

RELEASE: Tuesday, May 20

Lobo Researchers,

Congratulations to all of our graduates who recently concluded their remarkable journey at The University of New Mexico. This milestone is not just a culmination of hard work and dedication but a gateway to endless possibilities as you step into the world as proud Lobo alumni.

For those continuing your journey at UNM, we have important updates and insights regarding the research landscape. Although we have organized the information by agency for your convenience, we highly encourage you to explore all sections thoroughly.

NSF Update:

As you may know, the courts have issued temporary restraining orders and/or preliminary injunctions to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Energy (DOE) against implementing a 15 percent F&A rate cap. A similar case involving the National Science Foundation (NSF) is still pending in the courts with a decision anticipated in the next few weeks. While the NSF case is pending, UNM will be using our federally negotiated F&A rate for proposal submissions (52.5 percent on the modified total direct cost or MTDC). Notably, NSF has confirmed in court that it has no plans to reject or disregard the proposals after submission to NSF based on the use of the negotiated F&A rate in the proposals. Instead, NSF anticipates that there would be a conversation with the institution regarding the proposal and its budget.

Update From Monday, May 19: The NSF 15 percent IDC rate cap [policy document](#) now says: *NSF is temporarily pausing implementation of the NSF Policy Notice: Implementation of Standard 15% Indirect Cost Rate, NSF 25-034, through June 13, when a hearing is scheduled to occur in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. New NSF awards issued during this pause will not implement NSF 25-034 but will include a term applying NSF 25-034 for the entirety of the award upon a court decision permitting application of the policy.*

NIH Update:

NIH is pushing out an accelerated timeline on its [2024 Public Access Policy](#). Originally planned to go into effect at the end of this year, it will now be effective as of July 1. Aimed at increasing the public's confidence in science, the plan removes the embargo period on publications and requires more rapid access to research findings.

DOD Update:

There are two updates from the U.S. Department of Defense. First, last Friday, DOD issued a [memorandum](#) on its decision to implement a 15 percent indirect cost cap on assistance awards to institutions of higher education. This will be pursued on new financial assistance awards but also notes that they will be looking to apply the new rate to extant awards.

Second, as funding agencies continue to update their responses to the changes in administration priorities, they are updating their guidance, both internally and externally to researchers. As such, DOD has recently updated its [component decision matrix](#) for their program officers and decision makers when granting basic science awards to institutions of higher education. Researchers, please take the time to read this document as it pertains to Federal law on maintaining research security.

UNM Policy Reminder:

More locally, we have been asked to remind our researchers that UNM has two policies relevant to government relations, legislative activity, and political activity, [UAP2050](#) and [UAP2060](#). Both policies reinforce UNM's commitment to academic freedom as well as the constitutional right to free speech while providing guidance for employee interactions with public officials that may have the effect of influencing public policy while using university resources or representing the institution.

Importantly, **UAP2050** outlines the role of the [Office of Government and Community Relations](#) and highlights the importance of notifying their team when connecting with elected officials. This helps coordinate UNM's collaborative relationships at different levels of government across the state to ensure UNM stays compliant with the complex laws and regulations governing lobbying and other political activities.

Likewise, **UAP2060** provides important guidance on political activity to ensure that University employees express political opinions and viewpoints as individuals and not as representatives of The University unless specifically authorized to do so. Please feel free to reach out to our Gov Rel Team (govrel@unm.edu) if you have any questions or concerns.

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