



Release: Friday, June 6 (Part 2):

Lobo Researchers,

As noted in Part 1 of this two-part communication, we are sharing with you some of the efforts of the Research Rapid Response Team (RRRT) and staff in your research offices. The following sections aim to illuminate more actions that underpin our strategic responses to the dynamic federal funding environment.

Data, Data, Data!

One of the most time-consuming efforts that the RRRT has undertaken is the collection, verification, and stewardship of a range of different types of data that we don't normally have to track. We are routinely asked to provide information about the impacts of the federal funding changes to a range of constituents, including university leadership, state agencies and legislators, and our congressional delegation.

The RRRT has thus created a subgroup focused on ensuring we have a One University approach to managing these data and helping the entire team with responses to requests and actions, some of which are detailed below. Kudos to the data team for making this happen!

Terminations & Appeals

To date, we have received 57 terminations/stop-work orders totaling ~\$35.4M in lost funding. Note that this loss impacts UNM over multiple years as most terminated awards were multiyear contracts or grants. The tally includes both awards for which UNM was the lead institution and for which UNM was a sub-awardee. Many of these awards supported our research trainees at all levels, from undergraduate researchers to postdoctoral scholars across our campuses.

Consequently, we have been actively engaged in the intricate process of evaluating and, where appropriate, appealing these terminations. For each terminated award, the RRRT works alongside the PI to identify and understand the next best steps for that specific award. If we move forward with an appeal, we work to develop materials that are aligned with the specific agency's requirements and have enlisted external counsel to assist with preparing appropriate appeal letters. Thus far, UNM has submitted 18 appeals:

- 7 National Institutes of Health
- 8 National Science Foundation
- 2 National Endowment for the Humanities
- 1 Federal Railroad Administration

Last week, we received three negative decisions from federal agencies on some of our initial appeals, and the team is currently reviewing possible next steps. As a reminder, we are only allowed to submit appeals on grants and contracts in which we are the lead



institution. If we have a subaward, it is the responsibility of the prime awardee to file an appeal with the granting agency.

Legal Action Participation

UNM's RRRT has also been responsive to requests from the New Mexico Attorney General's Office and some of our national associations. These responses often include requests for up-to-date information on terminations, grant dollar losses, and impact on UNM's research enterprise as well as declarations that could be included in support of new lawsuits.

To date, we have participated in providing seven declarations at the request of both the Attorney General's office (six) and the APLU (one) related to a variety of legal cases involving research agencies including NIH, NSF and Department of Energy. We are still awaiting resolution in many of these cases.

Communication, Engagement, and Advocacy

Currently, the RRRT meets twice a week to review and discuss updates from federal sponsors, legal counsel, human resources, and government relations. The team also regularly reviews and responds to data requests from state, congressional delegation, and other community stakeholders.

RRRT members are also actively engaged with national organizations by providing data, attending webinars and virtual meetings, and interacting with peers at other institutions. Ultimately, the goal of our Joint VPR Communication is to share timely, accurate, and actionable information with the UNM research community. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

All joint communications can be [found here](#).

Ellen R. Fisher
UNM Vice President for Research
Professor of Chemistry

Hengameh Raissy
HSC Vice President for Research
Professor of Pediatrics