

▼ What is UNL's F & A Distribution Policy?

The Office of Research will allocate F & A costs to various campus units each fall based on the F & A costs recovered in the previous fiscal year as follows:

- The first \$700,000 recovered is directed to the university's general operating budget as required by the State Legislature.
- After the general operating budget commitment is met, 20.5% of the remaining recovered F & A costs will be held centrally. The first \$2 million of this amount will be used to support the Libraries and the remainder will support future infrastructure and research projects.

Of the remaining net amount:

- One-third will be held centrally for reimbursement of the university's costs associated with research, such as campus computing, libraries, faculty travel, compliance, research operations, etc.
- One-third will be held by the chancellor and the vice chancellor for research and economic development (VCRED) for strategic research initiatives, including seed grant programs, start-up funding, required cost sharing and bridge funding. In an effort to encourage investigators and investigative teams to propose large projects, the chancellor and VCRED will return an additional five percent of the recovered F & A costs to investigators for those competitive, full F & A-bearing grants with total costs of \$1,000,000 or more per year. The five percent incentive calculation will be based on the amount remaining after reductions for the grant's pro rata share of the \$700,000 commitment to the university's general operating budget and the 20.5% held centrally.
- The remaining third will be distributed as follows:
 - For most individual or multi-investigator grants, the funds will be distributed to the appropriate college/administrative unit(s) indicated on the *New Proposal Form* in ([NUgrant](#)). The dean/director's office will, at its discretion, provide the departments and/or centers a percentage of those funds. It is anticipated that these funds will be used strategically for research initiatives, faculty start-ups, bridge funding and required cost share, and to provide the necessary administrative support for research projects.
 - For individual or multi-investigator grants proposed through an approved UNL center or initiative ([list maintained by the VCR Office](#)), 60% of the funds will be distributed to the college/administrative unit, 20% to the center/initiative, and 20% to the department. This is effective for proposals submitted after January 1, 2002.
 - For large research initiatives (fully-competitive, full F & A-bearing grants, often referred to by agencies as center grants), 70% of the funds will be distributed to the center and 30% will be distributed to the college/administrative unit. These initiatives must be approved in writing by the VCRED prior to proposal submission and usually include projects for three or more years with budgets in excess of \$1 million/year.

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Office of Research to determine its continuing effectiveness in strengthening the growth of research at UNL. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Office of Research (402-472-3123 or UNLresearch@unl.edu). Last rev. 7/22/2008.