
FEDERAL AFFAIRS

Budget

The FY '21 budget, and COVID-19 relief, failed on several occasions. The Senate specifically voted against legislation to extend the Paycheck Protection Program and against a \$500 billion [COVID-19 relief package](#) similar to one voted down earlier this summer (the bill needed sixty votes for passage). House Democratic Leadership and the White House continued to negotiate details of a new relief bill, but with a looming election, there simply was no way any legislation dealing with COVID-19 would have been considered. A key sticking point? If money would be given to cities, counties and states – the Republican talking point was much of this money has been wasted by local and state governments, and bailing out these entities should not be the job of the federal government. Speaker Pelosi stood firm on the inclusion of local entities as well as higher overall funding.

The annual \$1.3 trillion budget, which under ideal circumstances would have been approved via the 12 annual Appropriations bills, ultimately needed three continuing resolutions (a temporary measure to ensure the federal government would not run out of money in lieu of a permanent measure) before a budget was finally signed into law over the President's veto in January 2021. The House passed 10 of the twelve annual measures in the summer; the Senate completed only four by September (the deadline is September 30 annually).

The Presidential election finally ended on Saturday, November 7, 2020. President-elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris won the required 270 electoral votes necessary for victory. President-elect Harris is the first Black and Asian, and the first female Vice President in history. Michigan went for the Biden/Harris team, a state that was won by the current Administration in 2016.

Congress also passed a continuing resolution that will continue to fund the government at current levels until mid-December when the budget must be passed to avoid the government defaulting. While the House passed its budget bills months ago and the Senate just last week, putting together a budget is no simple matter and the problem is likely to be handled with yet another continuing resolution. Indeed, a temporary continuing resolution through December 18, 2020, was passed and signed into law, minutes before the federal government was to run out of money.

Higher education

President Biden's \$750 billion legislative plan for higher education would send money to states to make community college free for all students and eliminate tuition at four-year public colleges for families earning \$125,000 or less. The proposal also calls for setting aside \$70 billion to help cover tuition for some students who enroll at historically Black

colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions. It would also double the maximum value of the Pell grant, which is now \$6,345.

More immediately, the Biden administration is expected to undo the current Administration's regulatory rollbacks at the Education Department that benefited for-profit colleges. Democrats were livid at the Administration's decision to hire so many top Education Department officials who had ties to the for-profit education industry, including key policymakers who reversed policies implemented by President Barack Obama designed to crack down on those schools.

President Biden has said he will require for-profit colleges to "prove their value" to the Education Department before they can receive federal aid. Many in the industry expect that a Biden administration's hostility toward for-profit colleges will pose a threat, even as for-profit colleges see booming enrollment during the coronavirus pandemic compared to plummeting enrollment at other types of institutions. Progressive and consumer groups are also urging the Biden administration to go further than the Obama-era policies on for-profit colleges, including calling for the Education Department to hold company executives personally liable for misconduct. Finally, the Biden Administration will reverse the current Administration's Title IX regulations.

Student loan forgiveness

The Biden administration will have to contend immediately with the looming expiration of pandemic relief for roughly 40 million federal student loan borrowers. Fortunately, the Budget contained language that put those issues temporarily on hold. Before the Budget was approved, those benefits would have ended on December 31, 2020, setting up a scenario in which tens of millions of loan payments will come due in the New Year — even before Inauguration Day on January 20, 2021.

President Biden has committed to canceling \$10,000 in student loan debt for each borrower, as a pandemic relief measure. But he has not yet said whether he would pursue that loan forgiveness through legislation or more immediately cancel debt through executive action, as a group of Senate Democrats, led by Senator Warren and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer have advocated.

If Biden doesn't pursue loan forgiveness through executive action, advocates for student loan forgiveness are eyeing budget reconciliation as a possible tool in the Senate to cancel student loan debt with a simple majority vote. This will be determined in the next two weeks.

Following the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, approximately 20,000 members of the National Guard are being deployed to Washington and 13 metro stations are closed for at least a week in anticipation of further violence leading up to Inauguration Day. The National Mall was closed on Inauguration Day.

In response to the attack on the U.S. Capitol, the House voted on Tuesday to call on Vice President Mike Pence to activate the 25th Amendment to remove President Donald Trump from office. Michigan congressional delegation votes were along party lines (the Vice President rejected the call to remove the President). The House also voted to impeach President Trump a second time in the wake of the insurrection. Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI 6th District) and Rep. Peter Meijer (R-MI 3rd District) were among the ten Republicans who voted for impeachment. Rep. Upton was one of the few Republicans who also subsequently voted for the removal of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) for removal from her Committees in Congress for remarks targeting Members of Congress for assassination, supporting the insurrection and denying the validity of the election, among other things.

Michigan Delegation

The election victories in Georgia, bringing two Democrats to the U.S. Senate, now brings a 50-50 Democratic majority for the first time in over a decade. Vice President Harris, the President pro-tem of the Senate, casts all tie-breaking votes, essentially making the Senate a one-seat majority. The House has 224 Democratic members (217 is needed for a majority).

As a result, Sen. Debbie Stabenow is Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Sen. Gary Peters is Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

In the House, Rep. Brenda Lawrence is the Vice-Chair of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, and is on the Labor/HHS/Education Subcommittee.

The Administration of President Biden and Vice President Harris

Since being sworn in on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, President Biden has issued a series of [executive orders](#) (EOs). Many more are expected going forward. Recent EOs include:

- Requiring masks and physical distancing in federal buildings, on federal lands and by federal employees and contractors and asking the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) to engage with state, local, Tribal and territorial officials to implement masking, physical distancing and “other CDC public measures to stop the spread of COVID-19;”
- Directing the Department of Education, in consultation with HHS, to provide evidence-based guidance to institutions of higher education on safely reopening for in-person learning, which shall take into account considerations such as the institution’s setting, resources, and the population it serves;
- Requiring that anyone seeking to board a flight to the U.S. from foreign country provide proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test prior to departure;

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- Directing review of COVID supply chain and laying the groundwork for invoking the Defense Production Act;
 - Supporting research into COVID-19 treatment, secure an adequate supply, and promote equitable distribution;
 - Creating a COVID-19 Response Coordinator, and restoring the National Security Council Directorate for Global Health Security and Biodefense;
 - Asking the Department of Education to consider extending the moratorium on student loan interest and payments until at least September 30, 2021 (the Department of Education has since announced it will do so);
 - Revoking the previous Administration's "divisive concepts" executive order that impacted federal contractor and grantee workplace diversity and inclusion training;
 - Launching a whole-of-government initiative to advance racial equity (this includes rescinding the Trump Administration's 1776 Commission of teaching U.S. history);
 - Preserving and fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and calling on Congress to enact legislation to provide a path to citizenship;
 - Repealing the travel bans and ordering a review of "extreme vetting" policies; and
 - Freezing all new regulations from moving forward to "give the incoming Administration an opportunity to review any regulations that the Trump Administration tried to finalize in its last days."

The White House has released a schedule for the announcement of EOs:

- January 20 - Inauguration and 4 Crises
- January 21 - COVID
- January 22 - Economic Relief
- January 25 - Buy American
- January 26 - Equity
- January 27 - Climate
- January 28 - Health Care
- January 29 - Immigration
- February - Restoring America's Place in the World

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has set the week of February 8, 2021 as the start of the impeachment trial of the former President.

Members of the Biden science team have been announced, including:

- Linus Pauling Professor of Chemical Engineering, Bioengineering and Biochemistry at California Institute of Technology and Nobel Prize in Chemistry winner [Francis Arnold](#) as co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science & Technology (PCAST);
- [Francis Collins](#), who will remain director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH);
- Harvard and MIT director [Eric Lander](#) as the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) director (the OSTP director position has, for the first time, been elevated to a Cabinet-level position);
- Social Science Research Council [Alondra Nelson](#) as OSTP's deputy director; and
- MIT Vice President for Research and National Science Board member [Maria Zuber](#) as co-chair of PCAST.

Other recent nominations and appointments have included:

- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services commissioner [Jewel Bronaugh](#) to be Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;
- president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace [William Burns](#) to be CIA director;
- Emergency Management Commissioner for New York City [Deanne Criswell](#) to lead the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- MIT Sloan School of Management professor [Gary Gensler](#) to lead the Securities & Exchange Commission;
- former Food & Drug Administration Commissioner [David Kessler](#) to lead the Operation COVID-19 vaccination efforts;
- Pennsylvania Health Secretary [Rachel Levine](#), to be HHS Assistant Secretary for Health;
- Superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District [Cindy Marten](#) to be Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education; and
- Secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services [Andrea Palm](#) to be HHS Deputy Secretary.

Confirmation hearings to date are:

- January 19 hearings for:
 - [Lloyd Austin](#) to be Secretary of Defense (the Senate voted today 93-2 to confirm him);
 - [Antony Blinken](#) to be Secretary of State;

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- [Avril Haines](#) to be director of national security (yesterday, the Senate voted 84-10 to confirm her);
 - [Alejandro Mayorkas](#) to be Secretary of Homeland Security; and
 - [Janet Yellen](#) to be Secretary of Treasury
 - January 21 hearing for [Pete Buttigieg](#) to be Secretary of Transportation
 - January 26 hearing for [Gina Marie Raimondo](#) to be Secretary of Commerce
 - January 27 hearings for:
 - [Jennifer Granholm](#) to be Secretary of Energy;
 - [Denis McDonough](#) to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and
 - [Linda Thomas-Greenfield](#) to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
 - January 28 hearing for:
 - Rep. [Marcia Louise Fudge](#) to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and
 - [Cecilia Elena Rouse](#) to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

While the confirmation process takes place, [acting heads of federal departments and agencies](#) have been named. These include:

- Deputy assistant secretary of budget [Norris Cochran](#) as acting Secretary of Health & Human Services;
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) deputy chairman for management and budget [Ann Eilers](#) as acting NEA Chairman;
- National Nuclear Security Administration associate principal deputy administrator [David Huizenga](#) as acting Secretary of Energy;
- NASA associate administrator [Steve Jurczyk](#) as acting NASA administrator;
- Transportation Security Administrator [David Pekoske](#) as acting Secretary of Homeland Security;
- Deputy general counsel for program service [Phillip Rosenfelt](#) as acting Secretary of Education;
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service administrator [Kevin Shea](#) as acting Secretary of Agriculture;
- Director of the Foreign Service Institute [Dan Smith](#) as acting Secretary of State
- CARE USA Chief Operating Officer [Gloria Steele](#) as acting director of the U.S. Agency for International Development; and

- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) assistant chairman of programs [Adam Wolfson](#) as acting NEH chairman.

STATE AFFAIRS

Budget Update and Projections

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Overview:

On February 11, 2021, the Governor released her executive budget recommendation for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021. Overall, not bad. All the state budget documents can be found at www.michigan.gov/budget.

The Executive's General Omnibus and Education Omnibus presented a total of \$67.1 billion gross in spending for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021. Of that funding total, 17% is General Fund/General Purpose, 23% is School Aid, 43% is Federal, 16% is Restricted, and 1% is Local/Private. This budget represents a 7.8% increase from the Governor's FY 20-21 budget, though the General Fund spending is essentially flat. These proposed increases reflect both an economic outlook that has been steadily improving as well as a continued robust influx of Federal dollars.

Higher Education Budget

The Executive recommended \$1.7 billion gross, \$1.2 billion GF/GP, for the state's 15 public universities. This recommendation includes a one-time **2% increase** in operations funding, with **tuition restraints remaining at 4.2% or \$590 per student**. In addition to the funding for the coming fiscal year, the Governor included a recommendation that **\$57.3 million be invested in universities for the current fiscal year to satisfy federal maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements associated with the receipt of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars**.

Specifically, **Wayne State University was allocated \$207,996,000.00 in total funding**. This is an increase over the FY 20-21 budget when factoring in the 2% one-time funding. Broken down, Wayne State University will receive \$203,936,100 under the standard operations funding, which includes the North American Indian Tuition Waiver, plus an additional \$4,059,900 in one-time operations funding. Without the 2% one-time increase, WSU saw a \$15,000 increase in operations funding for FY 21-22.

The Governor did not include performance funding metrics in her budget recommendation making this the third proposal from her administration to not include performance funding metrics.

The Governor altered boilerplate in the Higher Education Budget in the following notable ways:

Sec. 245 (5): The Executive struck mandatory reporting requirements associated with opportunities to obtain college credits. This includes reporting WSU and other institutions were required to post on career and tech programs, dual enrollment, direct college credit, and information around high school students attending these programs.

Sec. 245a: Governor Whitmer struck language requiring certification to the state budget director and allowing the state budget director to withhold funds when reporting on campus safety information and resources. The requirement to maintain a campus safety information and resources site remains, but enforcement has been relaxed.

Sec. 260: Financial Aid Communications Campaign: While not a requirement on WSU, the Governor retains language requiring the Department of Treasury, in concert with postsecondary education stakeholders, to create a campaign around informing high school students about financial aid programs.

Sec. 265 (4) Operational Support Payments: The Governor struck language relating to performance funding metrics. Instead reiterating that operational support payments would be an across the board 2% increase. To receive the funding increase, universities must satisfy the following requirements:

- Universities must limit tuition and fee increases to 4.2 percent, or \$590 per student, whichever is greater. The limit is 2 times the level of projected inflation for fiscal year 2022.
- Universities must actively participate in the Michigan Transfer Network and provide timely updates to the network, which informs students how their credits will transfer in and out to other Michigan postsecondary education institutions.
- Universities must participate in reverse transfer agreements with at least 3 community colleges.
- Universities must not consider whether dual enrollment credits were utilized for high school graduation when deciding to award university credit for those classes.

Former Sec. 275f: Free and Open Speech Policies: The Executive removed a legislative requirement that Universities report on activities related to strategic planning or assessment of policies that provide for open and free speech while protecting students from hate speech and discrimination. This report is due February 1, 2021.

Sec. 275g: COVID-19 Reporting Requirements: The Executive removed a legislative requirement that Universities report various enrollment and student residential data for the 20-21 academic year related to online fees, COVID-19 fees, and COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Sec. 275h: 60% Post-Secondary Degree, Certification, or Credential Obtainment Goal: While not a reporting requirement, the Governor retained intent language that reiterates the goal of 60% of Michigan residents having obtained a post-secondary degree, certificate, or credential by the year 2030. This is in line with the Governor's "60 by 30" attainment goal, which was announced in early 2019.

Sec. 275i: Students with Dependent Children: The Governor removed language that required public universities to collect and report data on students with dependents, programs and resources available to students with dependents, and barriers preventing students with dependents from completing a degree. There is no specific deadline for this report.

Active FY '21 Budget Advocacy

WSU is actively advocating for investments across the University including but not limited to funding for the National De-Escalation Training Center, the Lycacki-Young Program, the Frontline Strong initiative, MiDOCS, and broad reiteration of the importance of full funding for the University as a whole. In addition, we are working with leaders across the University to identify additional strategic opportunities to partner with the state.

Legislation

WSU DGCA continues to monitor state legislation and regulations that could affect our students, our faculty, and our ability to carry out our mission. When formulating a university position, we work with internal subject matter experts to both craft the best position and to provide feedback to legislators. The 101st state Legislature has convened, and we are monitoring the following pieces of legislation, as well as watching for the reintroduction of policies that failed during the 100th session.

- House Bill 4045 (Whiteford) requiring mental health discharge planning for individuals who are receiving mental health services and are leaving the criminal justice system. WSU supported this legislation during the previous term.
- House Bill 4046 (Whiteford) creating the interstate nurse licensure compact which would allow nurses to practice in states other than their home licensed state under certain circumstances. WSU supported this legislation during the previous term.
- House Bills 4055-4056 (Anthony and VanSingel) modifying eligibility for competitive scholarships from 10 semesters to 12 semesters. WSU supported this legislation in the previous term.
- Community College 4-Year Degree Programs. WSU is anticipating the reintroduction of legislation that failed last term which would have allowed for a community college to offer a 4-year bachelor of science in nursing degree program. WSU opposed this legislation.
- Prohibitions on Research. WSU is anticipating the reintroduction of legislation that seeks to prohibit certain types of research, specifically animal research. This legislation has been introduced several times, without success. WSU opposes this legislation.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH AFFAIRS

Graduate Medical Education (GME) Reform – MIDOCs

Through a partnership of four medical schools – Central Michigan University College of Medicine, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Wayne State University School of Medicine, and Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine – MIDOCs will increase the number of residency slots in the state and retain residents in primary care and other high-need specialties to practice in underserved communities after their training.

WSU and other members of the MIDOCs consortium currently have two cohorts of residents in the program. As a reminder, this program is funded through direct state appropriations, which are then leveraged to receive federal dollars. The federal government approved the state's plan of how it

will use those funds and how we will flow the money to the residency programs. The first cohort contains eight residents and the second cohort contains 24. This year the state appropriated \$5.1 million for the program. MIDOCs will leverage this funding, along with a funds contributed from the consortium, to receive a federal match totaling \$16 million. For academic year 2021, we plan to recruit for 20 residents total. This slight reduction from the previous year is because of a lower appropriation from the state than we had requested. We are now meeting with the legislature to discuss funding for FY22. We are requesting \$6.4 million in general funds, which would bring us back up to 24 residents for this coming year.

Lycaki-Young Fund

The Lycaki-Young fund was first introduced in the mid 1990s. Since that time, WSU has received more than \$100 million in state funds to support care for the mentally ill and those affect by substance abuse. WSU has been a leader in providing critically important services to those affected in Wayne County and beyond. For example, we host one of the largest Methadone clinics in the country.

The program received the requested appropriation of \$5.6 million from the FY21 budget. This funding provides psychiatric services to more than 47,000 patients annually. We are now working to secure the same amount for FY22.

The Michigan Poison Center

The Michigan Poison Center (PC) receives more than 65,000 calls per year related to emergencies (most involving children). Tenet Corporation and the DMC hosted the Center for more than 60 years, but it no longer fits into their scope of services plan. This is a significant opportunity for Wayne State in demonstrating our public health mission and expertise across the entire state. The Poison Center serves all counties in Michigan. The PC continues to play an active role in outreach on the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, they are focusing educational efforts on opioid overdoses and lead poisoning across the state.

The PC had a successful marketing campaign. The goal of the campaign was to increase awareness and engagement. The primary markets were Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint, and Traverse City. The campaign capitalized on end of summer travel and utilized outdoor ads and Pandora. The state appropriated \$1,121,400 for the program for FY21. We are now working on securing funding for FY22.

Wayne Pediatrics

In a court ruling earlier this fall, WSU was ruled against in a case regarding DMC's decision to revoke privileges of WSU pediatric faculty and the Children's Hospital of Michigan (CHM). This action will result in a number of negative consequences. WSU pediatricians will no longer be able to care for their patients who are admitted to the CHM. Additionally, while we have a number of medical students who train at the CHM at any given time, our physicians will no longer be able to oversee their education. We are currently working to communicate our concerns with the CEO of the DMC and have also met with legislators in the Detroit Delegation and prominent community members to provide them with updates on the situation.

Opioid Task Force

WSU's Opioid Task Force met for the first time in 2021 in January. Participants of the Task Force include those from the School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing, and School of Social Work. The goal of the meeting was to determine priorities for the upcoming year. The Task Force will meet quarterly.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The process to fill the open position of Director of Community Affairs is in progress.