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Lobo Researchers,

Despite the current federal government shutdown, the Lobo research community continues to thrive and push forward with its important work. In light of these challenging times, we believe it's essential to keep you informed about the proactive measures being undertaken on Capitol Hill by the various organizations advocating for higher education and research—organizations that proudly include The University of New Mexico representation. These organizations include (among others):

- The Association of Public & Land Grant Universities (APLU)
- The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
- The Council on Government Relations (COGR)
- The American Council on Education (ACE).

Here are a few of the recent actions these organizations have taken on behalf of UNM and other higher education institutions (HEIs):

- APLU submitted its **letter** on the Department of Homeland Security **proposed duration of status rule** that seeks to establish a fixed time period for students and exchange visitors, among others. The letter notes that the proposed rule will weaken the nation's ability to attract top talent. ACE, AAMC, and APLU also joined a **higher ed community wide letter** and APLU joined a **multi-sector letter** with industry, education, and legal partners.
- APLU, the Association of American Universities (AAU), AAMC, and COGR submitted a **joint response** to the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) request for information (RFI) on Maximizing Research Funds by Limiting Allowable Publishing Costs (NOT-OD-25-138). The letter notes some of the potential unintended consequences of limits on publication costs that ultimately could undermine the effective dissemination of federally funded research.
- AAMC and APLU joined forces on a **community letter** to congressional leaders supporting the reauthorization of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs, which are set to expire at the end of the fiscal year 2025 on Sept. 30, 2026. This issue, along with other FY26 program appropriations awaits final consideration and action by Congress.
- ACE, APLU, and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), among others, sent a **higher education community comment letter** to the Department of Education on implementations of the One Big Beautiful Bill, advocating for implementation that fully considers the impact on all students and institutions of higher education.
- ACE and more than 60 other higher education associations sent a **letter** to congressional leaders urging them to ensure that all funds allocated in the



FY2026 appropriations process are fully spent by the administration as intended by law.

We also have a couple of additional notes/reminders regarding new compliance requirements:

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) National Security Division rule titled “Preventing Access to U.S. Sensitive Personal Data and Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern” (RIN 1124-AA01) went into effect on Oct. 6. This rule stems from **Executive Order 14117**, which prohibits and restricts certain data transactions involving countries of concern and other entities deemed to pose national security risks. A short questionnaire on project data transfers has been added to the proposal and contract submission forms in our eRA systems.
- NIH released **NOT-OD-25-160: NIH Policy on Enhancing Security Measures for Human Biospecimens**, which goes into effect on Oct. 24. For projects involving NIH funds, distribution of human biospecimens to institutions or parties located in countries of concern is prohibited, except in very limited circumstances. Compliance with this policy will be managed through our eRA systems and by the respective campus offices for export control.

Lobo researchers, please continue to work closely with the UNM Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), the HSC Sponsored Projects Office (SPO), our Contract and Grant Accounting (CGA) offices and our Research Compliance Offices as we await additional news out of our nation’s capital regarding the federal government shutdown.

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