

# MEMORANDUM



## JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

TO Joint Budget Committee  
FROM Amanda Bickel, JBC Staff (303) 866-4960  
DATE March 22, 2017  
SUBJECT Fort Lewis Non-resident Tuition Cap

---

During figure setting for the Department of Higher Education, staff recommended that the footnote regarding tuition at Fort Lewis College incorporate a cap. If non-resident Native American enrollment remains flat, each 1.0 percent increase in non-resident enrollment drives a General Fund increase of \$152,684. Staff had recommended a 4.0 percent cap, resulting in an anticipated increase in General Fund support for the waiver program if \$610,736 in FY 2018-19.

The Committee expressed interest in changing the footnote for Fort Lewis to “uncap” nonresident tuition. Staff has included two possible footnote versions below. One looks the same as all of the other higher education institutions. The other looks the same as the language included in last year’s Long Bill.

*Initial version (presented on 3/22 at 4:30 pm):*

N Department of Higher Education, Governing Boards, Trustees of Fort Lewis College -- The amount in this line item is calculated based on the assumption that no undergraduate student with in-state classification will pay more tuition in FY 2017-18 than six percent over what a student would have paid in FY 2016-17 for the same credit hours and course of study. The amount is also calculated based on the assumption that no undergraduate student with nonresident classification will pay more tuition in FY 2017-18 than four percent over what a student would have paid in FY 2016-17 for the same credit hours and course of study. This amount is also calculated based on the assumption that the governing board will increase tuition rates for graduate students based on its assessment of market conditions. The General Assembly intends to adjust the amount in this line item through supplemental action during fiscal year 2017-18 based on updated enrollment estimates and tuition rate information.

*Version that looks like most other Higher Education footnotes:*

N Department of Higher Education, Governing Boards, Trustees of Fort Lewis College -- The amount in this line item is calculated based on the assumption that no undergraduate student with in-state classification will pay more tuition in FY 2017-18 than six percent over what a student would have paid in FY 2016-17 for the same credit hours and course of study. This amount is also calculated based on the assumption that the governing board will increase tuition rates for graduate and nonresident students based on its assessment of market conditions. The General Assembly intends to adjust the amount in this line item through supplemental action during fiscal year 2017-18 based on updated enrollment estimates and tuition rate information.

*Version that looks like the FY 2016-17 Fort Lewis Higher Education footnote:*

N Department of Higher Education, Governing Boards, Trustees of Fort Lewis College -- The amount in this line item is calculated based on the assumption that no undergraduate student with in-state classification will pay more tuition in FY 2017-18 than six percent over what a student would have paid in FY 2016-17 for the same credit hours and course of study. This amount is also calculated based on the assumptions that the governing board will increase tuition rates for nonresident students consistent with the decision of the

governing board and will increase tuition rates for graduate students based on its assessment of market conditions. The General Assembly intends to adjust the amount in this line item through supplemental action during fiscal year 2017-18 based on updated enrollment estimates and tuition rate information.

In addition, staff understands that the Committee may want to more subtly express its expectations with respect to non-resident tuition at Fort Lewis for FY 2017-18 based on the dollar amounts included in the Long Bill as cash funds spending authority for Fort Lewis. As drafted, staff calculated the Fort Lewis tuition with a 4.0 percent increase for non-residents. If the Committee instead wishes to convey that a 5.0 percent increase would be acceptable, a different amount should be included. The different figures are shown in the table below.

FORT LEWIS TUITION OPTIONS FOR FY 2017-18			
	4.0% Increase Non-residents	5.0% increase Non-residents	Difference
Resident	11,250,728	11,250,728	0
<u>Nonresident</u>	<u>28,549,219</u>	<u>28,823,731</u>	274,512
	\$39,799,947	\$40,074,459	274,512