FUNDING EQUITY & EWA

What is EWA? The Enrollment Workload Adjustment (EWA) is calculated annually by using 3-year rolling average of growth in credit hours weighted by discipline and course level. The EWA is intended to provide funding annually to pay a portion of the costs associated with enrollment growth at the four-year college/universities while taking into account the cost differences by program or degree.

How did inequitable funding happen? The EWA, is calculated each year, but has not been funded each year. Unfortunately, the years that went without funding were big years for Boise State in the calculation. Because the calculation is currently directed toward each institution, it creates a disparity or inequity in funding per student over time when growth is funded in some years and not others.

State Board of Education Priority #1: The SBOE worked this past summer to develop an acceptable tolerance range for funding disparity among students at Idaho’s four year institutions. They settled on an amount lower than the total unfunded EWA in hopes of making funding a reality and reducing the disparity among institutions as soon as possible. The SBOE placed moving towards solving the inequity among all of Idaho’s postsecondary students above any other priority in the higher education system today.

FY 2014 Budget “Double Whammy”

The Governor’s recommendation, as currently submitted, provides for the current year’s EWA be funded, but does not take care of prior year’s unfunded EWA ($17million) or the Board’s revised calculation to establish equity ($9.4 million)

If the Legislature agrees, this means that Boise State will receive no funding to cover the cost of growth for 4 of the past 6 years, but we will also receive a negative appropriation in the current year’s EWA calculation – it is a double whammy.