



Lobos,

In light of the ongoing federal government shutdown, UNM researchers have remained consistent in our commitment to advancing knowledge and enhancing the research community.

In April, the New Mexico Legislative Council created the Federal Funding Stabilization Subcommittee (FFSS) to "create an inventory of federal funds flowing into New Mexico and provide recommendations with regard to recurring and non-recurring funds." The FFSS is tasked with:

- Reviewing how federal funds impact New Mexico's budget, including:
  - Major recurring federal funding streams
  - One-time appropriations
  - Rulemaking and grant allocations
  - Other high-impact areas, including research funding

On Monday, Oct. 20, VPRs Ellen Fisher and Hengameh Raissy participated in a FFSS meeting focused on federal funding in higher education institutions. The meeting highlighted presentations from the [Council of University Presidents \(CUP\)](#), the [Higher Education Department](#), and [Legislative Finance Committee \(LFC\) staff](#).

Working in collaboration with government relations teams from the following institutions (UNM, UNM HSC, NMSU and NMT), VPRs gave [a brief, high-level presentation](#) led by VPR Lique Coolen of New Mexico Tech that focused on:

- The impact of research across the state
- Loss of funding
- Delay in review process and release of awards
- Potential federal funding cuts

It is important to note that the FFSS and other state legislative committees are typically bipartisan in nature. Similarly, UNM's status as a government institution necessitates nonpartisan institutional legislative engagement. Accordingly, UNM and HSC joined other NM higher education institutional partners to present impartial perspectives to the FFSS on the realities of a rapidly evolving and complicated federal funding landscape.

At this stage, FFSS co-chairs signaled they are not yet ready to make or entertain specific recommendations regarding state stabilization funding. Between now and the legislative session in January, the FFSS will develop recommendations for state budget policymakers intended to reflect where the state can realistically infuse high-impact, short-term funding to offset reductions in federal funding, particularly on issues that closely align with the state's various strategic plans and underlying priorities.



In addition to the presentation by university VPRs, the NM state EPSCoR office was also invited to present to the FFSS. Both Director Gunny Balakrishnan and Associate Director Selena Connealy gave [a well-received presentation on EPSCoR activities](#) and the economic impact these activities have across our beautiful state.

It is significant that New Mexico's FFSS chose to highlight university research, while highlighting UNM's research enterprise and role in anchoring the state's economy. We remain steadfast and determined to share with policymakers the real-world opportunities created by robust, community-engaged, basic, translational, and applied research programming within New Mexico's higher education institutions, including our own. [Advancing New Mexico](#) remains our shared goal.

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