GUSF of 13% remains in effect and is charged on external revenue deposited into Income Fund Reimbursable (IFR), University at Buffalo Foundation (UBF),

Research Foundation (RF), or Faculty Student Association (Campus Dining and Shops) accounts as outlined in the Disclosure of All Funds Policy.

Learn more about [General University Service Fee \(GUSF\)](#)

University Fees

University Fees represent all non-service center fees on campus. There are three distinct categories based on level of approval required.

- 1) **SUNY Board of Trustee Approved Fees** - University-wide fees paid by students as a condition of attendance. Examples include the comprehensive fee, admission deposits, etc.
- 2) **SUNY Chancellor Approved Fees** - Mandatory student fees with set amounts assessed by all campuses due to a student's action or inaction, campus-specific fees for special services or campus-specific user fees. Examples include undergraduate application fees, music instrument rental, library fees and fines, etc.
- 3) **Campus Approved Fees** - Customer fees for services. Examples include non-credit bearing course fees, residence hall charges, etc.

Learn more about [University Fees](#)

Service Center Fees

Service centers provide services that support the internal operations of the university or can provide services to external users. Service center fees recover the cost of operations of the service center.

Learn more about [Service Center Fees](#)

Learn more about [Financial Management of Service Centers Policy](#)

Broad-Based Fees

Broad-Based Fees are generally charged to all enrolled students to finance discrete activities that benefit the student body, excluding those activities that are part of the core instructional program. During the ARPP, units have the opportunity to share five-year fee requests as well as information on the planned utilization of funds between mandates and strategic investments. The information provided is

considered during the preparation of the university's final request to SUNY for Broad-Based Fee rate increases.

Learn more about [Broad-Based Fees](#)

Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)

The current fee policies state that “Annual Broad-Based Fee increases should be no greater than the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) unless there is a compelling case.” For 2024/2025, assume the maximum annual broad-based fee weighted average HEPI percentage to be 3.4%.

Learn more about [Higher Education Price Index \(HEPI\)](#)

5. Campus Dining and Campus Living Rates

Campus dining rates and campus housing rates are evaluated on an annual basis and may be subject to adjustments. Senior leadership works with the Vice President for Student Life to review these rates amongst a student's total cost of attendance.

Learn more about [campus meal plans](#) and [campus housing costs](#)

6. Faculty and Staff

Negotiated Salary Increases

The university continues to advocate for New York State to fund state salary increases; however, there are currently no plans for state funding. Therefore, units are advised to assume salary increases will be unit-funded and factor these costs into their budgets. Units are advised to use Salary Increase Projections resources, provided to them as part of their resource planning process.

Fringe Benefits Rates

Fringe benefits are part of a regular employee's remuneration package that is not pay (*expressed as a percentage*), which may or may not be charged directly to an account. This includes payroll taxes, health insurance, retirement and other benefits. For State Operating accounts, these benefits are paid directly through the Office of the State Controller and are not charged to campus accounts.

Learn more about [Fringe Rates](#)

Salary Recovery – 20%

The Salary Recovery Fee is a flat fee, charged at a rate of 20% on Salary Recovery funds deposited into Income Fund Reimbursable (IFR) accounts. These funds help to preserve research infrastructures, services, and faculty compensation. Salary recovery funds are considered core state support reimbursing the state for faculty member time spent conducting research.

Learn more about the [Salary Recovery Fee](#)

7. Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) – 12%

Each year, a percentage of indirect costs recovered from sponsored projects is distributed to university entities based upon the affiliation and relative contributions of key personnel to project objectives. At the discretion of the Provost, ICR distribution may occur to other (non-academic) university entities. The current ICR distribution rate is 12%. Delivery of the 12% ICR distribution for the prior year occurs in August.

Learn more about [Indirect \(F&A\) Cost Recovery and Distribution Policy](#)

8. Royalty and Patent Income

Central university funding for royalty and patent income is part of the university Internal Financial Plan and is committed based on the recommendation and approval of the Provost, Vice President of Finance and Administration and President as part of the ARPP.

Unit Budget

1. Decanal Units (in millions)

	Sources	% of Total	Commitments	% of Total
College of Arts and Sciences	\$118	24.7%	\$134	26.9%
Graduate School of Education	\$20	4.2%	\$21	4.2%
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	\$96	20.0%	\$102	20.4%
School of Architecture and Planning	\$11	2.4%	\$12	2.4%
School of Dental Medicine	\$39	8.1%	\$40	8.0%
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences	\$81	16.9%	\$77	15.4%
School of Law	\$19	3.9%	\$19	3.8%
School of Management	\$33	6.9%	\$33	6.6%
School of Nursing	\$11	2.4%	\$11	2.2%
School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	\$17	3.6%	\$18	3.5%
School of Public Health and Health Professions	\$23	4.8%	\$22	4.4%
School of Social Work	\$10	2.1%	\$10	2.0%
Grand Total	\$479	100.0%	\$497	100.0%

In the 2023/24 academic year, total uses exceeded sources by \$18 million across all academic units.

2. Academic Support (in millions)

	Sources	% of Total	Commitments	% of Total
Chief Information Officer	\$43	11.8%	\$45	12.7%
Division of Athletics	\$36	9.9%	\$34	9.8%
Finance and Administration	\$72	19.8%	\$81	23.1%
Health Sciences	\$5	1.4%	\$2	0.5%
President	\$6	1.7%	\$6	1.7%
Provost	\$60	16.6%	\$63	17.9%
Research and Economic Development	\$31	8.7%	\$33	9.3%
Student Life	\$88	24.2%	\$67	19.0%
University Advancement	\$17	4.6%	\$16	4.6%
University Communications	\$5	1.5%	\$5	1.5%
Grand Total	\$363	100.0%	\$353	100.0%

In the 2023/24 academic year, total sources exceeded uses by \$10 million across all academic support units.

- Academic support units are necessary to the academic and research mission of the university. Some of the revenue is generated directly by these units.

Academic support units include the following areas:

Chief Information Officer. Includes Enterprise Application Services; Information Technology (IT) Customer Services; Network and Communication Services; and other IT support.

Division of Athletics. Includes UB's 16 Division I sports; various administrative and student athlete support areas; and Recreation and Intramurals.

Finance and Administration. Includes the Office of Finance and Administration; Business Services; Emergency Management; Human Resources; Parking and Transportation Services; Resource Planning; Sustainability; University Police; and University Facilities.

Health Sciences. Includes VP for Health Sciences and Office of Interprofessional Education.

President. Includes the Office of the President; Equity, Internal Audit, Diversity and Inclusion; Government and Community Relations; and University Events.

Provost. Includes Office of the Provost; Academic Planning; Enrollment Management; Faculty Affairs; Inclusive Excellence; Institutional Analysis; International Education; Educational Affairs; Educational Opportunity Center; University Libraries; and University Shared Governance.

Research and Economic Development. Includes Sponsored Research Administration; Communities of Excellence; Research Advancement; Economic Development; Animal Facilities; Research Compliance; and several centers and institutes.

Student Life. Includes Student Health and Wellness; Counseling Services; Dean of Students; and Campus Living.

University Advancement. Includes advancement teams for all academic units; Alumni Engagement; Philanthropy.

University Communications. Includes University Communications; Trademarks and Licensing; and university branding initiatives.

Campus Financial Plan

	Sources	% of Total	Commitments	% of Total
Campus Financial Plan/Central University	\$89	100.0%	\$60	100.0%
Grand Total	\$89	100.0%	\$60	100.0%

The Campus Financial Plan includes funding made available for investment through the ARPP. Central University includes funding for centrally managed areas including, but not limited to, the Merit Scholarship, University Utilities, and centrally managed Instructional Facilities budgets.

3. Funding Sources

The tables below note the common sources of funding to campus budgets and how those funds are used. Each unit is required to align their costs to the appropriate sources.

State Funds

Sources of Funds

State Tax	Tuition Revenue	Income Fund Reimbursable (IFR)	State Univ. Tuition Reimbursable (SUTRA)	Dorm Income Fund Reimbursable (DIFR)	Research Foundation (RF)	UB Foundation (UBF)
Appropriated by NYS Govt. Allocated to campus by SUNY	Student tuition payments	Student fee revenue External funds self-supporting programs	Students in Study Abroad, contract courses, etc.	Residence Hall rent revenue	Federal, state, private grants Indirect cost recovery earnings	Donor support On-campus apartment rent Clinic and other self-supporting program revenues

Uses of Funds

	State Tax	Tuition Revenue	IFR	SUTRA	DIFR	RF	UBF
Instructional Salary Expenses	X	X	X	X			

Non-Instructional Salary Expenses / Salary associated with fee revenue	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Temporary Service Expense	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fringe Benefit Expense	NA	NA	63.95% on salary expenses	29.7% assessed on revenue	63.95% on salary expenses	Applicable fringe rate per appointment type	Actual fringe cost
Non-Salary Expense (e.g., contractual services, supplies, travel, prof fees, equipment)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

State Operating

State Operating accounts are funded from state tax dollars and campus revenues from tuition and certain other sources. Units receive a state operating allocation as part of their base budget. Changes to unit state budget allocations are commonly the result of budget model implementation and strategic investments awarded through the annual resource planning process.

Income Fund Reimbursable (IFR)

IFR accounts are self-supporting accounts that track cash collections and matching expenditures associated with educational and related activities provided to students and other customers. An IFR account differs from a State Operating account in that it is supported by cash receipts. The source of the revenue determines whether the General University Service Fee will be assessed. The primary sources of revenue for IFR accounts include:

- Salary recovery (payment from Research Foundation grants for the salary and fringe benefits of individuals on the state payroll who work on sponsored programs)
- Fees, fines, deposits and rentals (course fees, parking, photocopying, rental of campus facilities, library fines, etc.)
- State grants and awards
- Continuing education programs.

State University Tuition Reimbursable (SUTRA)

SUTRA funding is generated from self-supporting overseas programs, contract courses, and summer and winter session tuition. Units receive summer session base budget and tuition revenue shares via commitments solidified through the ARPP process. SUTRA accounts operate similarly to Income Fund Reimbursable (IFR) accounts.

Dormitory Income Fund Reimbursable (DIFR)

DIFR is a group of accounts that are self-supporting and used to administer residence hall room rental fees and charges. DIFR accounts operate similar to IFR accounts.

Research Foundation (RF)

RF accounts record research, instruction, training and economic development activities conducted under the direction of university faculty and staff and funded by organizations both external and internal to the university. There are two distinct types of RF accounts: Sponsored accounts and Non-Sponsored accounts.

Sponsored accounts are funded by sponsors external to the university and are used for programs of research, scholarly and creative activities, education and training, and public service.

Non-sponsored accounts are funded by indirect cost dollars. The university receives indirect cost funds as reimbursement for overhead costs associated with sponsored research. Indirect costs, also known as Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs or overhead costs, are real costs related to sponsored projects that are not easily attributable to individual projects. Examples include maintenance, security, heating, cooling, lighting, space, disposal of hazardous waste, secretarial support, the library, and cost of compliance with government regulations.

UB recovers the total direct costs and indirect (F&A) costs for each sponsored award unless specifically prohibited or limited by the funding agency. Because indirect (F&A) costs cannot be readily assigned to a particular sponsored project or activity, they must be recovered from funding agencies through the application of the federally approved indirect (F&A) cost rates. When allowed by the sponsor, all proposals for external funding must include a budget request for indirect (F&A) costs using the appropriate federal rate.

Royalty Income*: Royalty income is realized from the commercialization of UB intellectual property. When UB intellectual property is licensed and generates royalty for UB, that royalty is shared with those who made the innovation, in

accordance with the Royalty Distribution Policy. After paying the inventors' shares of royalty income, the remaining portion is shared across departments and schools of the inventors, as well as with the university. The department, school and university share of RF non-sponsored funds must be used to support scientific research or education.

**All royalty income designated to a campus allocated account MUST be utilized for the support of scientific research or education per the Bayh-Dole Act which governs intellectual property arising from federal government-funded research. Since the majority (if not all) of UB intellectual property (IP) arises from federal-funded research, all intellectual property is managed by Bayh-Dole Act.*

Learn more about the [Bayh-Dole Act](#)

Patent Income: Patent reimbursement funds support the UB Technology Transfer Office, through the Vice President of Research and Economic Development in the Internal Financial Plan and recouped by the university through patent reimbursements.

UB Foundation (UBF)

Funds managed by UBF support and promote UB activities and programs. UBF accounts are funded primarily from gifts, endowed funds, grants and fee revenues.

Learn more about [UB Foundation funding sources](#)

Financial Section

Each year, UB provides an Overview of Financial Activities that is designed to provide UB's leadership with a comprehensive, high-level summary of financial information campus to assist with decision making.

- 1) **UB Financial Statements.** Annual financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30. These unaudited financial statements are compiled based on SUNY campus-level financial reports representing the operations for state and research foundation activities.
 - Audited financial statements for UB are included in the appendix to the Overview of Financial Activities.
- 2) **Supplemental Financial Activity Reporting.** Additional financial information including an overview of core operating activities and other key financial highlights.

View the current version of [UB's Financial Reporting](#)