



RELEASE: Wednesday, Nov. 19

Lobos,

Now that the longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history has concluded, we want to update you on the status of key federal research agencies as they resume more normal operations. We are also sharing several internal notices and reminders to help you navigate funding processes during this transition.

Yesterday, the federal government announced additional measures that would restructure certain functions within the U.S. Department of Education. We are reviewing these actions and assessing any potential implications for UNM. At this time, we do not anticipate immediate impacts on current federal funding arrangements.

NSF: The National Science Foundation (NSF) has posted a [quick status update](#), along with a list of FAQs that are likely to be useful for researchers who are wondering how the shutdown has affected the status of their proposals and grants. In particular, if you are a current NSF awardee, please contact your program officer with questions. If you are a panelist or have a pending proposal, please continue to monitor NSF.gov for updates on operations and events.

NIH: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a [notice](#) Nov 14 providing information on their process about reestablishing due dates for grant and contract submissions originally listed for October and November, as well as the rescheduling of peer review meetings and the review of service desk tickets.

We will keep you posted as new information becomes available.

Advocacy Updates: Here are two updates on advocacy work on behalf of higher education institutions relevant to the research enterprise:

- Earlier this year, NIH launched a [new initiative](#) on strengthening and modernizing biosafety oversight. In response, the Council on Government Relations (COGR) recently submitted comments that emphasize the need for biosafety policies that are science-based, risk-based, and harmonized across federal agencies, among other recommendations. Read more on COGR's response [here](#).
- The American Council on Education (ACE) has also issued [concerns and recommendations](#) regarding the federal administration's new policy on H-1B visas. ACE sent two letters to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) calling for an exemption for higher education institutions from the new \$100,000 H-1B application visa by warning that this policy undermines U.S. colleges and universities' ability to attract global talent and fulfill their role in educating the domestic workforce for high demand sectors.



OSP/SPO: As we swiftly approach the end of 2025, the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) at central campus, alongside the Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) at the HSC Campus, are eager to remind our researchers of the importance of proactive planning. We understand that navigating project deadlines can be challenging, therefore we encourage you to reach out to your specific OSP/SPO.

Thanksgiving Break | Nov. 27-28
Winter Break | Dec. 24 – Jan. 2

With these annual closures, OSP/SPO staff will not be expected to work or respond to emails. If you have any deadlines right before, during or immediately after the holiday, please plan ahead to ensure adequate time for OSP/SPO to do their work.

Please check with OSP/SPO for specific deadline schedules.

E40 Policy: We are happy to report that the [Faculty Handbook Policy E40: Research Misconduct](#) has recently been modified to include important regulatory and procedural updates to maintain compliance within federal regulation changes. Specifically, revisions to this policy were made to comply with new federal and state regulations. The recommended changes were approved through the Faculty Senate Policy processes. As a reminder, deans, directors, and department heads are responsible for ensuring that all related college/school/departmental processes, procedures, and/or documents are updated to reflect the policy revision.

We hope everyone has a restful and rejuvenating Thanksgiving break.

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

Hengameh Raissy
HSC Vice President for Research
Professor of Pediatrics