

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(AN AGENCY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
WITH SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION, STATISTICAL
INFORMATION AND OTHER REPORTS

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

AND

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS WITH SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION, STATISTICAL INFORMATION AND OTHER REPORTS

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Trustees
Worcester State University

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities and the discretely presented component unit of Worcester State University (an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) (the "University"), as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the University's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities and discretely presented component unit of Worcester State University, as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the University and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the University's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

(Continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the University's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages 4 through 14 and certain information pertaining to liabilities recorded in accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* and GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions* on pages 47 through 55 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
(Continued)

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the University's basic financial statements. The supplementary information on pages 56 through 60 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the statistical information on pages 61 through 66. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 22, 2024, on our consideration of the University's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the University's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Ballus Lynch, LLP

Worcester, Massachusetts
October 22, 2024

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(UNAUDITED)

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As management of Worcester State University, we offer readers of Worcester State University's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of Worcester State University for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This discussion is provided by management and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto.

Worcester State University was founded in 1871 and is one of nine comprehensive public colleges/universities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The University affirms the principles of liberal learning as the foundation for all advanced programs of study and offers programs in the traditional liberal arts and science disciplines, while maintaining its historical focus on teacher education. The University offers 59 undergraduate majors and minors, 29 graduate programs, 82 study abroad programs, and a student-to-faculty ratio of 17:1. The University currently has 4,734 full and part-time undergraduate students and 877 full and part-time graduate and professional students.

Financial Highlights

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of Worcester State University exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$78,434,477 inclusive of year end accruals related to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Pension and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) (net position) of \$22,300,193.
- The University's total net position increased by \$8,881,910. Pension and insurance expense decreased by \$7,435,204, as a result of recording the University's portion of the Commonwealth's postretirement obligations. When the Commonwealth's postretirement obligation adjustments are removed from the University's operating expenses, "Pension and insurance" costs as reported on Schedule 6 of the accompanying supplementary information, increases to \$20,314,141 in FY 2024, and \$17,107,964 in FY 2023. In addition, the University's total change in net position at June 30, 2024 is reduced to \$1,446,706, and at June 30, 2023 is reduced to \$1,463,668.
- The University's Net Position as June 30, 2024 was \$78,434,477. Unrestricted Net Position from Operations as of June 30, 2024 was \$69,347,687. The healthy operational reserves is offset by the University's allocation of the Commonwealth's accumulated Net Retirement Obligations of \$14,186,711 related to Pensions and \$27,553,212 related to OPEB, resulting in Net Unrestricted Reserves of \$27,607,764.
- Residence Life and Housing experienced a \$3,190,947 reduction in Net Position in FY 2024. The adoption of GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases* (GASB 87), requires the reclassification of remitted MSCBA annual assessments to interest expense and a reduction of the accumulated outstanding lease liability for contracted use of the facilities. In addition, the value of the leased facilities are reported as assets on the Statement of Net Position and require an annual posting to amortize those assets. The value of the assets at June 30, 2024 is \$74,229,627 and the outstanding lease obligations related to the assets as of June 30, 2024 is \$89,522,294.
- Residence Life and Housing Net position as of June 30, 2024 was (\$11,290,867). Further analysis of Net Position identifies the value of designated net future lease payments of (\$15,292,667) and accumulated operating reserves of \$4,001,802, at June 30, 2024.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to Worcester State University's basic financial statements. Worcester State University's basic financial statements comprise two components: 1) the financial statements and 2) the notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

The Financial Statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of Worcester State University's finances in a manner similar to a private sector college. The Statement of Net Position presents information on all of the University's assets and deferred outflows of resources, as well as liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, with the difference between these reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the University is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position presents information showing how the University's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g. the accrual for compensated absences).

The Statement of Cash Flows is reported on the direct method. The direct method of cash flow reporting portrays net cash flows from operations as major classes of operating receipts (e.g. tuition and fees) and disbursements (e.g. cash paid to employees for services). The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements 34 and 35 require this method to be used.

The financial statements and related footnotes are presented separately from this Management Discussion and Analysis.

The University reports its activity as a business-type activity using the full accrual measurement focus and basis of accounting. The University is a component unit of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Therefore, the results of the University's operations, its net position and cash flows are also summarized in the Commonwealth's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in its government-wide financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements: The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements and are presented separately.

Other information: In addition to the financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also contains certain required supplementary information concerning Worcester State University.

Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indication of Worcester State University's financial position. In the case of Worcester State University, assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$78,434,477 at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

By far the largest portion of the Worcester State University's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, machinery, and equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding, including capital leases. Worcester State University uses these capital assets to provide services to students, faculty and administration; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Worcester State University's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt and lease obligations.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

**Worcester State University's Net Position as of
June 30, 2024, with comparative data as of June 30, 2023**

	2024	2023
Current and other assets	\$ 92,339,555	\$ 84,629,883
Capital assets	170,577,248	183,248,329
Total assets	<u>262,916,803</u>	<u>267,878,212</u>
Deferred outflows of resources	4,194,610	5,960,532
Non-current outstanding liabilities	141,463,390	157,436,480
Other liabilities	20,738,703	18,739,853
Total liabilities	<u>162,202,093</u>	<u>176,176,333</u>
Deferred inflows of resources	26,474,843	28,109,845
Net position		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	49,253,033	55,204,772
Restricted	1,573,680	1,386,348
Unrestricted	<u>27,607,764</u>	<u>12,961,447</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 78,434,477</u>	<u>\$ 69,552,567</u>

The following schedule presents an analysis of Worcester State University's net position as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively:

	2024	2023
Invested in capital assets, net	\$ 49,253,033	\$ 55,204,772
Restricted reserves, expendable for:		
Other	1,661,870	1,481,912
Capital projects	(88,190)	(95,564)
Total restricted reserves, expendable	<u>1,573,680</u>	<u>1,386,348</u>
Unrestricted net position		
Unrestricted reserves from operations	69,347,687	62,136,575
Accumulated Commonwealth of Massachusetts retirement obligations - Pension	(14,186,711)	(16,306,275)
Accumulated Commonwealth of Massachusetts retirement obligations - OPEB	<u>(27,553,212)</u>	<u>(32,868,853)</u>
Total net unrestricted reserves	<u>27,607,764</u>	<u>12,961,447</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 78,434,477</u>	<u>\$ 69,552,567</u>

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

A portion of the Worcester State University's net position (2.41%) as of June 30, 2024, represent funds that are subject to external restrictions on how they must be used. Unrestricted net reserves from operations of \$69,347,687 at June 30, 2024 may be used to meet the University's ongoing obligations to its stakeholders. The University's net position increased by \$8,881,910 during the year ended June 30, 2024. At the end of the current fiscal year, Worcester State University reports a positive balance in restricted reserves, a positive balance in unrestricted reserves from operations and accumulated net negative obligations for the allocated share of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pension and OPEB plans.

The University's primary reserve ratio, calculated as expendable net position divided by total expenses, is 56.23% and 53.04%, respectively, for the years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023. This ratio provides a snapshot of financial strength and flexibility by indicating the percent of operating expenses that could be funded by expendable reserves without relying on additional net position generated by operations.

The implementation of GASB 68 and GASB 75 requires the annual accrual of the University's allocation of the Commonwealth's Net Pension and OPEB Liability. The University had a reduction of \$7,435,204 in accrual of pension and insurance expense in FY 2024 and a reduction of \$4,824,389 in FY 2023 to reflect the University's allocation of the Commonwealth's accrued obligation of Pension and OPEB liabilities.

The application of GASB 68 and GASB 75 requires certain reporting and disclosures with regard to the Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Plan. The authority for establishing and amending these provisions rests with the Massachusetts Legislature, Chapter 32A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The allocation provided to the University from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Comptroller's Office reflects the University's proportionate share of the net pension and OPEB liability related to its participation in MSERS and OPEB. The University's participation in MSERS and OPEB is directly related to the share of annual payroll subject to retirement assessment that is funded from campus-based resources in contrast to payroll expended from annual operating appropriations allocated to the University from Commonwealth resources. In FY 2024 annual payroll subject to retirement assessment that was funded from campus-based resources was \$6,936,263; total payroll costs subject to retirement assessment for FY 2024 was \$44,622,922.

The University's return on net position ratio, calculated as the change in total net position divided by total net position – beginning of the year, is 12.81% and 9.94%, respectively, for the years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023. This ratio measures total economic return including capital investment and positive operating results. An improving trend indicates increasing net position which provides for increased financial flexibility. The positive return for the year ended June 30, 2024, is better than was expected given that the FY 2024 operating budget relied on a draw from reserves to balance operational costs that were expected to exceed budgeted revenue. Annual fluctuations in the Commonwealth's pension and OPEB accruals can significantly impact the return on net position ratio. In FY 2024 the pension and OPEB accruals decreased by \$7,435,204 contributing to the \$8,881,910 increase in net position. An adjusted calculation of the return on net position ratio, excluding pension and OPEB adjustments, reflects a ratios of 2.09% and 2.31% respectively, for the years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023.

The net operating revenue ratio is 1.91% and (1.07)%, respectively, for the years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023. The ratio measures whether an institution is living within its available resources, however the calculation as defined does not include capital appropriations as an available operating resource. Capital appropriations in FY 2024 and FY 2023 provided the resources for expenses reported in the Operations and Maintenance of Plant expenditure category. The revised ratios, inclusive of capital appropriations, are 6.91% and 5.32%, respectively, for the year ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023. Worcester State University strives to achieve an annual operating surplus as measured by this ratio as part of its long-term plan to improve its primary reserve ratio and maintain a healthy annual return on net position.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

Worcester State University's Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for the year ended June 30, 2024 with comparative data for the year ended June 30, 2023.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating Revenues		
Tuition and fees, net of scholarships discounts and allowances	\$ 45,774,418	\$ 48,160,282
Operating grants and contributions	25,369,972	16,863,012
Sales and services of auxiliary enterprises and other sources	<u>608,397</u>	<u>1,022,708</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>71,752,787</u>	<u>66,046,002</u>
Operating Expenses		
Instruction	44,244,040	40,587,936
Academic support	6,622,501	7,073,963
Student service	11,459,354	10,885,870
Institutional support	14,858,730	13,788,705
Operations and maintenance of plant	19,566,291	21,764,889
Scholarships	5,417,650	2,824,887
Depreciation	7,906,221	5,591,358
Debt service	587,539	1,889,568
Auxiliary enterprises	<u>15,475,270</u>	<u>15,360,035</u>
Total operating expense	<u>126,137,596</u>	<u>119,767,211</u>
Net operating loss	<u>(54,384,809)</u>	<u>(53,721,209)</u>
Non-operating revenues		
State appropriation, including fringe benefits provided to employees by the Commonwealth, net of tuition remitted to the Commonwealth	55,212,761	48,616,049
Federal Assistance	-	3,973,643
Investment income	1,565,922	(42,068)
Other and transfers	<u>64,265</u>	<u>(114,122)</u>
Total non-operating revenues	<u>56,842,948</u>	<u>52,433,502</u>
Loss before other revenues, expenses, gains or losses	2,458,139	(1,287,707)
Capital appropriations	<u>6,423,771</u>	<u>7,575,764</u>
Change in net position	8,881,910	6,288,057
Net position - July 1	<u>69,552,567</u>	<u>63,264,510</u>
Net position - June 30	<u><u>\$ 78,434,477</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 69,552,567</u></u>

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

During FY 2024 the University received its final installment of COVID related state ARPA funds of \$1,366,275. The funds were received as a state operating grant and were programed as an offset to operating expenditures in the FY 2024 budget. in anticipation of sustained curtailment of revenue generating opportunities across University programs due to lasting effects of the pandemic. In FY2023 the remainder of the federal COVID relief funds were expended by the University.

Capital appropriations in FY 2024 included funding for the first year of the second five-year allotment of critical repair funds from the Commonwealth, in addition to DCAMM direct funding for the multiyear project to relocate underground electrical infrastructure. The University also received one-time funding of environmental sustainability projects. The nature of the majority of the work was for repair and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and did not increase the value of those assets.

State appropriations are reported net of the amount of in-state day school tuition collected by the University on behalf of the Commonwealth. The in-state day tuition collected is remitted back to the Commonwealth as dictated by Massachusetts General Law. Included in State appropriations are the fringe benefit costs for University employees paid by the Commonwealth. Capital appropriations are funded by Massachusetts General Obligation Bonds which are issued to fund Commonwealth infrastructure improvements. The funds are provided to the campus in the form of a capital grant and as such the University is not responsible for repayment of the funds.

The following schedule details the Commonwealth appropriations received by the University for the years ending June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
State Appropriations	\$ 38,924,137	\$ 34,859,139
Appropriations to cover fringe benefits provided to employees of the Commonwealth	16,668,157	14,121,017
Tuition remitted back to the State	<u>(379,533)</u>	<u>(364,107)</u>
Net appropriations	55,212,761	48,616,049
Additional State capital appropriations	<u>6,423,771</u>	<u>7,575,764</u>
Total appropriations	<u><u>\$ 61,636,532</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 56,191,813</u></u>

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

Loss from Operations

State appropriations are a significant source of funding for the University. Under GASB 35, appropriations are considered non-operating revenue. As such, the University incurs a loss from operations. The Commonwealth's Board of Higher Education sets tuition for the day division. The University's Board of Trustees sets all fees and tuition of the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education. The University's Board of Trustees approves the annual budget with the intention of mitigating losses after consideration of Commonwealth appropriations while balancing educational and operational needs. The following schedule presents Worcester State University's incurred losses from operations for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

	2024	2023	Change
Net Tuition and Fee Revenue	\$ 45,774,418	\$ 48,160,282	\$ (2,385,864)
Other Revenue, net of Student Financial Aid	25,978,369	17,885,720	8,092,649
Operational Expenses	<u>(126,137,596)</u>	<u>(119,767,211)</u>	<u>(6,370,385)</u>
Operating loss	(54,384,809)	(53,721,209)	(663,600)
Direct State appropriations, fringe benefits for employees on the Commonwealth's payroll, net of remitted tuition to the Commonwealth	55,212,761	48,616,049	6,596,712
Federal assistance	-	3,973,643	(3,973,643)
Investment and non-operating income	1,630,187	(156,190)	1,786,377
Capital appropriations	<u>6,423,771</u>	<u>7,575,764</u>	<u>(1,151,993)</u>
Change in net position	<u><u>\$ 8,881,910</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 6,288,057</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,593,853</u></u>

Capital Assets and Debts of the University

Capital Assets: Worcester State University's investment in capital assets as of June 30, 2024 amounts to \$170,577,248 net of accumulated depreciation, compared to \$183,248,329 net of accumulated depreciation and amortization as of June 30, 2023. The University's investment in capital assets includes, land (including improvements), building (including improvements,) furnishings and equipment, and books, in addition to capital leases and subscription based IT arrangements.

Capital assets are defined by the University and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as assets with an initial, individual cost of \$50,000 or greater. Information about Worcester State University's capital assets can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

In FY 2024 the University capitalized equipment leases at a cost of \$608,934 and capitalized direct purchases of equipment at a cost of \$380,520. New subscription based IT arrangements valued at \$1,643,487 were brought on as assets, while \$769,701 worth of subscriptions have been removed as fully depreciated.

Long-Term Debt

Compensated Absences

The accrual for compensated absences consists of the long-term portion of sick and vacation pay relating to employees on the University's payroll and is anticipated to be funded by future state appropriations.

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

MHEFA Financing

On December 4, 2002, the University entered into a financing agreement with MHEFA to receive \$14,000,000 for renovations to the Sullivan and Administration Buildings. A call provision became available on this bond issue in December 2012. As a result, the issue was refunded on December 18, 2012, with \$10,585,000 MDFA Revenue Bonds, Worcester State University Series 2012. There is no debt service reserve related to this issue. Annual principal payments range from \$665,000 to \$875,000 through November of 2032.

Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA) WSU Student Life Project

MSCBA issued revenue bonds for various projects on December 20, 2012. Included in the issue was a component to provide \$15,000,000 of debt financing to Worcester State University's Wellness Center in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commonwealth, MSCBA and the University. The proceeds from the bond issue, combined with funds earmarked by the University and General Obligation bond funds earmarked by the Commonwealth, provided the resources for construction of a new Wellness Center at WSU. The Wellness Center is an asset of the Commonwealth and recorded as a fixed asset on the University's financial records. On July 1, 2020, MSCBA closed on a restructuring of outstanding debt from a multiple series of bonds including those issued to finance the Wellness Center. The restructuring provided for debt service relief in FY 2023 with interest only payments during the year and a 50% reduction in principal payment in FY 2023. On February 15, 2023, MSCBA initiated another restructuring of outstanding debt, including the last series of bonds issued to finance the Wellness Center. This final piece of debt restructuring for the Wellness Center defers future principal payments to May of 2025. In addition, the previously held Debt Service Reserve Funds of \$249,214, were released to facilitate funding of the debt restructuring. The project debt remains on schedule to be extinguished in May 2042 with annual principal payments ranging from \$342,496 to \$742,778. Campus trust funds provide the revenue source for the annual debt service.

Right of Use Assets

GASB Statement No. 87 Leases is effective July 1, 2021. The statement requires leases previously recorded as operating leases to be recognized as a right-to-use lease asset and related lease liability for the term of the lease in accordance with the payment terms of the contract. GASB Summary – Statement 87 states “A lease is defined as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset (the underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.”

This change in presentation has a significant impact on the University's financial statements when recording the long-term lease agreements with the MSCBA. The University has long-term lease agreements with the MSCBA for use of all of its residence halls; Chandler Village, Dowden Hall, Wasylean Hall and Sheehan Hall, in addition to the parking garage on lower campus.

The University has other leases also affected by this change in presentation. Other leased assets requiring a change in presentation include various information technology devices.

GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA)*, effective for periods after June 15, 2023. The objective of this Statement is to provide accounting and financial reporting guidance for transactions in which a governmental entity contracts with another party for the right to use their software. This Statement established requirements for subscription-based information technology agreements based on the GASB Statement No. 87 lease accounting standard, based on the foundational principle that IT subscription arrangements are financings of the underlying asset. The adoption of this statement requires the University to recognize right to use subscription assets as capital assets and related subscription liabilities on the Statement of Net Position as of June 30, 2024 and 2023. Previously, these agreements were expensed through the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

Economic Factors that will affect the Future

Financial Resources

Operations

FY 2024 operating budget of \$99,598,790 was build on the FY 2023 base budget plus \$4,865,343 of additional costs mostly attributed to an increase in labor costs and fringe benefits. The forecasted increase in costs was offset by cumulative cost savings of \$3,009,139 achieved through the execution of cost saving strategies and initiatives. Budgeted revenue from operations of \$91,826,717 was supplemented with an increase of the General Fee providing \$1,656,000 in new revenue in addition to the final allocation of state ARPA funds of \$1,366,275 and a budgeted draw from reserve of \$4,749,798 to fill the gap.

As in recent years, despite relying on reserve draws to balance the operating budget, FY 2024 will be closed without experiencing a draw on reserves to fund an operating deficit. Reconciling the increase in net assets of \$9,061,950 as reported in the Statement of Changes in Net assets, to remove the effects of various GASB June 30, 2024 accruals, results in a significantly reduced increase in net assets. The results of FY2024 operations are further demonstrated in the Net Position Analysis on Schedule 5. The need to draw on reserve for operations during the year was mitigated by the continued vacancy factor in full time positions with realized savings being compounded by savings in the fringe benefit lines.

The FY 2025 budget as approved by the Board of Trustees in June reflects an increase in resources partly due to an increase in the Fringe Benefit Rate provided to us by the State Comptroller's Office. The rate increase from FY 2024 to FY 2025 is estimated at \$1.1M. The State Appropriations figure has increased in FY 2025 over FY 2024 as a result of collective bargaining funds and formula funding received in FY 2024 that are rolled in to the base going forward. Total campus generated revenue, identified as General Trust Fund resources, have trended down during FY 2024 in comparison with budget. Adjustments have been made to the revenue budget for FY 2025 to reflect this trend. The General Fee increase authorized by the board at the April meeting will increase General Trust Fund resources by \$1,636,000. Total resources budgeted for FY 2025 stands at \$95,970,451, an increase of 2.7% over the prior year.

FY 2025 budgeted expenditures begin with the FY24 base. This figure has been adjusted to add the annual adjustment for assessed fringe and payroll tax, in addition to projected increases to direct labor costs associated with rulings from the US Department of Labor, and a scheduled increase in annual debt service related to the 2002 Bonds that funded the Sullivan Academic Center. Furthermore, the base funding of numerous budget categories will be increased by 6% in an effort to counteract the reduction in purchasing power brought on by increased inflation in recent years. Reductions to expenditures include the savings associated with the closing of underperforming programs, the final few months of budgeted off campus parking and shuttle costs, a reduction in the cost of convenience fees and some initial savings in instruction costs realized through the course scheduling demonstration project under the Operational Excellence initiative, to arrive at budgeted operating expenditures of \$105,462,351 for FY 2024, a 5.9% increase over the prior year.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

The operating budget gap identified for FY 2025 was \$9,491,900. Resources to fill the gap include the performance based formula funds from FY 2024 that have been added to the base appropriation, in addition to an increase in the General Fee for all undergraduate day courses and an increase to tuition/fees for courses offered through the Department of Graduate and Continuing Education. Budgeted resources include a \$500 annual increase to the General Fee that is assessed to all undergraduate students on a per credit basis. This is a 5% increase in mandatory undergraduate student fees bringing the total annual cost to \$10,816, which is expected to be less than the mandatory student fees at five of the other state universities in Massachusetts. The Division of Graduate and Continuing Education has requested a 12% increase in tuition and fees to offset an anticipated increase in contract faculty costs in the coming year and alleviate financial constraints. Increases will be put in place for the fall 2024 semester, and subsequent terms, for classes offered in the evening, winter and summer sessions, in addition to graduate courses and online degree programs.

WSU continues to experience the impact of post-Covid labor challenges. Approximately 8% of approved positions are vacant, some of which have been intentionally deferred while others have been posted but not filled due to challenges in gathering a qualified applicant pool. Various positions critical to operations have been filled with temporary staffing in order to ensure continuity of operations. Savings have been realized in the direct labor costs over the past several years which has allowed us to avoid drawing from reserves to fund operations. As a resource strategy in FY 2025 we have identified various vacant positions that will be suspended from the search process and deferred to a later date. The savings calculated include the annual pay and related costs of benefits and payroll tax and will be programmed as a one-time cost reduction in the FY 2025 budget.

During FY 2024 the state distributed the campus allotted formula fund resources late in the budget cycle. Instead of amending the budget to reduce the FY 2024 budgeted reserve draw the additional resources were received into the university and fell to the operational bottom line by reducing the need to draw from reserves to fund operations. The FY 2024 allotment will be programmed as a resource for FY 2025 as an appropriation from FY 2024 surplus. The remaining budget gap will be filled with an anticipated \$2,702,204 draw from unrestricted General Fund reserves. While the most recent budgets have relied on draws from budgeted reserves, realized savings in direct labor costs due to unfilled vacancies have resulted in closing the fiscal years with expenditures less than budget deferring the need to use reserves for operations.

The FY 2025 budget for the Residence Halls anticipates average room occupancy at 87% of capacity. The occupancy rate is similar to the capacity used for FY 24 and reflects actual fall occupancy during FY 2024. FY 2025 expenditures have increased over the prior year due to an increase in direct labor costs associated with collective bargaining increases and increase in the fringe rate, in addition to the resumption of the full cost of annual lease obligation payments to MSCBA subsequent to the savings realized from an MSCBA bond refunding in FY 2024. Room rental rates for FY 2025 are increasing between 2-4%, however the resources provided are not sufficient to fully fund operating costs. While the FY 2025 budget has been right sized to reflect reduced capacity there is a revenue gap of \$1,312,649 that will be filled with reserves. At June 30, 2024, the Residence Hall Trust Fund reported an accumulated operating reserve of \$4,032,130 and accumulated net future lease payments of \$15,292,667, resulting in a net negative position of \$11,260,537.

Over the past two years approximately \$5M in savings have been derived from the initial work of the FSTF task force, and more recently, our focus on Operational Excellence (OpEx). The OpEx team, led by the University's institutional risk & compliance officer, continues to cultivate ideas from across the campus community while evaluating the 70 plus recommendations that came out of FSTF. A website has been established and a dashboard to track results in real time is being developed. In the coming year the OpEx Team is focusing on establishing a methodology to quantify savings achieved and expand its communication strategy to include education and training for internal constituents and networking with other institutions across the country that are actively engaging their campuses in lean higher education programs and other efficiency and risk mitigation programs.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

Campus Infrastructure

In June of 2018 the Commonwealth announced a plan to address the backlog of infrastructure repairs on Massachusetts Higher Education campuses. The Governor's Capital Investment Plan includes \$250 million over a five year period (FY19-23) to address Critical Repairs. Critical Repairs projects are smaller scale, building-specific, and involve renewal, repair and replacement of equipment and systems. Critical Repairs projects are managed directly by the individual campuses. The five-year allocation represents a new approach that provides predictable discretionary funds, allows more autonomy in campus prioritization over five years, and addresses the highest priority needs as identified through an independent facility condition assessment. Worcester State University will have received \$12.4 million of critical repairs funds through 2023. When combined with projected local funding of 5% capital adaptation and renewal funds, the University is on track to invest \$32.4 million in campus infrastructure repairs and improvements through 2024.

In June of 2022 the Commonwealth announced a second, five year-round of Critical Repair funds for the Massachusetts Higher Education Campuses. An additional \$250 million is being provided over a second five-year period (FY24 to FY 28). Worcester State University will receive \$12.1 million of the second round of critical repair funds through 2028. When combined with the campus funded match, resources dedicated to infrastructure repair for FY 2024 through FY 2028 will be \$20.8 million. Projects accomplished during FY 2024 included completion of the Sullivan Auditorium renovations, Learning Resource Center Roof replacement, boiler replacements and other crucial projects. Approximately \$6.4M of work was accomplished during the year. Projects anticipated in FY 2025 include roof and roof top unit replacements which will be accomplished during the summer months.

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of Worcester State University's finances for all those with an interest in the University's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Office of the Vice President of Administration and Finance, 486 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602-2597.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	<u>Worcester State University</u>		<u>Component Unit</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Worcester State Foundation</u>	
			<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 34,902,397	\$ 34,136,997	\$ 4,775,905	\$ 4,265,111
Cash held by State Treasurer	9,047,320	5,153,872	-	-
Accounts receivable, net	4,486,610	2,523,229	90,000	255,210
Current portion of loans receivable	14,000	75,000	-	-
Current portion of contributions receivable	-	-	1,333,553	654,675
Inventories	169,644	216,155	113,798	90,421
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	161,518	98,753	31,050	10,622
Total current assets	<u>48,781,489</u>	<u>42,204,006</u>	<u>6,344,306</u>	<u>5,276,039</u>
Non-current assets:				
Investments	37,036,643	35,735,341	43,404,669	38,591,211
Loans receivable, less current portion	256,825	210,129	-	-
Contributions receivable, less current portion	-	-	3,614,996	3,808,171
Other non-current assets	6,264,598	6,480,408	150,533	72,516
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	170,577,248	183,248,329	3,811,414	3,847,582
Total non-current assets	<u>214,135,314</u>	<u>225,674,207</u>	<u>50,981,612</u>	<u>46,319,480</u>
Total assets	<u>262,916,803</u>	<u>267,878,213</u>	<u>57,325,918</u>	<u>51,595,519</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Resources related to pension and OPEB obligations	3,868,705	5,609,260	-	-
Loss on refunding of bonds payable	325,905	351,272	-	-
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>4,194,610</u>	<u>5,960,532</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023
(Continued)

	Worcester State University		Component Unit Worcester State Foundation	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities:				
Current portion of bonds payable	\$ 1,037,496	\$ 665,000	\$ 22,595	\$ 21,618
Current portion of lease obligations	4,382,533	3,533,165	-	-
Current portion of subscription-based IT arrangements	1,063,775	670,150	-	-
Accounts payable	2,143,345	3,401,514	865,824	173,759
Accrued payroll and fringe benefits	4,807,102	4,698,690	-	-
Accrued interest and other liabilities	88,910	95,564	111,850	54,791
Funds held for others	-	-	5,509	5,509
Student deposits and unearned revenue	3,238,840	2,152,646	126,372	107,399
Current portion of split-interest agreements	-	-	20,223	7,493
Current portion of accrued workers' compensation	204,543	171,574	-	-
Current portion of accrued compensated absences	3,772,159	3,351,550	-	-
Total current liabilities	20,738,703	18,739,853	1,152,373	370,569
Long-term liabilities:				
Bonds payable, less current portion	18,052,584	19,471,679	383,700	408,153
Lease obligations, less current portion	94,770,472	101,812,376	-	-
Subscription-based IT arrangements, less current portion	1,869,537	1,703,579	-	-
Split-interest agreements, less current portion	-	-	32,002	64,568
Accrued workers' compensation, less current portion	1,474,684	1,324,957	-	-
Accrued compensated absences, less current portion	2,689,275	2,505,978	-	-
Accrued pension and OPEB obligations	22,300,193	30,311,227	-	-
Refundable grant - federal financial assistance program	306,645	306,684	-	-
Total liabilities	162,202,093	176,176,333	1,568,075	843,290
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Resources related to pension and OPEB obligations	23,308,436	24,473,160	-	-
Deferred service concession arrangements	2,781,594	3,193,369	-	-
Gain on refunding of bonds payable	384,813	443,316	-	-
Total deferred inflows of resources	26,474,843	28,109,845	-	-
NET POSITION				
Invested in capital assets, net	49,253,033	55,204,772	-	-
Restricted - non-expendable	-	-	25,642,341	24,032,999
Restricted - expendable	1,573,680	1,386,348	22,184,063	19,378,657
Unrestricted	27,607,764	12,961,447	7,931,439	7,340,573
Total net position	\$ 78,434,477	\$ 69,552,567	\$ 55,757,843	\$ 50,752,229

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	Worcester State University		Component Unit	
	Worcester State Foundation			
	2024	2023	2024	2023
REVENUES				
Operating revenues:				
Student tuition and fees	\$ 47,092,996	\$ 43,977,503	\$ 611,879	\$ 500,896
Auxiliary enterprises, student housing	12,177,425	11,814,895	-	-
Less: Scholarship discounts and allowance	13,496,003	7,632,116	-	-
Net student tuition and fees	45,774,418	48,160,282	611,879	500,896
Contributions	-	-	1,749,764	6,635,973
Federal grants and contracts	8,921,497	7,792,094	-	-
State and local grants and contracts	11,153,952	5,516,957	-	-
Nongovernmental grants and contracts	3,998,879	2,713,297	-	-
Auxiliary enterprises, other	608,397	1,022,708	223,476	236,699
Other operating revenues	1,295,644	840,664	420,065	291,159
Total operating revenues	71,752,787	66,046,002	3,005,184	7,664,727
EXPENSES				
Operating expenses:				
Instruction	44,244,040	40,587,936	-	-
Academic support	6,622,501	7,073,963	-	-
Student services	11,459,354	10,885,870	-	-
Institutional support	14,858,730	13,788,705	1,309,546	1,409,594
Operation and maintenance of plant	19,566,291	21,764,889	138,050	150,717
Scholarship	5,417,650	2,824,887	1,059,135	823,392
Depreciation	7,906,221	5,591,358	188,966	175,662
Debt service	587,539	1,889,568	40,854	80,619
Auxiliary enterprises	15,475,270	15,360,035	-	-
Total operating expenses	126,137,596	119,767,211	2,736,551	2,639,984
Operating income (loss)	(54,384,809)	(53,721,209)	268,633	5,024,743

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023
(Continued)

	Worcester State University		Component Unit Worcester State Foundation	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)				
State appropriations	55,212,761	48,616,049	-	-
Federal assistance	-	3,973,643	-	-
Interest and investment income (loss)	1,565,922	(42,068)	5,037,397	3,560,057
Other payments to Worcester State University	-	-	(1,641,957)	(1,004,837)
Other non-operating income (losses)	64,265	(114,122)	-	(24,000)
Net non-operating revenues	56,842,948	52,433,502	3,395,440	2,531,220
Income (loss) before other revenues, expenses, gains, or losses	2,458,139	(1,287,707)	3,664,073	7,555,963
Capital appropriations	6,423,771	7,575,764	-	-
Additions to permanent endowments	-	-	1,341,541	2,843,884
Change in net position	8,881,910	6,288,057	5,005,614	10,399,847
NET POSITION				
Beginning of year	69,552,567	63,264,510	50,752,229	40,352,382
End of year	\$ 78,434,477	\$ 69,552,567	\$ 55,757,843	\$ 50,752,229

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	Primary Government	
	2024	2023
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Student tuition, fees and charges	\$ 41,192,347	\$ 45,239,189
Federal grants and contracts	8,921,497	7,792,094
State and local grants and contracts	11,153,952	5,516,957
Nongovernmental grants and contracts	3,998,879	2,713,297
Auxiliary enterprise charges	608,397	1,022,708
Employee compensation and fringe benefit payments	(76,065,120)	(70,057,683)
Payments to suppliers	(38,480,788)	(38,527,755)
Interest paid	(1,008,929)	(1,148,628)
Loans repaid by students	14,304	19,543
Other receipts (payments)	(820,173)	1,408,686
Net cash used in operating activities	(50,485,634)	(46,021,592)
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:		
State appropriations	55,212,761	48,616,049
Federal assistance	-	3,973,643
Net deposits	(8,723)	15,934
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	55,204,038	52,605,626
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:		
Capital appropriations	6,423,771	7,575,764
Purchases of capital assets	(1,801,420)	(2,549,157)
Principal payments of bonds payable	(665,000)	(340,622)
Principal payments on lease obligations	(3,199,084)	(3,395,530)
Principal payments on subscription-based IT arrangements	(1,083,904)	(1,051,626)
Perkins loan program, net funds paid	(39)	(39,367)
Other activities	64,265	(114,122)
Net cash provided by (used in) capital and related financing activities	(261,411)	85,340
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	48,593,794	9,353,305
Purchases of investments	(49,462,993)	(24,884,356)
Interest and investment income	1,071,054	432,610
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	201,855	(15,098,441)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	4,658,848	(8,429,067)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	39,290,869	47,719,936
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 43,949,717	\$ 39,290,869

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

(Continued)

	Primary Government	
	2024	2023
Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Operating loss	\$ (54,384,809)	\$ (53,721,209)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	6,084,475	5,591,358
Amortization of leased assets	5,960,905	6,162,606
Amortization on subscription-based IT arrangements	1,077,156	1,067,264
Amortization of other assets	215,810	215,810
Accretion of deferred service concession arrangements	(411,775)	(411,775)
Decrease in deferred loss on refunding of bonds payable	25,367	25,368
Decrease in deferred gain on refunding of bonds payable	(58,503)	(24,629)
Decrease in bond premium	(381,599)	-
(Increase) decrease in operating assets and deferred outflows:		
Accounts receivable, net	(1,963,381)	848,869
Loans receivable	14,304	19,543
Inventories	46,511	(26,354)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	-	73,757
Resources related to pension and OPEB obligations	1,740,555	3,576,153
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities and deferred inflows:		
Accounts payable	(1,258,169)	(422,422)
Accrued payroll and fringe benefits	108,412	(698,110)
Accrued interest and other liabilities	(6,654)	(4,389)
Accrued workers' compensation	182,696	(59,607)
Student deposits and unearned revenue	1,094,917	34,721
Accrued compensated absences	603,906	131,996
Accrued pension and OPEB obligations	(8,011,034)	(883,724)
Resources related to pension and OPEB obligations	(1,164,724)	(7,516,818)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>\$ (50,485,634)</u>	<u>\$ (46,021,592)</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization

Worcester State University (the “University”) is a public, state-supported University, located in Worcester, Massachusetts. The University is governed by a local Board of Trustees under the discretion of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. As one of nine four-year, state-supported colleges and universities, the University is empowered to award baccalaureate and masters’ degrees in education and in the arts and sciences, as well as programs of continuing education.

The University is an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the “State”, the “Commonwealth”). Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements may not necessarily be indicative of the conditions that would have existed if the University had been operated as an independent institution.

Component units

Worcester State Foundation, Inc. (the “Foundation”) is a legally separate, tax-exempt component unit of the University. The Foundation’s primary role is to prudently manage and steward privately contributed resources meant to supplement the resources that are available to the University in support of its programs. The board of the Foundation is self-perpetuating and consists of graduates and friends of the University. Although the University does not control the timing or amount of receipts from the Foundation, the majority of resources, or income thereon, that the Foundation holds and invests are restricted to the activities of the University by the donors. Because these restricted resources held by the Foundation can only be used by, or for the benefit of, the University, the Foundation is considered a component unit of the University and is discretely presented in the University’s financial statements.

During the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Foundation distributed \$2,701,092 and \$1,828,229, respectively, to the University for both restricted and unrestricted purposes. Complete financial statements for the Foundation can be obtained from the Worcester State University Business Office at 486 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602.

Basis of presentation

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (U.S. GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing U.S. GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations).

The University has determined that it functions as a business-type activity, as defined by GASB. The effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from these financial statements. The basic financial statements for general purpose governments consist of management’s discussion and analysis, basic financial statements including the University’s discretely presented component unit, and required supplementary information. The University presents statements of net position, revenues, expenses, and changes in net position and cash flows on a University-wide basis.

Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements have been met. The accompanying statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable within a specific function. Program revenues primarily include charges to students or others who enroll or directly benefit from services that are provided by a particular function. Items not meeting the definition of program revenues are instead reported as general revenue.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Basis of presentation (continued)

The University's policies for defining operating activities in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position are those that generally result from exchange transactions such as the payment received for services and payment made for the purchase of goods and services. Certain other transactions are reported as non-operating activities in accordance with GASB accounting standards. These non-operating activities include the University's operating and capital appropriations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and net investment income.

Net position

GASB establishes accounting and financial reporting standards for public colleges and universities. These standards require that, for accounting and reporting purposes, resources be classified into four net position categories, described as follows:

Invested in capital assets, net of related debt - Includes all capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and the principal balances of any outstanding debt or other obligations used to construct, acquire or improve the assets.

Restricted net position - These resources are further differentiated between those that are nonexpendable and expendable.

Nonexpendable resources are those that are subject to externally imposed constraints that they be maintained permanently.

Expendable resources are those whose use is subject to externally imposed constraints that can be satisfied by specific actions or by the passage of time.

Unrestricted - These resources are not subject to any externally imposed constraints. Such net position may be designated for specific purposes by action of the governing Board.

Accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Subsequent events

The University has evaluated the financial statement impact of subsequent events occurring through October 22, 2024, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

Cash, temporary investments, and investments

The University considers its cash on hand, cash held by both the State Treasurer and Worcester State Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the University and all debt securities with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Cash, temporary investments, and investments (continued)

The University's investments are recorded at fair value. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in non-operating revenues. Realized gains and losses are determined based on the specific identification of the securities sold. Investment income is recognized when earned. The method of allocated interest earned on pooled cash and investments among fund types provides that, unless otherwise restricted, all interest is recorded in the unrestricted current fund. All gains and losses arising from the sale, maturity, or other disposition of investments are accounted for in the trust fund which owns the related asset. Ordinary income derived from investments is accounted for in the trust fund owning such assets.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board requires government entities to categorize investments to give an indication of the level of credit risk assumed by the University at year end. Category 1 includes investments that are insured or registered, or for which securities are held by the University or its agent in the name of the University. Category 2 includes uninsured and unregistered investments for which securities are held by a trust department in the name of the University. Category 3 includes uninsured and unregistered investments for which the securities are held by a trust department but not in the University's name.

Fair value measurements

The University follows the provisions of GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application* (GASB 72). This Statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements.

The University uses fair value measurements to record fair value adjustments to certain assets and liabilities and to determine fair value disclosures. In accordance with GASB 72, the fair value of a financial instrument is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value is best determined based on quoted market prices. However, in many instances, there may be no quoted market prices for the University's various financial instruments. In cases where quoted market prices are not available, fair values are based on estimates using present value or other valuation techniques. Those techniques are significantly affected by the assumptions used, including the discount rate and estimates of future cash flows. Accordingly, the fair value estimates may not be realized in an immediate settlement of the instrument.

In accordance with GASB 72, the University groups its financial assets and financial liabilities generally measured at fair value in three levels, based on the markets in which the assets and liabilities are traded and the reliability of the assumptions used to determine fair value.

Level 1: Valuation is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Valuation is based on observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3: Valuation is based on unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities. Level 3 assets and liabilities include financial instruments whose value is determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies, or similar techniques, as well as instruments for which the determination of fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Fair value measurements (continued)

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The University's component unit utilizes a similar market approach which uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets, liabilities or a group of assets and liabilities.

Allowance for doubtful accounts

Accounts receivable are reported at the amount management expects to collect in the future on balances outstanding at year end. Management estimates allowances for losses based on the history of collections and the knowledge acquired about specific items. Adjustments to the allowance are charged to bad debt expense. Interest is not charged on accounts receivable. Uncollectible amounts are written off against the reserve when deemed uncollectible; recoveries are recorded when received. An amount is considered uncollectible when reasonable efforts to collect the account have been exhausted.

Inventories

The University's inventories consist primarily of operating supplies which are valued at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined by the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method.

Loans receivable and payable

Loans receivable consist of the Federal Perkins Loan Program ("Perkins"). The federal government provides 90% of the funds to support this program. The 90% portion of the Perkins Loan Program provided by the federal government is refundable back to the federal government upon the termination of the University's participation in the program.

The prescribed practices for the Perkins program do not provide for accrual of interest on student loans receivable or for the provision of an allowance for doubtful loans. Accordingly, interest on loans is recorded as received and loan balances are reduced subsequent to the determination of their uncollectibility and have been accepted (assigned) by the Department of Education.

Capital assets

Capital assets are controlled, but not owned by the University. The University is not able to sell or otherwise encumber these assets since they are owned by the Commonwealth. All capital assets acquired prior to June 30, 1990 are stated at cost or estimated historical cost. Capital assets acquired subsequent to June 30, 1990 are stated at cost. All additions of individual capital assets greater than or equal to \$50,000 are capitalized, in accordance with the Commonwealth's capitalization policy. Donated capital assets are recorded at the estimated fair value at the date of the donation.

Capital assets, with the exception of land, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the asset, which range from 3 to 40 years.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Student deposits and unearned revenue

Deposits and advance payments received for tuition and fees related to the University's Summer Session II program are deferred and are recorded as unrestricted current funds unearned revenue.

Bond premiums

Bond premiums are being amortized on a straight-line basis, which approximates the effective interest method, over the terms of the related debt agreements.

Funds held for others

Funds held for others are agency funds consisting of resources held by the University as custodian or fiscal agent of student organizations, the State Treasurer and others. Transactions are recorded to assets and liability accounts.

State appropriations

The University's unrestricted State appropriations amounted to \$55,592,294 and \$48,980,156 for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. State supported tuition, in the amounts of \$379,533 and \$364,107 for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, were remitted to the State and have been offset against these appropriations. State supported tuition receipts and transfers have been recorded in an agency fund during the year with a net amount due from the Commonwealth of \$51,891 and \$18,953 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Pension plan

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Massachusetts State Employee's Retirement System (MSERS) and additions to/deductions from MSERS's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by MSERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Other postemployment benefits plan (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions Plan and additions to/deductions from this plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Compensated absences

Employees earn the right to be compensated during absences for vacation leave and sick leave. Accrued vacation leave is the amount earned by all eligible employees through June 30, 2024. Pursuant to statewide experience on sick pay buy-back agreements applicable to state employees, the University accrues sick leave to a level representing 20% of amounts earned by those University employees with ten or more years of State service at the end of the fiscal year. Upon retirement, these employees are entitled to receive payment for this accrued balance.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Fringe benefits

The University participates in the Commonwealth's fringe benefit programs, including health insurance, pension and workers' compensation benefits. Health insurance, pension and administrative costs are billed through a fringe benefit rate charged to the University. The University's workers' compensation program is administered by the Commonwealth's Division of Public Employee Retirement Administration. Workers' compensation costs are assessed separately based on the University's actual experience.

Trust funds

The University's operations are accounted for in different trust funds. All of these trust funds have been consolidated and are included in these financial statements.

Tax status

The University is an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is therefore exempt from federal and state income taxes under Code Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation is exempt from income taxes under the provisions of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

New government accounting pronouncements

GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences* is effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2023. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences, aligning such guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. Management has not completed its review of the requirements of this Standard and its applicability.

GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures* is effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2024. The objective of this Statement is to provide users of GASB financial statements with essential information about risks related to vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints. Management has not completed its review of the requirements of this Standard and its applicability.

GASB Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements* is effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2025. The objective of this Statement is to improve key components of the GASB financial reporting model to enhance its effectiveness in providing information that is essential for decision making and assessing accountability. Management has not completed its review of the requirements of this Standard and its applicability.

2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The University's cash and temporary investments are as follows as of June 30, 2024 and 2023:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Carrying amount	\$ 34,902,397	\$ 34,136,997
Bank balance	\$ 36,272,588	\$ 35,619,053
Less amounts		
Covered by depository insurance	820,280	1,517,619
Collateralized repurchase agreements	<u>32,687,748</u>	<u>29,433,566</u>
Remaining bank balance	<u>\$ 2,764,560</u>	<u>\$ 4,667,868</u>

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (Continued)

The differences between the carrying amounts and the bank balances are attributable to deposits-in-transit and outstanding checks. While the remaining bank balance is uninsured and uncollateralized, the University has lowered its risk of loss by maintaining these funds in high quality financial institutions. Further, as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the University held \$158,304 and \$64,155, respectively, in money market funds maintained by its investment custodian.

As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the University was party to a repurchase agreement with a bank. The value of this agreement was \$32,687,748 and \$29,433,566 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

The money market mutual funds constitute a Category 2 investment and the repurchase agreements constitute a Category 3 investment, as defined under GASB accounting standards.

3 - CASH HELD BY STATE TREASURER

The University has recorded cash held for the benefit of the University by the State Treasurer in the amounts of \$1,932,782 and \$1,967,941 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. In addition, the State Treasurer held cash for certain University trust funds in the amounts of \$7,114,538 and \$3,185,931 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. None of these cash balances are insured or collateralized.

4 - INVESTMENTS

The University maintains pooled investments in long-term U.S. Treasury and Agency Securities. The fair value of these investments as of June 30, 2024 are as follows:

	Investment Maturities (in years)			
	Fair Value	Less Than 1	1 to 5	Greater than 5
<u>June 30, 2024</u>				
Investment type				
U.S. Treasuries	\$ 33,729,238	\$ 16,665,252	\$ 10,204,636	\$ 6,859,350
U.S. Agencies	3,307,405	2,526,929	780,476	-
Total	<u>\$ 37,036,643</u>	<u>\$ 19,192,181</u>	<u>\$ 10,985,112</u>	<u>\$ 6,859,350</u>

The fair value of these investments as of June 30, 2023 are as follows:

	Investment Maturities (in years)			
	Fair Value	Less Than 1	1 to 5	Greater than 5
<u>June 30, 2023</u>				
Investment type				
U.S. Treasuries	\$ 33,194,938	\$ 15,090,807	\$ 13,081,800	\$ 5,022,331
U.S. Agencies	2,540,403	90,000	2,450,403	-
Total	<u>\$ 35,735,341</u>	<u>\$ 15,180,807</u>	<u>\$ 15,532,203</u>	<u>\$ 5,022,331</u>

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

4 - INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Interest Rate Risk

The University does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. The weighted average life of the maturities is evaluated regularly with the weighted average life of the portfolio being limited to five years or less, whenever possible. The weighted average life of the portfolio as of June 30, 2024 was 2.4 years.

Credit Risk

The University manages its exposure to credit risk by investing solely in U.S. Treasury and U.S. Agency securities.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The University places no limit on the amount that may be invested in one issuer, maintaining its cash in bank deposit accounts which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits.

Custodial Credit Risk

For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the University will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The University controls this risk by placing its securities in a trust account with a safekeeping agent other than the counterparty.

The components of investment income are as follows:

	2024	2023
Interest	\$ 1,133,819	\$ 441,198
Realized gain (loss) on investments	83,914	(137,749)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	348,189	(345,517)
	<u>\$ 1,565,922</u>	<u>\$ (42,068)</u>

Component Unit

Investments of the component unit are stated at fair value and are composed of the following:

	2024		2023	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Money market funds	\$ 122,390	\$ 122,390	\$ 402,113	\$ 402,113
Mutual funds	34,125,493	42,091,811	33,719,179	37,491,957
Limited partnership interest	812,500	1,190,468	475,000	697,141
	<u>\$ 35,060,383</u>	<u>\$ 43,404,669</u>	<u>\$ 34,596,292</u>	<u>\$ 38,591,211</u>

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

5 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used as of June 30, 2024 and 2023.

U.S. treasury securities and U.S. agency securities: Valued at the closing price reported in the market in which the individual securities are traded. Fair value hierarchy for each is based on the level of active trading within the respective markets for each asset or liability.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the University believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The University's financial assets that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis were recorded using the fair value hierarchy as of June 30, 2024 as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments				
U.S. Treasuries	\$ -	\$ 33,729,238	\$ -	\$ 33,729,238
U.S. Agencies	-	3,307,405	-	3,307,405
Total investments, at fair value	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 37,036,643</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 37,036,643</u>

The University's financial assets that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis were recorded using the fair value hierarchy as of June 30, 2023 as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments				
U.S. Treasuries	\$ -	\$ 33,194,938	\$ -	\$ 33,194,938
U.S. Agencies	-	2,540,403	-	2,540,403
Total investments, at fair value	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 35,735,341</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 35,735,341</u>

The University does not measure any liabilities at fair value on a recurring or non-recurring basis on the statement of net position.

6 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable consist of the following as of June 30, 2024 and 2023:

	2024	2023
Students	\$ 1,644,317	\$ 1,371,794
Other	3,352,165	1,648,122
	4,996,482	3,019,916
Less: Allowance for uncollectible accounts	509,872	496,687
	<u>\$ 4,486,610</u>	<u>\$ 2,523,229</u>

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

7 - CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE - COMPONENT UNIT

Contributions receivable are unconditional promises to give that are recognized as contributions when the promise is received. Contributions receivable that are expected to be collected in less than one year are reported at net realizable value. Contributions receivable that are expected to be collected in more than one year are recorded at fair value at the date of promise. That fair value is computed using a present value technique applied to anticipated cash flows. Amortization of the resulting discount is recognized as additional contribution revenue.

Payments of contributions receivable as of June 30, 2024 are expected to be received as follows:

2025	\$ 1,333,553
2026	293,143
2027	163,196
2028	816,000
2029	802,000
Thereafter	<u>2,401,000</u>
	5,808,892
Less: Discount on contributions receivable	<u>860,343</u>
	<u><u>\$ 4,948,549</u></u>

8 - LOANS RECEIVABLE

The University participates in the Federal Perkins Loan Program. This program is funded through a combination of Federal and institutional resources. The portion of this program that has been funded with Federal funds is ultimately refundable to the U.S. government upon the termination of the University's participation in the program. The loans receivable balance of \$270,825 and \$285,129 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, represents student loans issued through the Perkins Loans program and consists of the following as of June 30, 2024 and 2023:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Enrolled students	\$ 4,325	\$ 6,560
Repayment on schedule	4,383	7,542
In default	<u>262,117</u>	<u>271,027</u>
	<u><u>\$ 270,825</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 285,129</u></u>

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

9 - CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets activity for the year ended June 30, 2024 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 188,650	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 188,650
Construction in process	7,074,942	1,420,900	-	8,495,842
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Land improvements	9,965,277	-	-	9,965,277
Buildings, including improvements	155,173,706	-	-	155,173,706
Furnishings and equipment	14,570,926	380,521	-	14,951,447
Leased buildings	109,250,877	-	3,602,386	105,648,491
Leased furnishings and equipment	3,256,459	608,934	-	3,865,393
Subscription-based IT arrangements	3,848,732	1,643,487	769,701	4,722,518
Total capital assets	<u>303,329,569</u>	<u>4,053,842</u>	<u>4,372,087</u>	<u>303,011,324</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for				
Land improvements	6,494,388	516,706	-	7,011,094
Buildings, including improvements	77,945,982	4,201,788	-	82,147,770
Furnishings and equipment	13,923,912	217,047	-	14,140,959
Less accumulated amortization for				
Leased assets	20,221,217	7,109,840	-	27,331,057
Subscription-based IT arrangements	1,495,741	1,077,156	769,701	1,803,196
Total accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>120,081,240</u>	<u>13,122,537</u>	<u>769,701</u>	<u>132,434,076</u>
Capital assets, net	<u>\$183,248,329</u>	<u>\$ (9,068,695)</u>	<u>\$ 3,602,386</u>	<u>\$170,577,248</u>

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

9 - CAPITAL ASSETS (Continued)

Capital assets activity for the year ended June 30, 2023 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 188,650	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 188,650
Construction in process	5,006,978	2,067,964		7,074,942
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Land improvements	9,965,277	-	-	9,965,277
Buildings, including improvements	155,173,706	-	-	155,173,706
Furnishings and equipment	14,089,733	481,193	-	14,570,926
Leased buildings	109,250,877	-	-	109,250,877
Leased furnishings and equipment	2,082,326	1,174,133	-	3,256,459
Subscription-based IT arrangements	944,206	2,904,526	-	3,848,732
Total capital assets	<u>296,701,753</u>	<u>6,627,816</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>303,329,569</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for				
Land improvements	5,940,681	553,707	-	6,494,388
Buildings, including improvements	73,775,163	4,170,819	-	77,945,982
Furnishings and equipment	13,523,801	400,111	-	13,923,912
Less accumulated amortization for				
Leased assets	13,591,890	6,629,327	-	20,221,217
Subscription-based IT arrangements	428,477	1,067,264	-	1,495,741
Total accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>107,260,012</u>	<u>12,821,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,081,240</u>
Capital assets, net	<u>\$189,441,741</u>	<u>\$ (6,193,412)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$183,248,329</u>

10 - MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY

The land on which the dormitory residence halls are located is leased by the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts also executed a lease with MSCBA for land on which a parking garage is located. MSCBA owns the residence halls and parking garage and has entered into long-term lease agreements with the University to occupy and operate the facilities.

The University, under the terms of a management and service agreement between MSCBA and the Commonwealth, is charged a semi-annual revenue assessment which is based on the certified occupancy report, the current rent schedule, and the design capacity for each of the residence halls. This revenue assessment is used by MSCBA to pay principal and interest due on its long-term debt obligations. These obligations are guaranteed by the Commonwealth. The assessments charged for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, in the amounts of \$1,865,188 and \$1,516,159, respectively, and have been recorded as auxiliary enterprise expenditures.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

11 - DEFERRED SERVICE CONCESSION ARRANGEMENTS

Deferred service concession arrangements as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 in the amounts of \$2,781,594 and \$3,193,369, respectively, consist of the unamortized balances of multiple food service agreements with an outside party. This outside party contributed multiple payments since 2004 totaling \$8,788,017, to upgrade the food service facilities. The contributions are being amortized over various periods ranging from 12 to 18 years. Amortization of these contributions was \$411,775 for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.

12 - LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Long-term liabilities of the University as of June 30, 2024 were as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Current Portion
Bonds payable	\$ 20,136,679	\$ -	\$ 1,046,599	\$ 19,090,080	\$ 1,037,496
Lease obligations	105,345,541	608,934	6,801,470	99,153,005	4,382,533
Subscription-based IT arrangements	2,373,729	1,643,487	1,083,904	2,933,312	1,063,775
Accrued workers' compensation	1,496,531	182,696	-	1,679,227	204,543
Accrued compensated absences	5,857,528	603,906	-	6,461,434	3,772,159
Accrued pension and OPEB obligations	30,311,227	-	8,011,034	22,300,193	-
Refundable grant	306,684	-	39	306,645	-
	<u>\$165,827,919</u>	<u>\$ 3,039,023</u>	<u>\$ 16,943,046</u>	<u>\$151,923,896</u>	<u>\$ 10,460,506</u>

Long-term liabilities of the University as of June 30, 2023 were as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Current Portion
Bonds payable	\$ 20,477,301	\$ -	\$ 340,622	\$ 20,136,679	\$ 665,000
Lease obligations	107,566,938	1,174,133	3,395,530	105,345,541	3,533,165
Subscription-based IT arrangements	520,829	2,904,526	1,051,626	2,373,729	670,150
Accrued workers' compensation	1,556,138	-	59,607	1,496,531	171,574
Accrued compensated absences	5,725,532	131,996	-	5,857,528	3,351,550
Accrued pension and OPEB obligations	31,194,951	-	883,724	30,311,227	-
Refundable grant	346,051	-	39,367	306,684	-
	<u>\$167,387,740</u>	<u>\$ 4,210,655</u>	<u>\$ 5,770,476</u>	<u>\$165,827,919</u>	<u>\$ 8,391,439</u>

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

13 - BONDS PAYABLE

- (A) On December 4, 2002, the University signed a financing agreement used for the renovation of the Sullivan and Administration Buildings, which was completed in 2009. A call provision became available on this bond issue and the issue was refunded on December 18, 2012, with \$10,585,000 of Massachusetts Development Financing Agency (MDFA) Revenue Bonds. The obligation is being repaid solely by the University through revenues. Interest on the MDFA bonds is due in semi-annual installments at varying rates ranging from 2.00% to 4.00%. Annual principal installments ranging from \$255,000 to \$875,000 are due through November 2032. The refunding of the MHEFA bonds resulted in a loss, which is included in deferred outflows of resources and will be amortized over the term of the bond. Amortization of this loss for the year ended June 30, 2024, was \$5,847. The remaining loss to be amortized as June 30, 2024 is \$52,626.
- (B) On July 1, 2020, the University signed a financing agreement to receive \$681,052 from the MSCBA 2020 Series revenue bond in a partial refunding of the 2012 Series revenue bond. Interest on the bonds is due in semi-annual installments at varying rates ranging from 1.044% to 3.072%. Annual principal installments ranging from \$69,460 to \$117,000 are due May 2032 through May 2039. The refunding of the MSCBA 2012 Series bonds resulted in a loss, which is included in deferred outflows of resources and will be amortized over the term of the bond. Amortization of this loss for the year ended June 30, 2024, was \$19,520. The remaining loss to be amortized as June 30, 2024 is \$273,279.
- (C) On February 15, 2022, the University signed a financing agreement to receive \$9,509,327 from the MSCBA 2022 Series revenue bond in a partial refunding of the 2012 Series revenue bond. Interest on the bonds is due in semi-annual installments at varying rates ranging from 4.00% to 5.00%. Annual principal installments ranging from \$342,496 to \$742,778 are due May 2025 through May 2042. The refunding of the MSCBA 2012 Series bonds resulted in a gain, which is included in deferred inflows of resources and will be amortized over the term of the bond. Amortization of this gain for the year ended June 30, 2024, was \$58,503. The remaining gain to be amortized as June 30, 2024 is \$384,813.

The composition of the University's Bonds payable for the year ended June 30, 2024 is as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
(A) Bond payable, MDFA 2012 Series	\$ 7,205,605	\$ 7,886,229
(B) Bond payable, MSCBA 2020 Series	681,052	681,052
(C) Bond payable, MSCBA 2022 Series	<u>11,203,423</u>	<u>11,569,398</u>
	19,090,080	20,136,679
Less: Current maturities	<u>1,037,496</u>	<u>665,000</u>
	<u>\$ 18,052,584</u>	<u>\$ 19,471,679</u>

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

13 - BONDS PAYABLE (Continued)

Debt service requirements as of June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Year Ended June 30	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 1,037,496	\$ 648,543
2026	1,080,221	606,081
2027	1,117,432	566,458
2028	1,161,604	526,892
2029	1,196,284	484,843
2030 - 2034	6,086,896	1,725,850
2035 - 2039	3,430,554	844,946
2040 - 2042	2,144,892	173,877
	17,255,379	5,577,490
Unamortized premium	1,834,701	-
	<u>\$ 19,090,080</u>	<u>\$ 5,577,490</u>

14 - LEASE OBLIGATIONS

The University leases its residence halls and parking garage from MSCBA, as well as other furnishings and equipment under various lease agreements.

Future minimum lease payments as of June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Year Ended June 30	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 4,382,533	\$ 4,065,069
2026	4,378,064	3,880,915
2027	4,356,148	3,717,515
2028	4,282,472	3,741,109
2029	4,692,586	3,020,798
2030 - 2034	27,176,534	12,249,527
2035 - 2039	32,891,720	6,908,399
2040 - 2043	16,992,948	1,613,614
	<u>\$ 99,153,005</u>	<u>\$ 39,196,946</u>

15 - SUBSCRIPTION-BASED IT ARRANGEMENTS

The University licenses various software under various subscription-based IT agreements.

Future minimum payments on these arrangements as of June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Year Ended June 30	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 1,063,775	\$ 56,998
2026	891,227	37,391
2027	742,779	19,565
2028	235,531	4,835
	<u>\$ 2,933,312</u>	<u>\$ 118,789</u>

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

16 - NET POSITION

Unrestricted net position from operations is not subject to externally imposed stipulations; however, it may be subject to internal restrictions. For example, unrestricted net position from operations may be designated for specific purposes by action of management or the Board of Trustees or may otherwise be limited by contractual agreements with outside parties. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, unrestricted net position from operations of \$32,145,916 and \$30,589,057, respectively, has been internally designated by the University for future capital investments. The remaining undesignated unrestricted net position from operations was \$37,201,771 and \$31,547,517 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

The University is the recipient of funds that are subject to various external constraints upon their use, either as to purpose or time. These funds are comprised of the following as of June 30:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Restricted - expendable		
Capital projects	\$ (88,910)	\$ (95,564)
Scholarships and other grants	<u>1,662,590</u>	<u>1,481,912</u>
	<u>\$ 1,573,680</u>	<u>\$ 1,386,348</u>

The component unit's restricted - expendable net position consists of funds whose income is mainly used for scholarships and grants. The component unit's restricted - nonexpendable net position consists of investments to be held in perpetuity and the income is restricted for the purpose of providing scholarships and other activities that benefit the University.

17 - FACULTY COMPENSATION

Contracts for full-time faculty begin on September 1, and end May 31 of any given academic year. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the University pay all faculty members over the twelve-month period of September 1 through August 31. Consequently, on June 30 of each year there is a balance due on each faculty contract which is to be paid from the subsequent year's appropriation. The balance due as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 of \$2,402,748 and \$2,228,855 respectively, has been included in accrued payroll and fringe benefits in the statement of net position.

18 - ACCRUED WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Independent actuarial reviews of the outstanding loss reserve requirements for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' self-insured Workers' Compensation program were conducted as of June 30, 2024 and 2023. Based upon the Commonwealth's analyses, accrued workers' compensation in the amount of \$1,679,227 and \$1,496,531 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, have been recorded in the unrestricted current fund. Workers' compensation expense charged to operations was \$514,280 and \$204,540 in 2024 and 2023, respectively. The actual workers' compensation paid by the University was \$331,584 and \$264,147 in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

19 - ACCRUED COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Included in accrued compensated absences are \$3,218,466 for accrued vacation time and \$3,242,968 for accrued sick time as of June 30, 2024 and \$3,012,084 for accrued vacation time and \$2,845,444 for accrued sick time as of June 30, 2023. Of these balances, \$508,587 and \$540,881 for June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, represent obligations due to employees funded through sources other than State appropriations, and \$5,952,847 and \$5,316,647 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, represent obligations to employees funded through State appropriations. The University anticipates that the obligations due to employees funded by State appropriations will be discharged through future State appropriations.

20 - FRINGE BENEFIT CHARGES

Certain fringe benefit costs associated with University staff, compensated through State appropriations, are paid out of non-University State budget line items. The University is required to reimburse the State for such costs for employees funded from other than State appropriations, based on a percentage of payroll. For 2024, the University reimbursed the State a total of \$4,342,525 (\$2,506,071 for pensions and \$1,836,454 for health care premiums). For 2023, the University reimbursed the State a total of \$3,166,267 (\$1,439,702 for pensions and \$1,726,565 for health care premiums).

21 - RETIREMENT PLAN

The University reports a liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and expense as a result of its statutory requirement to contribute to the Massachusetts State Employee's Retirement System (MSERS). The following information is about MSERS:

Plan Description

The Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS) is a public employee retirement system (PERS), covering substantially all of the University's non-student full-time employees. It is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Massachusetts State Retirement Board. Under the cost-sharing plan, pension obligations for employees of all employers are pooled and plan assets are available to pay the benefits through the plan, regardless of the status of the employers' payment of its pension obligations to the plan.

Benefit Provisions

MSERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits to plan members and their beneficiaries. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) establishes uniform benefit and contribution requirements for all contributory PERS. These requirements provide for superannuation retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest three-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For employees hired after April 1, 2012, retirement allowances are calculated on the basis of the last five years or any five consecutive years, whichever is greater in terms of compensation. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, group creditable service and group classification. The authority for establishing and amending these provisions rests with the Massachusetts Legislature, Chapter 32A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Members become vested after ten years of creditable service. A superannuation retirement allowance may be received upon the completion of twenty years of credible service or upon reaching the age of 55 with ten years of service. Normal retirement for most employees occurs at age 65; for certain hazardous duty and public safety positions, normal retirement is at age 55. Most employees who joined the system after April 1, 2012 are not eligible for retirement prior to age 60.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

21 - RETIREMENT PLAN (Continued)

Contributions

The MSERS's funding policies have been established by Chapter 32 of the MGL. The Legislature has the authority to amend these policies. The annuity portion of the MSERS retirement allowance is funded by employees, who contribute a percentage of their regular compensation. Costs of administering the plan are funded out of plan assets.

Member contributions for MSERS vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Percentage of Compensation</u>
Prior to 1975	5% of regular compensation
1975 to 1983	7% of regular compensation
1984 to June 30, 1996	8% of regular compensation
July 1, 1996 to present	9% of regular compensation
July 1, 2001 to present	11% of regular compensation (for teacher hired after July 1, 2001 and those accepting provisions of Chapter 114 of the Acts of 2000)
1979 to present	An additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000 except for teachers subject to Chapter 114 of the Acts of 2000

In addition, members of Group 1 who join the system after April 2, 2021 will have their withholding rate reduced to 6% after achieving 30 years of creditable service.

The University is not required to contribute from its appropriation allocation or other University funds to MSERS for employees compensated from State appropriations. For University employees covered by MSERS but compensated from a trust fund or other source, the University is required to contribute an amount determined as a percentage of compensation in accordance with a fringe benefit rate determined by the State. The rate was 16.69% and 16.70% of annual covered payroll for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023, respectively. The University contributed \$1,090,146 and \$1,087,817 for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023, equal to 100% of the required contributions for the year.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources

As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the University reported a net pension liability of \$10,806,543 and \$13,421,011, respectively, for its proportionate share of the net pension liability related to its participation in MSERS. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, the measurement date, as determined by an actuarial valuation. The University's proportion of the net pension liability was based on its share of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' collective pension amounts allocated on the basis of actual fringe benefit charges assessed the University for the fiscal years 2023 and 2022. The Commonwealth's proportionate share was based on actual employer contributions to the MSERS for fiscal years 2023 and 2022 relative to total contributions of all participating employers for each respective fiscal year. As of June 30, 2023 and 2022, the University's proportion was 0.08% and 0.11%, respectively. For the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, the University recognized pension benefit of \$1,029,413 and \$279,641, respectively.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

21 - RETIREMENT PLAN (Continued)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources (continued)

As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the University reported in the statement of net position deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	2024	2023
Deferred outflows of resources:		
Change in plan actuarial assumptions	\$ 181,622	\$ 369,502
Differences between expected and actual experience	383,880	333,854
Differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	290,836	-
Changes in proportion from Commonwealth due to internal allocation	82,531	248,799
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	1,090,146	1,087,817
	<u>\$ 2,029,015</u>	<u>\$ 2,039,972</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 267,029	\$ 523,826
Differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	-	71,549
Changes in proportion from Commonwealth due to internal allocation	5,142,155	4,329,860
	<u>\$ 5,409,184</u>	<u>\$ 4,925,235</u>

Contributions of \$1,090,146 and \$1,087,817, respectively, are reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from the University contributions in fiscal years 2024 and 2023 subsequent to the measurement date, which will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized as an addition to (reduction in) pension expense as follows:

2025	\$ (1,706,110)
2026	(2,279,155)
2027	(1,337)
2028	(483,713)
	<u>\$ (4,470,315)</u>

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability at the measurement dates was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

	2023	2022
Cost of living increases (on the first \$13,000 per year for 2023 and 2022)	3.00%	3.00%
Salary increases	4.00 to 9.00%	4.00 to 9.00%
Investment rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Interest rate credit to the annuity savings fund	3.50%	3.50%
Inflation rate	2.50%	2.50%

Pre-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Employees Table, projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 and set forward one year for females. Post-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 and set forward one year for females. Mortality rates for disability reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 and set forward one year.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

21 - RETIREMENT PLAN (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions (continued)

Experience studies were performed as of February 27, 2014, encompassing the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2011, updated to reflect actual experience from 2012 through 2020 for post-retirement mortality.

Investment assets of MSERS are with the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage. Best estimates of geometric rates of return for each major asset class included in the PRIT Fund's target assets allocation as of June 30, 2023 and 2022 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation		Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Global equity	37%	38%	4.90%	4.20%
Core fixed income	15%	15%	1.90%	0.50%
Private equity	16%	15%	7.40%	7.00%
Real estate	10%	10%	3.00%	3.30%
Value added fixed income	8%	8%	5.10%	3.70%
Portfolio completion strategies	10%	10%	3.80%	2.70%
Timber/natural resources	4%	4%	4.30%	3.90%
Total	100%	100%		

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% for 2023 and 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rates and the Commonwealth's contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rates. Based on those assumptions, the net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity Analysis

The following illustrates the sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate as of June 30, 2023 and 2022. In particular, the table presents the MSERS collective net pension liability assuming it was calculated using a single discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

	2023	2022
1% decrease to 6.00% for 2023 and 2022	\$ 14,852,136	\$ 18,510,630
Current discount rate 7.00% for 2023 and 2022	10,806,543	13,421,011
1% increase to 8.00% for 2023 and 2022	7,382,908	9,114,454

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

22 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS

The University reports a liability, deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and expense as a result of its statutory requirement to contribute to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB) Plan. The following information is about the OPEB Plan:

Plan Description

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB) Plan covers substantially all of the University's non-student full-time employees. It's a single-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Under the cost-sharing plan, certain benefits for retired employees of all employers are pooled and plan assets are available to pay the benefits through the plan, regardless of the status of the employers' payment of its obligations to the plan. The plan provides health care and life insurance to plan members and beneficiaries.

Benefit Provisions

Chapter 32A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth (MGL), requires the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to provide certain health care and life insurance benefits for retired employees. Substantially all of the Commonwealth's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach retirement age while working for the Commonwealth. Eligible retirees are required to contribute a specified percentage of the health care/benefit costs, which are compatible to contributions required from employees.

Contributions

Employer and employee contribution rates are set in MGL. The Commonwealth recognizes its share of the costs on an actuarial basis. As of June 30, 2023 and 2022 and as of the valuation date (January 1, 2023), Commonwealth participants contributed 10% to 20% of premium costs, depending on the date of hire and whether the participant is active, retiree, or survivor status.

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources

As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the University reported a net OPEB liability of \$11,493,650 and \$16,890,216, respectively, for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability related to its participation in the OPEB Plan. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, the measurement date, as determined by an actuarial valuation. The University's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on its share of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' collective OPEB amounts allocated on the basis of actual fringe benefit charges assessed the University for the fiscal years 2023 and 2022. The Commonwealth's proportionate share was based on actual employer contributions to the OPEB Plan for fiscal year 2023 relative to total contributions of all participating employers for each respective fiscal year. As of June 30, 2023 and 2022, the University's proportion was 0.09% and 0.13%, respectively. For the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, the University recognized OPEB benefit of \$4,746,472 and \$2,781,658, respectively.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

22 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSION (Continued)

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources (continued)

As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the University reported in the statement of net position deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to postemployment benefits other than pensions from the following sources:

	2024	2023
Deferred outflows of resources:		
Changes in proportion from Commonwealth due to internal allocation	\$ 318,320	\$ 1,514,605
Changes in plan actuarial assumption	504,922	1,244,020
Differences between expected and actual experience	467,479	310,927
Differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	37,568	25,675
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	511,401	474,061
	<u>\$ 1,839,690</u>	<u>\$ 3,569,288</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Changes in proportion from Commonwealth due to internal allocation	\$ 13,643,603	\$ 10,638,640
Change in plan actuarial assumptions	2,964,626	6,112,927
Differences between expected and actual experience	1,291,023	2,796,358
	<u>\$ 17,899,252</u>	<u>\$ 19,547,925</u>

Contributions of \$511,041 and \$474,061, respectively are reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from the University contributions in fiscal years 2024 and 2023 subsequent to the measurement date, which will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized as a reduction in OPEB expense as follows:

2025	\$ (6,468,061)
2026	(4,733,678)
2027	(3,122,579)
2028	(1,588,862)
2029	(657,783)
	<u>\$ (16,570,963)</u>

Actuarial Assumptions

The total OPEB liability for the June 30, 2023 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2023 rolled forward to June 30, 2023. The total OPEB liability for the June 30, 2022 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022 rolled forward to June 30, 2022. This valuation used the following assumptions:

- For 2023, the annual healthcare cost trend rates were developed based on the Getzen trend rate model, version 2023_1f. The healthcare cost trend rate changed from 5.00% in 2022 to 5.79% for Medicare benefits and from 7.60% to 7.50% for non-Medicare benefits, then increasing in 2024 before decreasing in 2025, 2026 and 2027 to a blended rate of 4.77% in 2032 and additional decrease in 2042, 2052, 2062, 2072, and 2075.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

22 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSION (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions (continued)

2. For 2022, the annual healthcare cost trend rates were developed based on the Getzen trend rate model, version 2022_f4. The healthcare cost trend rate changed from 4.40% in 2021 to 5.00% for Medicare benefits and 7.60% for non-Medicare benefits, then increasing in 2023 and 2024 before decreasing in 2025 and 2026 to a blended rate of 4.97% in 2031 and additional decrease in 2041, 2051, 2061, 2071, and 2075. The Getzen trend rate model also assumes inflation of 2.5%, real GDP growth of 1.4% and excess medical growth of 1.0%.
3. For 2023, the mortality rate was in accordance with RP 2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table projected with scale MP-2021, with females set forward one year.
4. For 2022, the mortality rate was in accordance with RP 2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table projected with scale MP-2020, with females set forward one year.
5. Participation rates, for 2023 and 2022:
 - a. 100% of employees currently electing health care coverage are assumed to elect coverage at retirement.
 - b. 35% of employees currently opting out of active employee health coverage are assumed to elect to enroll in retiree coverage.
 - c. 85% of current and future vested terminated participants will elect health care benefits at age 55, or if later, the participant's current age.
 - d. Retirees who currently elect to waive their coverage are assumed to remain uncovered in the future.
 - e. 100% of spouses are assumed to elect to continue coverage after the retiree's death.
 - f. For 2023, current non-Medicare eligible retirees and spouses (if covered) under age 65 who are in a POS/PPO plan are assumed to move to a Medicare Supplement plan if they are Medicare eligible at 65. For 2022, current non-Medicare eligible retirees and spouses (if covered) under age 65 who are in a POS/PPO plan are assumed to move to an Indemnity plan if they are Medicare eligible at 65. All others are assumed to remain in their currently elected product type.
 - g. Future retirees are assumed to enroll in the existing plans in the same proportion as the current retiree mix, as shown in the table below. These proportions are established separately for non-Medicare and Medicare coverage for each product type and reflect the migration of members to new plans.

	2023		2022	
	Retirement Age		Retirement Age	
	Under 65	Age 65+	Under 65	Age 65+
Indemnity	27%	0%	28%	96%
POS/PPO	63%	0%	62%	0%
HMO	10%	0%	10%	4%
Medicare Supplement	0%	96%	0%	0%
Medicare Advantage	0%	4%	0%	0%

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

22 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSION (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions (continued)

Investment assets of the Plan are with the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund. The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage. Best estimates of geometric rates of return for each major asset class included in the PRIT Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 and 2022 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation		Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Global equity	37%	38%	4.90%	4.20%
Portfolio completion strategies	10%	10%	3.80%	2.70%
Core fixed income	15%	15%	1.90%	0.50%
Private equity	16%	15%	7.40%	7.30%
Value added fixed income	8%	8%	5.10%	3.70%
Real estate	10%	10%	3.00%	3.30%
Timber/natural resources	4%	4%	4.30%	3.90%
Total	100%	100%		

Discount Rate

The discount rates used to measure the OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023 and 2022 was 4.34% and 4.30%, respectively. This rate was based on a blend of the Bond Buyer Index rates of 3.65% and 3.54% as of the measurement date of June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively, and the expected rates of return. The plan's fiduciary net position was not projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments for current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments of 7.00% per annum was not applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Sensitivity Analysis

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the University calculated the discount rate we as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

	2023	2022
1% decrease to 3.34% for 2023 and 3.30% for 2022	\$ 13,429,202	\$ 19,938,993
Current discount rate 4.34% for 2023 and 4.30% for 2022	11,493,650	16,890,216
1% increase to 5.34% for 2023 and 5.30% for 2022	9,905,419	14,752,358

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

22 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (Continued)

Sensitivity Analysis (continued)

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the University, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a healthcare cost trend rate that is one-percentage-point lower or one-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rate:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
1% decrease for Medical and EGWP and Administrative costs	\$ 9,630,806	\$ 14,327,507
Current cost trend rate as described on page 43	11,493,650	16,890,216
1% increase for Medical and EGWP and Administrative costs	13,850,033	20,590,215

23 - STATE CONTROLLED ACCOUNTS

Certain significant costs and benefits associated with the operations of the University are appropriated, expended, controlled and reported by the State through non-University line items in the State's budget. Under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America such transactions must be recorded in the financial statements of the University. These transactions include payments by the State for the employer's share of funding the Massachusetts State Employee's Retirement System and for the employer's share of health care premiums. The estimated amounts of funding attributable for the State retirement system contribution and the employer's share of health care premiums for 2024 were \$9,619,196 and \$7,048,966, respectively. The estimated amounts of funding attributable for the State retirement system contribution and the employer's share of health care premiums for 2023 were \$6,420,826 and \$7,700,191, respectively.

24 - MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING SYSTEM - (UNAUDITED)

Section 15C of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Law requires Commonwealth colleges and universities report activity of campus-based funds to the Comptroller of the Commonwealth's Statewide Accounting System, Massachusetts Management Accounting and Reporting System (MMARS) using the statutory basis of accounting. The statutory basis of accounting is a modified accrual basis of accounting and differs from the information included in these financial statements. The amounts reported on MMARS meet the guidelines of the Comptroller's Guide for Higher Education Audited Financial Statements.

The University's State appropriations are composed of the following for the years ended June 30:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Direct unrestricted appropriations	\$ 38,924,137	\$ 34,859,139
Fringe benefits for benefitted employees on state payroll	16,668,157	14,121,017
Tuition remitted	<u>(379,533)</u>	<u>(364,107)</u>
Total appropriations	<u>\$ 55,212,761</u>	<u>\$ 48,616,049</u>

A reconciliation between the University and MMARS fund 901 activity as of June 30, 2024 is as follows:

Revenue per MMARS	\$ 86,458,736
Revenue per University	<u>86,461,711</u>
Net reporting classification and differences	<u>\$ (2,975)</u>

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

25 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The University provided, at no cost, office space and certain personnel services to the Worcester State Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation"). The value of this support is estimated to be \$210,262 and \$236,447 for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Worcester State Foundation, Inc. acts as an agent for the University by periodically accepting grants on its behalf. The proceeds of the grants are recorded as an asset of the Foundation until remitted to the University.

The University and the Foundation have entered into an affiliation agreement with the Worcester Center for Crafts, Inc. to collaboratively offer venues for teaching and learning in the arts, exhibition space, safe, well-equipped studios for community-based programs as well as undergraduate visual and performing art classes. As part of the agreement, the University provides various forms of support to the Crafts Center including annual service fees for allowing the University to use the facilities. Service agreement fees were \$250,000 for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023. In addition, the University provided support including personnel, equipment, repairs and maintenance and other operating expenses in 2023. The value of this support is estimated to be \$321,847 for the year ended June 30, 2023.

The University provides certain operating costs for WSF Real Estate, Inc. in exchange for the use property adjacent to the University campus for various purposes. WSF Real Estate, Inc. is under the control and holds property on behalf of the Foundation. Operating costs provided by the University were \$85,497 and \$83,156 during the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

26 - AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES

The University's auxiliary enterprises consist of residence life and housing and health services. The related revenues and expenses for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 are as follows:

	2024		2023	
	Residence Life and Housing	Health Services	Residence Life and Housing	Health Services
Total revenue	\$ 11,792,367	\$ 993,455	\$ 11,838,847	\$ 998,756
Total expenses	14,983,314	491,956	14,811,008	549,027
Increase (decrease) in net position before transfers	<u>\$ (3,190,947)</u>	<u>\$ 501,499</u>	<u>\$ (2,972,161)</u>	<u>\$ 449,729</u>

27 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Litigation

Pending or threatened lawsuits against governmental agencies arise in the ordinary course of operations. In the opinion of the University's administration, the ultimate resolution of any pending legal actions involving the University will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the University.

Grants and entitlements

The University receives financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants and entitlements. Expenditures of funds under these programs require compliance with the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the granting agency. Any disallowed expenditures resulting from such audits become a liability of the University. In the opinion of the University's administration, the outcome of any findings with respect to disallowed expenditures will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the University.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

SCHEDULE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement Plan

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(With Comparative Totals for 2015 through 2023)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
University's proportion of the net pension liability	0.81%	0.11%	0.15%	0.15%	0.14%
University's proportion of the net pension liability	\$ 10,806,543	\$ 13,421,011	\$ 11,319,876	\$ 23,033,837	\$ 19,332,813
University's covered-employee payroll	\$ 6,936,263	\$ 8,039,088	\$ 9,176,617	\$ 10,458,847	\$ 12,561,991
University's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	155.80%	166.95%	123.36%	220.23%	153.90%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	70.71%	71.05%	77.54%	62.48%	66.28%
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
University's proportion of the net pension liability	0.17%	0.15%	0.15%	0.18%	0.14%
University's proportion of the net pension liability	\$ 20,564,468	\$ 18,014,320	\$ 18,674,184	\$ 18,901,770	\$ 9,357,928
University's covered-employee payroll	\$ 12,922,066	\$ 11,336,488	\$ 11,331,835	\$ 11,013,323	\$ 10,245,240
University's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	159.14%	158.91%	164.79%	171.63%	91.34%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	67.91%	67.21%	63.48%	67.87%	76.32%

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement Plan

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(With Comparative Totals for 2015 through 2023)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Statutorily required contribution*	\$ 1,087,817	\$ 1,290,957	\$ 1,290,289	\$ 1,450,748	\$ 1,315,547
Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution*	1,087,817	1,290,957	1,290,289	1,450,748	1,315,547
Annual contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
University's covered-employee payroll	\$ 6,936,263	\$ 8,039,088	\$ 9,176,617	\$ 10,458,847	\$ 12,561,991
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	15.68%	16.06%	14.06%	13.87%	10.47%
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Statutorily required contribution*	\$ 1,421,424	\$ 1,098,173	\$ 972,477	\$ 1,039,592	\$ 741,444
Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution*	1,421,424	1,098,173	972,477	1,039,592	741,444
Annual contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
University's covered-employee payroll	\$ 12,922,066	\$ 11,336,488	\$ 11,331,835	\$ 11,013,323	\$ 10,245,240
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	11.00%	9.69%	8.58%	9.44%	7.24%

*Annual contribution are reported one year in arrears
as required by GASB 68

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE
NET PENSION LIABILITY AND SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY CONTRIBUTIONS

JUNE 30, 2015 THROUGH 2024

1 - CHANGES IN ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2023 measurement date included a change in mortality rates. As of this date, pre-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Employees Table, projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 and set forward one year for females. Post-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 and set forward one year for females. Mortality rates for disability reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 and set forward one year.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2022 measurement date included a change in the inflation rate from 0.00% in 2021 to 2.50% for 2022.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2021 measurement date included a change in mortality rates. As of this date, pre-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Employees Table, projected generationally with Scale MP-2020 and set forward one year for females. Post-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2020 and set forward one year for females. Mortality rates for disability reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2020 and set forward one year.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2021 measurement date included a change in the investment rate of return from 7.15% in 2020 to 7.00% for 2021.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2020 measurement date included a change in the investment rate of return from 7.25% in 2019 to 7.15% for 2020.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2019 measurement date included a change in the investment rate of return from 7.35% in 2018 to 7.25% for 2019.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2018 measurement date included a change in mortality rates for disability. As of this date, mortality rates for disability reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2016 and set forward one year.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2017 measurement date included a change cost of living increases whereby such increases are on only the first \$13,000 per year.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2017 measurement date included a change in mortality rates. As of this date, pre-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Employees Table, projected generationally with Scale MP-2016 and set forward one year for females. Post-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2016 and set forward one year for females. Mortality rates for disability were assumed to be in accordance with the RP-2000 Healthy Annuitant Table projected generationally with Scale BB and a base year of 2015 (gender distinct).

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2016 measurement date included a change in the range of assumed salary increases from 3.5% to 9.0% in 2015 to 4.0% to 9.0%.

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE
NET PENSION LIABILITY AND SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY CONTRIBUTIONS

JUNE 30, 2015 THROUGH 2024
(Continued)

1 - CHANGES IN ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (Continued)

Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011 created a one-time election for eligible members of the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) to transfer to the State Employees' Retirement System (SERB) and purchase service for the period while members of the ORP. As a result, the total pension liability of SERB has increased by approximately \$400 million as of June 30, 2016.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2015 measurement date included a change in the investment rate of return and discount rate from 8.0% to 7.5%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the investment rate of return and discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contributions rates and the members rates.

In May 2015, an early retirement incentive (ERI) was created for certain members MSERS who upon election of the ERI retired effective June 30, 2015. As a result, the total pension liability of MSERS has increased by approximately \$230 million as of the June 30, 2015 measurement date.

The Actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2015 measurement date included a change in mortality rates. As of this date, pre-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2000 Employees table projected generationally with Scale BB and a base year of 2009 (gender district). Post-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2000 Healthy Annuitant table projected generationally with Scan BB (gender distinct). Disability rates were assumed to be in accordance with the RP-2000 Healthy Annuitant table projected generationally with Scale BB and a base year of 2015 (gender distinct).

Mortality rates included as of the June 30, 2014 measurement date included pre-retirement mortality rates reflecting the RP-2000 Employees table projected 20 years with Scale AA (gender district). Post-retirement mortality rates reflect the RP-2000 Healthy Annuitant table projected 15 years with Scan AA (gender distinct). Disability rates were assumed to be in accordance with the RP-2000 table projected 5 years with Scale AA (gender distinct) set forward 3 years for males.

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

SCHEDULE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB) Plan

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(With Comparative Totals for 2017 through 2023)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
University's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.09%	0.13%	0.13%	0.15%	0.21%
University's proportion of the net OPEB liability	\$ 11,493,650	\$ 16,890,216	\$ 19,875,075	\$ 29,639,150	\$ 36,445,632
University's covered-employee payroll	\$ 6,936,263	\$ 8,039,088	\$ 9,176,617	\$ 10,458,847	\$ 12,561,991
University's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	165.70%	210.10%	216.58%	283.39%	290.13%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	13.80%	13.00%	10.70%	6.40%	6.96%
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>		
University's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.25%	0.21%	0.18%		
University's proportion of the net OPEB liability	\$ 44,998,975	\$ 35,037,942	\$ 33,225,679		
University's covered-employee payroll	\$ 12,922,066	\$ 11,336,488	\$ 11,331,835		
University's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	348.23%	309.07%	293.21%		
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	7.38%	5.39%	4.37%		

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB) Plan

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(With Comparative Totals for 2017 through 2023)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Statutorily required contribution*	\$ 474,061	\$ 644,941	\$ 677,546	\$ 751,524	\$ 959,290
Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution*	474,061	644,941	677,546	751,524	959,290
Annual contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
University's covered-employee payroll	\$ 6,936,263	\$ 8,039,088	\$ 9,176,617	\$ 10,458,847	\$ 12,561,991
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	6.83%	8.02%	7.38%	7.19%	7.64%
	2019	2018	2017		
Statutorily required contribution*	\$ 1,076,188	\$ 882,031	\$ 745,202		
Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution*	1,076,188	882,031	745,202		
Annual contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>		
University's covered-employee payroll	\$ 12,922,066	\$ 11,336,488	\$ 11,331,835		
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	8.33%	7.78%	6.58%		

*Annual contributions are reported one year in arrears
as required by GASB 75

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE
NET OPEB LIABILITY AND SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS

JUNE 30, 2017 THROUGH 2024

1 - CHANGES IN ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2023 measurement date included a change in the annual healthcare cost trend rates used to measure the OPEB liability, developing such rates based on the Getzen trend rate model, version 2023_1f. The healthcare cost trend rate changed from 5.00% in 2022 to 5.79% in 2023 for Medicare benefits and from 7.60% in 2022 to 7.50% in 2023 for non-Medicare benefits, then increasing in 2024 before decreasing in 2025, 2026 and 2027 to a blended rate of 4.77% in 2032 and additional decrease in 2042, 2052, 2062, 2072, and 2075.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2023 measurement date included a change in mortality rates. As of this date, mortality rates reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Employees Table, projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 and set forward one year for females.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2023 measurement date included a change in participant rates whereby in 2022 actives under age 65 taking coverage were assumed to have indemnity (28%), POS/PPO (62%) or HMO (10%) have been adjusted in 2023 to indemnity (27%), POS/PPO (63%) or HMO (10%).

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2023 measurement date included a change in participant rates whereby in 2022 actives over age 65 taking coverage were assumed to have indemnity (96%) or HMO (4%) have been adjusted in 2023 to Medicare Supplement (96%) or Medicare Advantage (4%).

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2022 measurement date included a change in the annual healthcare cost trend rates used to measure the OPEB liability, developing such rates based on the Getzen trend rate model, version 2022_f4. The healthcare cost trend rate changed from 4.40% in 2021 to 5.00% in 2022 for Medicare benefits and from 7.3% in 2021 to 7.60% in 2022 for non-Medicare benefits, then increasing in 2023 and 2024 before decreasing in 2025 and 2026 to a blended rate of 4.97% in 2031 and additional decrease in 2041, 2051, 2061, 2071, and 2075. The Getzen trend rate model also assumes inflation of 2.5%, real GDP growth of 1.4% and excess medical growth of 1.1%.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2022 measurement date included a change in participant rates whereby in 2021 actives under age 65 taking coverage were assumed to have indemnity (28%), POS/PPO (60%) or HMO (12%) have been adjusted in 2022 to indemnity (28%), POS/PPO (62%) or HMO (10%).

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2021 measurement date included a change in the annual healthcare cost trend rates used to measure the OPEB liability, developing such rates based on the Getzen trend rate model, version 2021_b. The healthcare cost trend rate changed from 4.9% in 2020 to 4.4% for Medicare benefits and from 6.7% in 2020 to 7.3% in 2021 for non-Medicare benefits, then decreasing 0.24% each year to a blended rate of 5.18% in 2030 and additional decrease in 2060, 2070, and 2075. The Getzen trend rate model also assumes inflation of 2.5%, real GDP growth of 1.5% and excess medical growth of 1.1%.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2021 measurement date included a change in discount rate used to measure the OPEB liability. The discount rates used to measure the OPEB liability as of June 30, 2021 and 2020 was 2.77% and 2.28%, respectively. This rate was based on a blend of the Bond Buyer Index rates of 2.16% and 2.21% as of the measurement date of June 30, 2021 and 2020, respectively and the expected rates of return.

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE
NET OPEB LIABILITY AND SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS

JUNE 30, 2017 THROUGH 2024
(Continued)

1 - CHANGES IN ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (Continued)

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2021 measurement date included a change in the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments from 7.15% to 7.15%.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2020 measurement date included a change in the annual healthcare cost trend rates used to measure the OPEB liability, developing such rates based on the Getzen trend rate model, version 2021_b. The healthcare cost trend rate changed from 7.5% in 2019 to 4.9% for Medicare benefits and 6.7% for non-Medicare benefits, then decreasing 0.1% each year to a blended rate of 5.18% in 2030 and additional decrease in 2060, 2070, and 2075. The Getzen trend rate model also assumes inflation of 2.5%, real GDP growth of 1.5% and excess medical growth of 1.1%.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2020 measurement date included a change in participant rates whereby 35% of employees currently opting out of active employee health coverage are assumed to enroll in retiree coverage. Also, 100% of spouses are assumed to elect to continue coverage after the retiree's death.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2020 measurement date included a change in participant rates whereby in 2019 actives under age 65 taking coverage were assumed to have indemnity (25%), POS/PPO (60%) or HMO (15%) have been adjusted in 2020 to indemnity (28%), POS/PPO (60%) or HMO (12%).

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2020 measurement date included a change in participant rates whereby in 2019 actives over age 65 taking coverage were assumed to have indemnity (85%), POS/PPO (0%) or HMO (15%) have been adjusted in 2020 to indemnity (96%), POS/PPO (0%) or HMO (4%).

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2020 measurement date included a change in the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments from 7.35% to 7.15%.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2019 measurement date included a change in the annual healthcare cost trend rates used to measure the OPEB liability decreasing from 8.0% in 2018 to 7.5% in 2019, then decreasing 0.5% each year to an ultimate rate of 4.5% in 2026 for medical and (2) 4.5% for administration costs. Healthcare costs are offset by reimbursements for Employer Group Waiver Plans (EGWP), which are assumed to increase 5.0% per year until 2025, then decrease to 4.5% in 2026.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2019 measurement date included a change in participant rates whereby 80% of current and future contingent eligible participants will elect health care benefits at age 65, or current age if later was increased to 85% in 2019.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2019 measurement date included a change in participant rates whereby in 2018 actives under age 65 taking coverage were assumed to have indemnity (40%), POS/PPO (50%) or HMO (10%) have been adjusted in 2019 to indemnity (25%), POS/PPO (60%) or HMO (15%).

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2019 measurement date included a change in the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments from 7.35% to 7.25%.

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE
NET OPEB LIABILITY AND SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS

JUNE 30, 2017 THROUGH 2024
(Continued)

1 - CHANGES IN ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (Continued)

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2019 measurement date included a change in the discount rates used to measure the OPEB liability from 3.92% to 3.63%. This rate was based on a blend of the Bond Buyer Index rates of 3.51% and 3.87% as of the measurement date of June 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively and the expected rates of return.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2018 measurement date included a change in the discount rates used to measure the OPEB liability from 3.65% to 3.92%. This rate was based on a blend of the Bond Buyer Index rates of 3.87% and 3.58% as of the measurement date of June 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively and the expected rates of return.

The actuarial assumptions used as of the June 30, 2018 measurement date included a change in the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments from 7.50% to 7.35%.

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

UNIVERSITY NET POSITION ANALYSIS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(With Comparative Totals for 2020 through 2023)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Invested in Capital Assets, Net	\$ 49,253,033	\$ 55,204,772	\$ 60,685,415	\$ 64,602,986	\$ 75,835,001
Restricted - Expendable for					
Other	1,662,590	1,481,912	1,866,205	902,011	653,958
Capital Projects	<u>(88,910)</u>	<u>(95,564)</u>	<u>(99,953)</u>	<u>144,330</u>	<u>139,434</u>
Total expendable	<u>1,573,680</u>	<u>1,386,348</u>	<u>1,766,252</u>	<u>1,046,341</u>	<u>793,392</u>
Unrestricted					
Unrestricted from operations	69,347,687	62,136,574	54,812,359	48,514,956	39,197,848
Accumulated Commonwealth pension obligations	(14,186,711)	(16,306,274)	(17,673,734)	(19,435,051)	(17,767,478)
Accumulated Commonwealth OPEB obligations	<u>(27,553,212)</u>	<u>(32,868,853)</u>	<u>(36,325,782)</u>	<u>(38,809,888)</u>	<u>(39,218,355)</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>27,607,764</u>	<u>12,961,447</u>	<u>812,843</u>	<u>(9,729,983)</u>	<u>(17,787,985)</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 78,434,477</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 69,552,567</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 63,264,510</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 55,919,344</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 58,840,408</u></u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(With Comparative Totals for 2023)

	Instruction	Academic Support	Student Services	Institutional Support	Operation and Maintenance of Plant	Totals	
						2024	2023
Regular employee compensation	\$ 23,518,466	\$ 3,921,223	\$ 5,788,616	\$ 8,345,226	\$ 3,863,902	\$ 45,437,433	\$ 41,389,905
Special employee contracted services	9,345,363	344,945	1,027,079	473,253	17,921	11,208,561	10,934,092
Pension and insurance	5,941,635	873,644	1,538,077	1,953,776	2,571,805	12,878,937	12,283,575
Total payroll and employee benefits	38,805,464	5,139,812	8,353,772	10,772,255	6,453,628	69,524,931	64,607,572
Regular employee related expenses	242,206	115,358	77,086	151,215	70,154	656,019	641,581
Administrative	1,007,453	912,246	675,896	1,353,045	412,439	4,361,079	5,649,045
Facility operations support and related expenses	515,570	229,640	946,868	446,926	78,339	2,217,343	2,039,842
Energy and space rental	216,660	4,356	210,956	9,772	1,629,491	2,071,235	3,322,011
Professional services	1,792,850	85,155	159,903	1,028,387	992,336	4,058,631	3,364,385
Operational services	1,015,294	54,783	624,371	862,793	100,022	2,657,263	2,106,738
Equipment purchases	425,439	45,207	75,941	71,432	73,312	691,331	1,030,938
Equipment lease and maintenance	223,104	35,944	334,561	159,094	233,410	986,113	1,080,015
Construction and building improvements	-	-	-	3,811	9,523,160	9,526,971	10,259,236
Total operating expenses	5,438,576	1,482,689	3,105,582	4,086,475	13,112,663	27,225,985	29,493,791
Total educational and general expenses	\$ 44,244,040	\$ 6,622,501	\$ 11,459,354	\$ 14,858,730	\$ 19,566,291	\$ 96,750,916	\$ 94,101,363

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

RESIDENCE LIFE AND HOUSING

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 4,254,870	\$ 4,270,557
Accounts receivable, net	252,767	352,514
Right-of-use assets	<u>74,229,627</u>	<u>82,600,760</u>
Total assets	<u>78,737,264</u>	<u>87,223,831</u>
LIABILITIES		
Unearned rental income	156,830	163,507
Accrued and other liabilities	349,007	299,314
Lease obligations	<u>89,522,294</u>	<u>94,860,928</u>
Total liabilities	<u>90,028,131</u>	<u>95,323,749</u>
NET POSITION		
Unrestricted	<u><u>\$ (11,290,867)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (8,099,918)</u></u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

RESIDENCE LIFE AND HOUSING

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
REVENUES		
Fees	\$ 11,186,230	\$ 10,879,904
Other income	<u>606,137</u>	<u>958,943</u>
Total revenues	<u>11,792,367</u>	<u>11,838,847</u>
EXPENSES		
Regular employee compensation	1,372,979	1,185,076
Special employees/contracted services	6,595	133,455
Pension and insurance	613,907	519,488
Regular employee related expenses	215,690	7,391
Administrative	73,755	74,941
Debt payment	1,391,583	972,266
Facility operations support and related expenses	193,323	170,935
Energy and space rental	677,058	707,281
Professional services	7,733	8,402
Operational services	-	1,040
Equipment purchases	-	183,613
Equipment lease and maintenance	10,100	9,749
Building improvements	989,207	761,081
Benefits programs	651,756	636,275
Right-to-use asset amortization	5,216,315	5,418,016
Interest expense	<u>3,563,313</u>	<u>4,021,999</u>
Total expenses	<u>14,983,314</u>	<u>14,811,008</u>
Change in net position	(3,190,947)	(2,972,161)
NET POSITION		
Beginning of year	<u>(8,099,918)</u>	<u>(5,127,757)</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ (11,290,865)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (8,099,918)</u></u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
(An Agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

HEALTH SERVICES

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
REVENUES		
Fees	\$ 991,195	\$ 995,381
Other income	<u>2,260</u>	<u>3,375</u>
Total revenues	<u>993,455</u>	<u>998,756</u>
EXPENSES		
Administrative	707	6,261
Facility operations support and related expenses	9,425	10,704
Professional services	481,399	531,261
Operational services	-	598
Equipment maintenance	325	203
Benefit programs	<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenses	<u>491,956</u>	<u>549,027</u>
Change in net position	<u><u>\$ 501,499</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 449,729</u></u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

Worcester State University
Schedule of Net Position by Component
June 30, 2019 through 2024

Exhibit E-1

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 78,092,336	\$ 75,835,001	\$ 64,602,986	\$ 60,685,415	\$ 55,204,772	\$ 49,253,033
Restricted-expendable	603,323	793,392	1,046,341	1,766,252	1,386,348	1,573,680
Restricted-nonexpendable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted	(17,530,640)	(17,787,985)	(9,729,983)	812,843	12,961,447	27,607,764
Total primary government net position	\$ 61,165,019	\$ 58,840,408	\$ 55,919,344	\$ 63,264,510	\$ 69,552,567	\$ 78,434,477

**Worcester State University
Tuition & Mandatory Fees**

Exhibit E-2

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<i>Resident Undergraduate</i>										
Tuition	\$ 970	\$ 970	\$ 970	\$ 970	\$ 970	\$ 970	\$ 970	\$ 970	\$ 970	\$ 970
Mandatory Fees	7,587	7,887	8,232	8,562	8,562	8,562	9,616	9,616	9,816	10,316
<i>Total Annual</i>	\$ 8,557	\$ 8,857	\$ 9,202	\$ 9,532	\$ 9,532	\$ 9,532	\$ 10,586	\$ 10,586	\$ 10,786	\$ 11,286
<i>Non Resident Undergraduate</i>										
Tuition	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050
Mandatory Fees	7,587	7,887	8,232	8,562	8,562	8,562	9,616	9,616	9,816	10,316
<i>Total Annual</i>	\$ 14,637	\$ 14,937	\$ 15,282	\$ 15,612	\$ 15,612	\$ 15,612	\$ 16,666	\$ 16,666	\$ 16,866	\$ 17,366
<i>Resident Graduate</i>										
Tuition	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 169	\$ 169	\$ 169	\$ 169	\$ 169	\$ 169	\$ 169
Mandatory Fees	117	138	148	153	153	153	153	153	153	170
<i>Total per Credit Hours</i>	\$ 267	\$ 288	\$ 298	\$ 322	\$ 322	\$ 322	\$ 322	\$ 322	\$ 322	\$ 339

**Worcester State University
Schedule of Employment
2019-2023**

Exhibit E-3

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Faculty - Primary Instruction ^{/1}	455	415	440	481	547
Part-time	236	213	232	275	345
Full-time	219	202	208	206	202
Staff and Administrators	356	355	351	352	359
Part-time	12	9	9	10	10
Full-time	344	346	342	342	349
Total Faculty & Staff Employees	811	770	791	833	906
Part-time	248	222	241	285	355
Full-time	563	548	550	548	551
Non-Benefitted Employees ^{/2}	627	331	485	572	566
Contract Workers	230	104	156	195	218
Student Workers	397	227	329	377	348
Total All Employees	1,438	1,101	1,276	1,405	1,472

/1 Includes Instruction, Research & Public Service

Notes: 1) This schedule reflects personnel as of November 1 and includes both state appropriation and local trust funds.

2) Beginning 2009 all benefitted and non-benefitted personnel are of funding source.

Worcester State University
Admissions, Enrollment, and Degree Statistics
Last Five Years

Exhibit E-4

	Fall Term				
Admissions-Freshman /1	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applications	4,771	4,772	4,262	5,380	5,335
Applications accepted	3,931	3,919	3,801	4,732	4,868
Accepted as a percentage of applications	82.39%	82.12%	89.18%	87.96%	91.25%
Students enrolled /2	1,420	1,201	1,177	1,168	1,311
Enrolled as a percentage of accepted	36.12%	30.65%	30.97%	24.68%	26.93%

/1 Includes all undergraduate admissions including transfer students.

/2 Includes only students who were accepted and enrolled. Enrolled alone would include students who were not accepted but enrolled as non-degree seeking students.

	Annual				
Enrollment	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Full-time equivalent	5,160.4	4,861.7	4,506.4	4,418.2	4,476.0
Unduplicated credit headcount	8,694	7,737	7,284	7,397	7,759
Percent undergraduate /3	85.94%	86.62%	85.66%	84.32%	84.37%
Percent graduate	14.06%	13.38%	14.34%	15.68%	15.63%

/3 Percent undergraduate/graduate based on Fall semester registration, unduplicated headcount.

	Fall Term				
Student Population Demographics /4	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percentage of men	36.04%	35.92%	35.46%	36.04%	36.71%
Percentage of women	63.96%	64.08%	64.54%	63.96%	63.29%
Percentage of African-American	7.64%	7.83%	7.48%	7.72%	8.78%
Percentage of White	64.94%	65.76%	64.85%	63.40%	64.17%
Percentage of Latino	11.73%	12.77%	13.01%	14.76%	17.71%
Percentage of Other /5	7.58%	7.98%	7.97%	7.91%	8.08%
< 20	27.40%	29.05%	29.61%	30.98%	37.96%
20 to 30	56.90%	58.91%	58.02%	55.05%	49.59%
31 to 40	6.90%	6.27%	6.53%	6.82%	5.94%
41 & Over	8.70%	6.06%	5.83%	7.16%	6.51%

/4 Percents within category are based on population of students who reported this information (gender, race/ethnicity, and age).

/5 Other includes American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Cape Verdean and Two or more races.

Degrees Granted	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Bachelor's	1,050	1,045	1,029	924	848
Master's	242	243	286	258	268

Worcester State University
Schedule of Capital Asset Information

Exhibit E-5

	Academic Year	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Land (acreage)	57	57
Buildings (square feet)		
100 Instruction/classroom	57,369	57,369
200 Labs	55,893	55,893
300 Administrative	117,172	117,172
400 Study facilities	27,750	27,750
52x Athletic	66,049	66,049
5xx Other Special Use	6,470	6,470
600 General Use	77,736	77,736
700 Support facilities	173,502	173,502
000 Unclassified	-	-
Unassigned/unassignable	379,910	379,910
Total Sq Ft	961,851	961,851
Residence Halls	462,513	462,513
Rental space	-	-
Dormitories - # of residents	1,577	1,577

Note: Classification of facilities space is consistent with Facilities Inventory & Classification Code guide.

	Fiscal Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Source of Revenue					
Student charges (net of scholarships)	\$ 49,988,138	\$ 45,695,427	\$ 48,724,511	\$ 48,160,282	\$ 45,774,418
Grants & contracts	13,156,982	11,566,478	13,230,956	16,022,348	24,074,328
Auxiliary enterprises	629,708	642,714	1,882,287	1,022,708	608,397
Other operating revenue	1,129,543	941,943	1,344,471	840,664	1,295,644
Total operating revenue	64,904,371	58,846,562	65,182,225	66,046,002	71,752,787
State and Federal support	43,021,314	53,510,668	66,879,909	60,165,456	61,636,532
Other non-operating revenue	1,519,274	(250,810)	(1,353,973)	(156,190)	1,630,187
Total non-operating revenue	44,540,588	53,259,858	65,525,936	60,009,266	63,266,719
Total revenue	\$ 109,444,959	\$ 112,106,420	\$ 130,708,161	\$ 126,055,268	\$ 135,019,506
Functional Expense					
Instruction	\$ 45,100,954	\$ 43,227,647	\$ 44,439,331	\$ 40,587,936	\$ 44,244,040
Academic support	6,152,467	5,814,204	6,110,093	7,073,963	6,622,501
Student services	11,188,502	11,193,797	11,403,400	10,885,870	11,459,354
Institutional support	12,592,784	12,973,893	13,241,102	13,788,705	14,858,730
Plant operations & maintenance	15,220,970	15,387,414	16,756,036	21,764,889	19,566,291
Research	-	-	-	-	-
Public service	-	350,653	-	-	-
Scholarships	4,429,390	4,801,269	9,813,443	2,824,887	5,417,650
Sub-total	94,685,067	93,748,877	101,763,405	96,926,250	102,168,566
Auxiliary enterprises	12,773,826	13,991,283	14,330,551	15,360,035	15,475,270
Independent operations	-	-	-	-	-
All other	645,168	1,686,962	1,540,052	1,889,568	587,539
Total operating expense	\$ 108,104,061	\$ 109,427,122	\$ 117,634,008	\$ 114,175,853	\$ 118,231,375
Memo: Depreciation	\$ 5,472,690	\$ 5,600,362	\$ 5,723,887	\$ 5,591,358	\$ 7,906,221

Note: This schedule does not include component units, such as foundations. Total operating expense does not include depreciation.

OTHER REPORTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Board of Trustees
Worcester State University

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the business-type activities and discretely presented component unit of Worcester State University (the "University"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the University's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 22, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the University's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the University's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

(Continued)

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Ballus Lynch, LLP

Worcester, Massachusetts
October 22, 2024