



RELEASE: Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025

Lobo Researchers,

The start of a new academic year is always a great time to be on a university campus as new faculty, new students, and new ideas are in the air. Since our last message to campus, there have been several updates that are important to share with you.

An executive order (EO) issued from the White House on Aug. 8, [Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking – The White House](#), includes significant policy guidance related to agency grantmaking and grant oversight processes, considerations for discretionary awards, the Uniform Guidance, and termination clauses. This EO refers to “gold standard” science, which is a phrase also used within an Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) [memo](#) issued on June 23 that relates to data management, open publication of science, etc. The deadline for agencies to report on their implementation plans for the EO is Aug. 22. Notably, there has been significant response from a range of associations, including [a statement](#) from the president of the Council on Government Relations (COGR) and [one from](#) the president of the Association of American Universities (AAU).

We also note that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued guidance for recipients of federal funding regarding unlawful discrimination. The [memo](#) from Attorney General Pam Bondi provides the Administration's interpretation of various activities and their relationship to antidiscrimination laws.

The Joint Associations Group (JAG) [continues to work](#) on a new facilities and administration (F&A) reimbursement model, which would counter the proposals for a reduction of F&A rates to a flat 15% coming from four major federal funding agencies. These agency proposals are currently awaiting judicial decisions. The JAG proposed Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) model would represent a major shift for all higher education institutions but could provide a more transparent mechanism for ensuring the actual costs of research are appropriately represented within proposal budgets.

An additional note from a government relations perspective comes as Congress is in its August recess. We are encouraged by some of the recent activities by both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. These bodies have signaled they intend to reject many of the administration's proposed cuts to federal R&D funding, suggesting continued bipartisan support for science and innovation, including:

- **Preservation of the Tech Hubs program** and sustained funding for the Economic Development Administration



- **Rejection of proposed cuts to NASA's Science Directorate**, including Earth and Planetary Science missions
- **Continued investment in the National Science Foundation**, including \$200-205M for the Engines program
- **Senate pushback on changing the negotiated indirect cost rate policy** for higher education institutions

Senate appropriators have distanced themselves from the large-scale agency spending reductions initially recommended by the White House administration as outlined in its FY26 budget proposal last spring. Topline spending targets as proposed by the House across different agencies are trending significantly lower.

As we have reported previously, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) changed its requirements related to its [2024 Public Access Policy](#), making these effective as of July 1. NIH has also now proposed specific limits on how much it would reimburse grantees who pay publishers to make their articles open access, or free to read. The proposal includes possible caps of \$2,000 to \$6,000 per paper, which may block scientists from publishing in top-tier journals with much higher fees, unless they or their institution come up with the difference. Read more [here](#).

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

Hengameh Raissy
HSC Vice President for Research
Professor of Pediatrics