



To: Senior Research Officers
Council on Federal Relations
From: AAU Staff
Date: June 25, 2019
Subject: F&A Costs – Resources for Educating Faculty and Administrators

Dear Colleagues,

Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs reimbursements are a critical, but often misunderstood, part of the research enterprise. F&A reimbursements help support the infrastructure costs that institutions incur as a result of conducting research, such as electricity, water filtration, lab maintenance, safety mechanisms, and more. The federal government has historically partnered with research universities to pay for these necessary research expenses, just as it does in industry contracts and its own federal laboratories.

While there are no immediate federal policy threats to F&A costs, proposals in recent years have demonstrated a continuing need to inform university administrators and faculty about F&A costs. AAU, together with AAMC, APLU, ACE, COGR, and NACUBO, has developed a short [video](#) primer to outline how federal research funds are used and how vital support for F&A related expenses is to keeping America at the forefront of research and innovation.

Additionally, our colleagues at COGR recently released a useful paper on F&A costs reimbursement entitled: “Excellence in Research: The Funding Model, F&A Reimbursement, and Why the System Works.” An executive summary can be found [here](#), full text of the paper is [here](#). The paper describes how a reliable F&A reimbursement policy is critical to the continued success of the U.S. research enterprise. The paper also provides a strong educational foundation for understanding how the current system works.

We encourage you to utilize these new resources, as well as other resources you will find [here](#), in your university’s continuing education effort to educate faculty, staff and administrators. Our efforts to explain how the federal government supports both the direct and indirect costs of federally funded research are important to our collective goal to ensure that F&A cost reimbursements are sufficient to support the physical and administrative infrastructure necessary for universities to continue to conduct vital research on behalf of the government.