



RELEASE: Monday, May 5

Lobo Researchers,

Last week was a whirlwind in UNM research offices.

On Friday (May 2), the National Science Foundation (NSF) took a significant step forward by announcing it was implementing [a new policy](#) that establishes a standard Facilities and Administrative (F&A) rate of 15 percent for all new NSF awards, beginning today (May 5); this decision aligns with the efforts of various federal agencies we've seen in the last few months.

Simultaneously, *Nature* reported that NSF has [stopped all funding actions](#) (awards) until further notice. This impacts both new awards and incremental funding on existing awards. UNM's Research Rapid Response Team is working to assess the impact of these new developments and the anticipated potential responses. It is important for our NSF principal investigators to remain patient and vigilant during this time. Although we understand that uncertainty can be challenging, we encourage you to await direct communication from the NSF or our Office of Sponsored Projects regarding any potential impact on your award.

In light of the ongoing notifications regarding the termination of existing grants and contracts from NSF, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other federal agencies, UNM is taking proactive measures to address these challenges head-on and formulate appeals. Our collaboration with the Office of University Counsel (OUC) is pivotal as we strategize and formulate appeals for the affected grants. To bolster our case, OUC has enlisted the expertise of outside legal counsel, ensuring our arguments are not only robust but also compelling. With several appeals already submitted in the past week, we are diligently gathering data and weighing relevant legal factors to make informed decisions on the timing and nature of future appeals.

On Wednesday, the Senate Appropriations Committee met for the first time this year and discussed NIH funding. UNM Government Relations Director Nathan Bush attended to witness the bipartisan support on display for the largest biomedical funding operation in the world. You can listen to the full hearing [here](#) and read more about it in a recent [Science article](#).

Last Thursday, the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the American Historical Association (AHA), and the Modern Language Association (MLA) filed a [lawsuit](#) in federal district court seeking to reverse recent actions that threaten to devastate the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), including the elimination of grant programs, staff and entire divisions and programs.

In other news, the [White House released its "skinny" budget](#) blueprint that, as expected, pursues significant reorganization of entire federal agencies and proposes significant



budget cuts to those revamped agencies. We anticipate that a lot of this will not get much buy-in from critical, bipartisan groups of legislators who are ultimately responsible for any changes to budget and appropriations laws. Simply put, the other branches of government will continue to play an important role in providing checks and balances to the many actions by the federal executive administration. The majority party chairs of both House Appropriations and Senate Appropriations committees have issued strong statements in recent days that they are not in agreement with the approach of the White House on a number of topics important to UNM research and programs, and to the national research landscape.

UNM Research offices and sponsored projects offices will continue to deploy all available means of acting whenever we have clear and actionable information. We are receiving daily affirmations that our members of Congress are very aligned with UNM on all these critical issues; we can help them by triaging what communication will be most helpful while they are grappling with a very chaotic environment in our nation's capital.

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