An Iowa State Daily Editorial

NO FUNDING. NO FUTURE.
PRIORITIZE HIGHER EDUCATION.

Public higher education in Iowa has faced too many blows in the past few years. And it looks like it could get worse if we don’t fight to prioritize funding for our universities.

Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, D-Ames, has stated Iowa State could be facing nearly $2.5 million in midyear budget cuts from the state in this fiscal year. The Iowa Board of Regents, as a whole, may be facing a midyear budget cut of $3.1 million under Gov. Kim Reynolds’ recently released recommended fiscal budget. Gov. Reynolds didn’t even mention funding for higher education in her Condition of the State speech.

The ISD Editorial Board believes this is a serious issue facing not only our university, but our state. Gov. Reynolds and the members of the Iowa General Assembly should seriously consider what another year of budget cuts would mean for an institution like Iowa State.

Horrible timing
And these cuts come at a time that simply doesn’t make sense. The state’s Future Ready Iowa Metrics that Matter report shows education or training beyond high school is becoming more necessary than ever before in Iowa.

“Iowans celebrate the fact that our unemployment rate is low and our economy is growing, but, without a significant enhancement to our state’s workforce, education and training our competitiveness could evaporate,” reads the introduction of the Future Ready Iowa Metrics that Matter report. “Meanwhile, employers across the state routinely say it is hard to hire enough skilled workers.” Why, then, would it make sense to decrease funding to the state universities educating thousands of people who could potentially solve that skills gap? In what world does it make sense to make college less affordable at a time when we need more people to have education beyond high school?

Students carry the burden
The state’s budget has a large impact on how students experience Iowa State. Iowa State’s general fund budget is funded largely (63 percent) by tuition and fees paid by students. However, about 31 percent of that budget comes from the state. Historically, students haven’t had to carry this burden.

“Despite steadily growing student demand for higher education since the mid-1970s, state fiscal investment in higher education has been in retreat,” according to a 2012 report from the American Council on Education. “The state’s budget has a large impact on how students experience Iowa State. Iowa State’s general fund budget is funded largely (63 percent) by tuition and fees paid by students. However, about 31 percent of that budget comes from the state. Historically, students haven’t had to carry this burden.”

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Where it fits in the state’s budget
In 2017, the state of Iowa faced a $350 million budget shortfall. About $118 million was cut from state programs and services. The base state appropriation for Iowa State was cut by 6.25 percent last year, or $11.5 million. Funding for specific research, teaching and development centers at Iowa State including the Nutrient Research Center, the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and the Small Business Development Center saw a combined reduction in state funds of $1.8 million.

Adding insult to injury, Gov. Reynolds had to transfer $13 million from the state’s emergency economic fund to balance the budget and avoid having to call a special legislative session — a move that is now facing legal scrutiny.

It now appears we are on track to see much of the same in terms of funding cut from the House, Senate and Governor’s office. This is unacceptable.

Let’s put up a fight
But we, as Iowa State students, faculty, staff and alumni are prepared to fight for the university we hold so dear. The request is simple, at a minimum Iowa State deserves adequate state funding.

Just think of the accomplishments that could be made if we set our sights just a little higher. A reduction in the proposed tuition increase could be one of those accomplishments if, and only if, the state legislature decides to appropriate more funds.

The 2018 legislative session has already started. That means our work convincing lawmakers to fund the state institutions we rely on has also begun. We’ve collected letters from student leaders at our three regent universities as evidence of the desire to prioritize public higher education. But that can only be the start of the fight.

Call your local state representative and senator and share your story with them.

The ISD Editorial Board is collecting letters from community members who would like to see more public funding for higher education. Letters can be submitted via the letters to the editor link on the opinion tab of our website. With questions of comments, you can reach the Daily’s editor-in-chief, at emily.banks@iowastatedaily.com.
Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds released her budget Tuesday, recommending an appropriation to Iowa State which follows a pattern of state funding remaining generally flat despite growing costs to the university.

Since 2009, the university’s expenditures have grown over $200 million. Reynolds recommended an appropriation of about $171 million which is more than $9 million less than the appropriation to the university in 2008.

The amount of revenues the university receives each year has increased around $267 million since 2008. The increase is partially due to yearly record enrollment over the last decade. At the start of the 2017 fall semester, enrollment dropped slightly, ending the streak.

Tuition and fees revenues have increased due to yearly tuition increases as well.

Over the past two decades, the percentage of university expenses covered by tuition and fees has grown considerably. In 2000, 24.6 percent of university expenses were covered by tuition. For 2018, the estimated tuition and fees will cover about 69.7 percent of the costs.

In “Governing States and Localities” by Kevin B. Smith and Alan Greenblatt, increased tuition dependence and decreased state funding is said to be caused by the 2008-2009 Great Recession. Smith and Greenblatt wrote that in 2000 the state appropriations in 47 states covered a larger portion of higher education than tuition and fees. Today, in around half the states, students cover a majority of the university’s costs.

It also states that in the mid-1980s, state governments across the country regularly covered 50 percent or more of the university’s costs.

Reynolds recommended a midyear budget cut to the Board of Regents of $5.1 million in her fiscal budget. Budget cuts to 2018 became a necessity after the Legislative Services Agency announced in December that Iowa’s finances had an estimated shortfall of $37 million.

Reynolds Executive Director Mark Braun sent out an email statement after the governor announced her budget recommendations.

Reynolds proposed cuts amounting to $27.1 million.

“We will work with our institutions to make any required fiscal year 2018 reductions in ways that have as little impact on students as possible,” Braun said.

Reynolds recommendations follow state budget cuts to all the regent universities last year which resulted in Iowa State being cut $9 million.

Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, D-Ames, said Friday she heard from administrators that there will be a proposed $2.5 million in midyearcuts to Iowa State.

Wessel-Kroeschell spoke out against the lack of funding the state puts toward higher education.

“I know that money isn’t the only thing,” Wessel-Kroeschell said, “but by starving our schools, we
are creating problems at all levels, and we are at that level where we are starving our institutions.”

At the August regents’ meeting, Benjamin Allen, interim president of Iowa State at the time, proposed yearly increases of 7 percent for in-state and 4 percent for out-of-state students, which would end in 2022.

By the end of the five years, the yearly increases would accumulate to $3,081 for in-state undergraduate students and $4,613 for out-of-state undergraduate students.

The university’s State Relations Officer Kristin Failor told Student Government the proposed tuition increases were not feasible. Wessel-Kroeschell also called it an extreme proposal.

Sen. Herman Quirmbach, D-Ames, said he disagrees with the tuition increase, but understands the university must make up for the budget cuts.

“The university has to bring in additional funds to make up for the budget cuts and to keep the lights on and pay competitive salaries and the whole deal. We have an expanding student body,” Quirmbach said. “I don’t think we’ve kept up with the capacity needs.”

Iowa State President Wendy Wintersteen requested $5 million from the state to go toward in-state undergraduate financial aid.

During Wintersteen’s legislative request presentation, the visual aid stated 52 percent of Iowa State graduates stay in Iowa—63 percent of resident graduates, 24 percent of non-residents and 28 percent of international graduates.

Reynolds recommended $1.9 million less to Iowa State than Wintersteen’s full request.

Rep. Lisa Heddens, D-Ames, spoke out against the decreased funding and budget cuts to higher education Saturday.

“We want to ensure that we are providing funds so that tuitions aren’t going up to double digits for students and their families and that we’re able to maintain quality education within the state of Iowa,” Heddens said.

Expenditures
Tuition & Fees
Appropriations

of university expenses were covered by tuition in 2000

of university expenses were covered by tuition in 2018

A decade of funding
Over the last 10 years, appropriations from the state have remained relatively flat while the university’s expenses have increased. The increase in tuition and fees revenue can be attributed to both tuition increases and a growth in enrollment. Tuition and fees have become the main source of funding for universities across the U.S.

Budget decisions currently fall on the Iowa legislature before it’s time for Gov. Reynolds to sign anything off. Here are some state legislators from the House and Senate education committees and their contact information:

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Jeff Edler
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POLICE BLOTTER

1.9.18

London P Suber, age 21, of 9431 S Michigan - Chicago, IL, was arrested and charged with turning from improper lane and driving while revoked at 1030 Haber Rd (reported at 1:06 a.m.).

An officer assisted an individual who was experiencing medical difficulties at Welch Hall (reported at 2:18 a.m.).

An individual reported damage to a gate arm at Memorial Union Parking Ramp (reported at 6:21 p.m.). Report initiated.

An individual reported damage to a vehicle at Lot 112J (reported at 6:33 p.m.).

Shimin Liu, age 21, of 2425 Frederiksen Ct - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with assault at 24 Frederiksen Court (reported at 11:23 p.m.).

CORRECTIONS

The Iowa State Daily welcomes comments and suggestions or complaints about errors that warrant correction. To submit a correction, please contact our editor at 515-294-5688 or via email at editor@iowastatedaily.com.
FUNDING IMPACT AROUND THE STATE

BY JAMAL WHITE, University of Northern Iowa Student Government President; Tristan Bernhard, University of Northern Iowa Student Government Vice President and the Northern Iowa Student Government

As we enter this new legislative session, it is crucial that the legislature places priority on Iowa’s future.

Iowa has been faced with fiscal hardship for the past few years. Our state budget has not performed to estimated revenue standards, and cuts had to be made. Unfortunately, these cuts have recently fallen upon our state’s students. Although UNI received a considerably smaller cut than the other regent universities, it is our hope that the legislature places greater priority on higher education this session.

It is the goal of this administration to stress that education cannot continue to take such a burden of the budget cuts in the state, and these cuts cannot become the new norm. Education is an investment, and our administration wants to see that investment come to fruition in the state.

Our administration is urging Iowa’s lawmakers to work to reform taxes and bring more revenue into the state. We are also urging that should cuts need to be made, legislators recognize the necessity of the investment in higher education. We cannot, as a university, continue to take these blows to our budget while retaining the high standard this institution holds itself to.

Iowa has a long and proud history of being an affordable place to receive a high-quality education. On behalf of students and those seeking a brighter future in the state, we will advocate for this history to continue to be a reality.
In recent memory, we have seen a consistent decrease in funding to the Board of Regents and a retreat from past emphasis on education and higher education in the state of Iowa.

Iowa has long been a leader in education, with each of the regent universities making contributions to various fields of study and application. The University of Iowa has proven a leader in educating the writers and doctors of tomorrow. Iowa State University has excelled in generating a brilliant cohort of engineers and designers for the future, even contributing to the Manhattan Project during World War II. The University of Northern Iowa has blazed trails in the fields of business and education. All of these areas, along with many more, are ways Iowa and its values have extended to impact the country and the world. The wounds have already been dealt to both K-12 and higher education, but this session of the Iowa Legislature has the opportunity to begin stitching back together the aspirational institutions of higher education.

Higher education has, for many, been and will be the bridge from the past to the future, providing social mobility and a path to a greater understanding of the world in which we live. By funding that dream, Iowa can continue to lead the way in a variety of fields for the future.

The budget is tight, and the solution is neither simple nor obvious. However, the continued underfunding of higher education in the state of Iowa is taking an unnecessary and outsized gamble with the future of this great state.

The decision made by the Iowa Legislature to continue the cut of public funding for higher education has limited students’ decisions as to where they will be able to further their education.

Personally, I have faced this challenge when making my own decision on which university to attend. Coming to Iowa State has been the best decision I have made even though I continue to struggle to make financial ends meet so that I can continue my education here.

Higher education has always been a costly endeavor, but that does not mean it should be an unobtainable goal for people. I remember a time when people used to think of Iowa, and they thought of the great education system in our state, which was proud to be represented with a school house on the back of Iowa’s quarter.

Over time, as we have started to move away from that belief in the fundamental education to our state, education costs have continued to grow. I will find ways to meet this cost, but it is the future generations of students that I worry for.

With my own younger sister beginning her search for the institution that best fits her, it’s hard to ignore the growing struggles that come from trying to obtain a higher education.

Even before I had made my decision, four years before her, my younger sister knew she wanted to attend Iowa State. Like all students who fall in love with our school, she was amazed by the sprawling campus, multiple student organizations, educational courses that will prepare you for your next step in life and the welcoming feeling that is felt throughout the university. Rising costs, additional fees and much more have caused my sister to look at other schools to possibly attend due to the concerns of how much the cost of attendance will continue to grow in her four years at Iowa State.

I write this letter in the hopes the state legislature will recognize the lasting impact the rising costs of higher education will have on the state of Iowa. We will lose more and more people who fall in love with the state during their time here, along with the chance to further grow our economy.

I beg them to remember the individual citizens who will no longer be able to achieve their dreams that require a degree from a higher institution of education if funding is not made more of a priority. I beg them to remember what was written on the back of the quarter for Iowa, “Foundation in education,” and how that still holds meaning for all current and future students.
DIFFERENTIAL TUITION EXPANDS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY TRISTAN WADE
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At Iowa State, different students across different colleges, majors and classification may possibly pay higher tuition costs than others based on what they’re studying. This is called differential tuition.

Currently two colleges at Iowa State, business and engineering, use differential tuition across their majors. Select majors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences also pay differential tuition. The reason this exists is due to the variance in the cost of instruction in these programs which includes salaries and direct instructional costs, administration, student services, library and technology access, facilities and operations, and equipment,” said Senior Vice President and Provost Jonathan Wickert.

“Iowa State has established differential tuition rates to align costs where they are actually incurred, rather than spreading those costs over the entire student population,” Wickert said.

Wickert cited lab-based and studio-based instruction and simulation-based learning as some experiential learning components can lead to varied costs as well.

For some of these programs, differential tuition has been assessed for a number of years.

In the College of Engineering, differential tuition was approved by the Board of Regents to be implemented beginning in the summer of 2006. The College of Business’ differential tuition proposal was approved in December 2008. But the academic year of 2017 saw an expansion of differential tuition to a number of new programs. Here is a breakdown for who pays differential tuition in each college. The rates will vary by residency, level of study and major.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
For the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 10 majors pay differential tuition. These majors are: animal ecology, animal science, agricultural systems technology, biology, dairy science, forestry, general pre-veterinary medicine, genetics, industrial technology and microbiology.

After a student hits 60 credits, the extra tuition payment goes to tangible improvements colleges have been able to make because of this money.

“Revenue from differential tuition supports the hiring and retention of faculty, modernization of laboratory equipment and instructional technology, renovation and renewal of instructional facilities, equipment and lab supplies, and related expenses needed to maintain high quality programs – the core of the university,” Wickert said.

According to the College of Business, differential tuition has led to a decrease in average undergraduate class size by 18 percent over four years. Since implementation, 14 new faculty have been hired.

The 2017-18 academic year is the first year many majors are using differential tuition, so it will take time to see the results.

“Not saying it’s the right way or the best way, but it’s had proven results,” said Vice President Cody Smith about differential tuition at a Student Government town hall in October.

Wickert said the university is considering differential tuition for more programs within the colleges of design, human sciences, agriculture and life sciences and liberal arts and sciences.

The university is also considering changes to the existing rates in the college of business and engineering. Iowa State’s FY2019 tuition proposal will be submitted to the Board of Regents soon and discussed at the board’s meeting in February.

“Consistent with past practice, we suggest that the new differential tuition rates be phased in, and implemented with transparent communication and engagement with students,” Wickert said.

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More colleges at Iowa State have adopted differential tuition, a system where people may pay more tuition due to their major.
Pizza, socks, gallons of gas, rent... College students put their dollars toward a variety of items.

Last summer’s proposed five-year tuition increase of 7 percent a year for in-state undergraduate students and 4 percent a year for out-of-state undergraduate students, that was proposed last summer, more of their income would now go toward tuition.

Gov. Kim Reynolds stated in August that Iowa families cannot afford the tuition hike.

“There is no way that Iowa families could afford a 7 percent increase over five years,” Reynolds said.

By the end of the five years, the yearly increases would accumulate to $3,081 for in-state undergraduate students and $4,613 for out-of-state undergraduate students. For common college student purchases, this is how far the money could go.

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<td>OUT-OF-STATE: 1,666</td>
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WHAT YOU COULD BUY WITH THE PROPOSED TUITION INCREASES

BY DANIELLE GEHR
@iowastatedaily.com

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