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State budget proposal would allow UMass to freeze tuition, fees for 2d straight year

By **Matt Rocheleau**

Boston.com Staff

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University of Massachusetts officials said a state budget proposal unveiled today by the Massachusetts House would allow it to freeze tuition and fees at all five campuses for the second straight year.

University president Robert L. Caret praised the state budget proposal.

“A second freeze would benefit our students and their families in clear and meaningful ways, and we will continue to work to achieve this key goal,” he said in a statement.



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It “would represent a great victory for our 72,000 students and for everyone

who values affordable, top quality public higher education," he added.

The proposal would raise the university's funding for fiscal year 2015 to a record-high \$539 million, an increase of \$100 million from two years prior.

The university said that along with keeping tuition and fees flat, it could invest the extra money in other areas, including to help pay for anticipated salary increase for the system's 8,900 workers.

A university spokesman said existing employee contracts are due to expire at year's end and negotiations are underway to reach new agreements. He said UMass expects to spend a total of at least \$14 million next year to cover employee salary increases.

"In an era when many states are doing less for their public universities, Massachusetts is doing more, and that is a matter of great significance for our state and its future," Caret said. "We are witnessing a new era of investment in the University of Massachusetts."

The Globe [reported](#) that the \$36.2 billion budget House leaders proposed Wednesday also called for more funding for drug treatment and other areas.

But the House proposal did not include some of Governor Deval Patrick's ideas, including for new taxes.

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Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s side gig as a consultant to New York University has apparently won him some enviable New York City housing benefits.

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Three Injured in Fitchburg Shooting

Three people were shot at KC's Pub on River Street in Fitchburg after midnight Saturday,



NECN reports.

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Boston Celtics Owners Invest in Skateboard League



There might not be many obvious similarities between high-tech electric car racing and some dude in a hoodie riding a skateboard.

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BDC Now - Weekend Event Picks



Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out some events that include plenty of wine, a chance to meet some Red Sox players, a burger bash, and more. Watch BDC Weekend with Jenny Johnson.

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US Ordered Not to Force Feed Guantanamo Prisoner


A federal judge in Washington ordered the U.S. military on Friday to at least temporarily stop force-feeding a hunger striking prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay naval base.

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Genetically Modified Foods Confuse Consumers

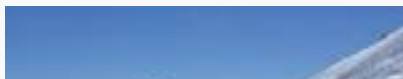
Genetically modified foods have been around for years, but most people in the United States have no idea if they are eating them.

Food and dining  2 hours ago  Share

Vt. Sex Offender Faces Sentencing in Niece's Killing

A convicted sex offender who killed his 12-year-old niece after luring her to his house with a ruse about a pool party is due to be formally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.



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Hike with Caution at White Mountains





Campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest are open, but the Forest Service is warning people that some areas still have snow, and spring melt-off can lead to some slippery footing.

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Will Connecticut Schools Ban Chocolate Milk?



Connecticut lawmakers moved forward this week on a new nutrition bill that could remove chocolate milk from public schools.

Health  3 hours ago  Share



Lacrosse Team Honors Fallen Officer and Coach



The girls lacrosse team at Exeter High School is honoring their late coach Stephen Arkell, a New Hampshire police officer who was killed in the line of duty.

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Celebrating 10 Years of Gay Marriage

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts offered the first marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We asked five couples to talk about what they've learned about themselves and their relationships over the past decade.

Life  3 hours ago  Share





10 Parting Shots at SNL Heading Into The Season Finale

Here are "10 Parting Shots at SNL" as the show's 39th season comes to a close Saturday night with Andy Samberg as host.

Obnoxious Boston Fan  3 hours ago  Share

Environmentalists in Portland Oppose Tar Sands Oil

Environmentalists will rally at the Deering Oaks Park bandshell in Portland to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline and the shipping of tar sands oil through Maine.

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Broke Beats: F.Stokes – ‘Liquor Sto’ Diaries’



Broke Beats is BDCwire’s open-source hip-hop column. Every Saturday, we showcase the best new albums, EPs, and mixtapes available for free stream or download. The Midwest has long been a stronghold for spirited rappers and producers who haven’t quite pierced the East Coast market. F.Stokes is among the most fearless of of these artists, and the... [Read more »](#)

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Oprah’s Network Postpones Sam Documentary



The planned documentary by the Oprah Winfrey Network on Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay player, has been postponed.

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Woman Falls Down Elevator Shaft at Fenway Park

A 22-year-old woman is hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft at Fenway Park Friday during a Red Sox game, according to the Boston Fire Department.

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Obama, Congress Move to Address Veterans Affairs Firestorm



The Obama administration and Congress are moving quickly to respond to a growing political firestorm over allegations of treatment delays and falsified records at veterans hospitals nationwide.

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Conn. Exhibit Looks at Benedict Arnold as Hero

A new exhibit on display at the Slater Memorial Museum is the latest effort to bring heightened visibility to a subject Norwich has deliberately ignored for centuries.

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Testing Inconclusive, Suspected Bobcat Returned

A judge has returned a 38-pound feline to a New Jersey woman after DNA testing couldn't conclusively say whether it was a purebred bobcat.

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Clearing This Afternoon with Sunshine for Sunday

Weather Wisdom  5 hours ago  Share



Nissan's Taxi of Tomorrow Hoping for a Fare Future



Members of the New England Motor Press Association had the dual experiences of driving and riding in this Taxi of Tomorrow when Nissan brought a pair of the hackney versions of its NV200 van to town.

Cars  12 hours ago  Share



Teen's Arm Reattached After Pasta Accident

Four surgeries later, 17-year-old Brett Bouchard can move his arm after it was severed below the elbow.



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Red Sox Fall to Tigers, 1-0, Back Under .500





The loss drops the Sox back below .500, at 20-21, and 10-12 at home.

Extra Bases  12 hours ago  Share

North Reading Man Busted Allegedly Selling Drugs Out of Restaurant



Richard "Ricky" Ward faces a number of drug charges following a six-month investigation by police.

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Feds Deny Tsarnaev Lawyers' Complaint About Leaks

Federal prosecutors say there's no need for a hearing on what defense attorneys have called leaks and improper comments in the case of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

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