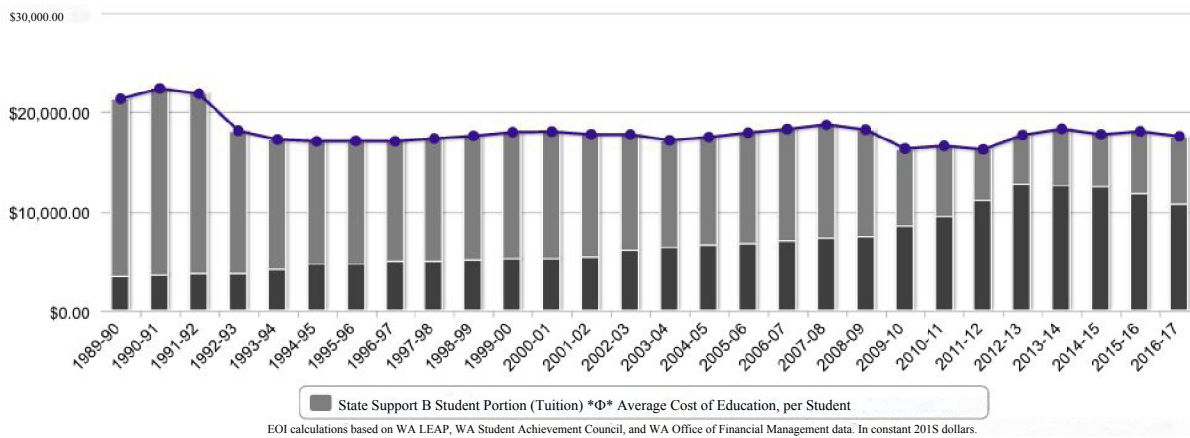


## Tuition and Affordability

### Tuition:

State divestment in higher education has caused students endure a greater financial burden. In fact, twenty years ago, the state government paid 73 percent of the cost of a student's education and a student paid 27 percent. Today, the state pays 33 percent of the cost, and the student pays 67 percent. The median debt for 2016 WWU graduates is \$19,500. As the cost of higher education increases, many students are unable to pursue postsecondary education or do so but graduate with increasing amounts of debt that stifle their development after graduation.

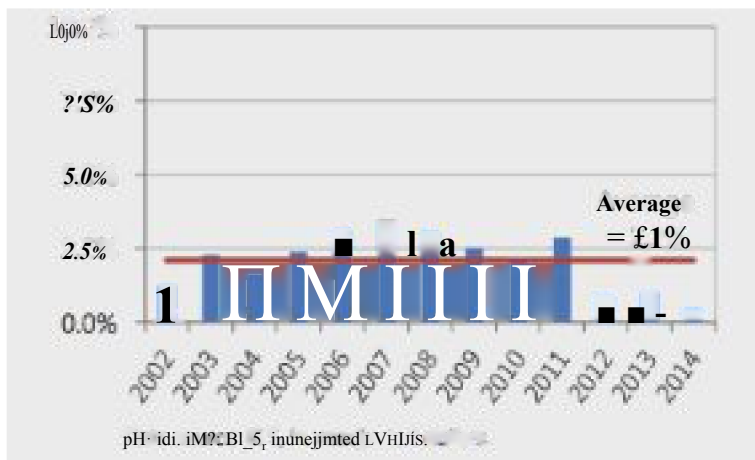
Share of State vs Student Funding at the University of Washington



Updated 08/25/2016

Resident undergraduate tuition for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 was frozen and for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 tuition was decreased. While these freezes and decreases have temporarily helped to lessen the burden students are taking on in terms of tuition, long term tuition policy is needed to adequately address this issue. In making this policy, there are some complicating factors such as an impending tuition increase, the McCleary decision, tens of thousands of students unserved by the State Need Grant and Service and Activities Fees (S&A) being coupled with tuition.

Eight years ago the legislature coupled S&A fees to tuition, this was due in part to a budget process change brought about by Tim Eyman. If S&A fees continue to be tied to tuition, if tuition is frozen or decreases, student accessibility-related services will be negatively impacted. In the past two



budget cycles, S&A fees have been decoupled from tuition through a budget proviso that required extensive last minute lobbying. Decoupling S&A fees restores student autonomy and reduces the risk that organizations critical to student accessibility will have their budgets cut.

This past year, the operating budget for the 2017-2019 biennium was passed to include a rise in tuition at 2% for the first year and 2.2% the second year. If at all possible, we would like to roll back this tuition and continue to decrease it in the future.

In light of the context concerning tuition and funding of higher education in Washington State, the ASWWU advocates for the following:

- A tuition freeze
- Roll back of the 2.0 and 2.2% increase over this biennium
- Full funding of the State Need Grant
- De-couple Service and Activities Fees from tuition permanently
- Future proposals for free college education for WA students