Survey of 2005-2006 Facilities & Administrative Rates  
Council on Governmental Relations  

Report Summary  

The Survey of 2005-2006 Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Rates (and related F&A topics) was conducted in the Fall-Winter of 2006-2007. In total, 139 surveys were completed (nine institutions had pending rate negotiations and were excluded from the calculated averages). This includes surveys completed by each of the top 20 research institutions, 41 out of the top 50, and 81 out of the top 100 institutions as listed in the 2005 NSF Survey results (R&D Expenditures, ranked by all R&D expenditures for the first 200 institutions).

Trend Analysis

COGR has conducted the F&A survey on a bi-annual basis for over a decade (note, the scheduled 2004-2005 survey was pushed back one year due to timing and logistical considerations). The table shown below provides insight to F&A rate trends since 2000-2001.

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<tr>
<td>All Institutions</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
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The trend data indicates F&A rates have remained relatively constant over the past five years. It should be noted that the universe of institutions responding to the survey has not been identical for each survey, and as a result, definitive conclusions should be made with the appropriate qualifications.

Nevertheless, there has been consistency in the profiles of those institutions that have completed the survey. In each survey, approximately 80% of the top 100 institutions according to the NSF Survey results (R&D Expenditures, ranked by all R&D expenditures for the first 200 institutions) were captured. While the results for a “high rate” (60 point) or “low rate” (40 point) institution can affect the average rate by .1 to .2 percentage points, the overall impact of this phenomenon is neutralized due to the consistency in the respondent profiles over the five years.

Furthermore, based on the response rate in each of the last three surveys (i.e., approximately 80% of the top 100 institutions, and over one hundred twenty total responses), well-over 3/4ths of all federal research and development expenditures at academic institutions have been accounted for in each survey. In reviewing the profiles of the respondents versus non-respondents, those that completed the survey comprise a representative sample. Hence, it is reasonable to conclude that the trend data provides an accurate picture of rate trends over the past five years.