CORE MESSAGE: The UW is committed to providing an affordable and high-quality education for our state’s students.

There will be no tuition increases for UW resident undergraduates for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years. The 2013-15 state biennial budget includes $40 million in additional state funding to freeze UW resident undergraduate tuition rates, marking the first time without a tuition increase in more than 20 years.

During the previous 20 years, state investment in higher education decreased. The UW saw a decline in state funding in the previous 20 years, particularly during the Great Recession, which led to tuition increases. Twenty years ago, the state funded 80 percent of a student’s education, and student tuition covered 20 percent. Today, the state funds 31 percent, and student tuition covers 69 percent.

The UW’s tuition is comparable with peer institutions. For the 2013-14 academic year, undergraduate resident tuition plus fees will be $12,397, which is at or below the average of many of our peer institutions, including UCLA, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts and University of Virginia.

The UW is committed to student access regardless of family income. About 30 percent of UW undergraduates qualify for the Husky Promise program, which provides free tuition to students with financial need. About 60 percent of resident undergrads receive some form of financial aid. Undergraduates received more than $58 million in scholarships during 2012-13, with $24.5 million from gifts to the University and the rest from Washington state and private sources, like community organizations. This speaks to the excellence of our undergraduate students.

UW students graduate with less debt than their peers nationwide. Less than 50 percent of UW seniors graduated with loan debt in 2011, compared to about two-thirds nationwide. UW undergraduates who left school with debt borrowed an average of $20,316, which is 24 percent below the 2011 national average.

The UW is a leader in value and social mobility. Washington D.C.-based Washington Monthly, which rates universities based on social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research production and commitment to service, ranks the University of Washington eighth out of 281 national universities.