

Facilities & Administrative Cost Recovery Distribution Model

Overview

Facilities & Administrative costs, also termed “Indirect Costs,” are costs incurred in the conduct of sponsored program activities that cannot readily be assigned by a specific line-item in the budget as a direct costs. Examples include facilities costs such as utilities, custodial support, security, depreciation etc. and administrative costs such as the research infrastructure, departmental administration, etc. UTC has a negotiated agreement with the federal government that governs what F&A rate can and should be used for federal grants. While UTC honors sponsor restrictions or specifications regarding F&A rates, when allowable we should use our federally negotiated rate. Contact ORSP if you are ever uncertain what F&A rate should apply to a proposal.

Background

UTC’s previous F&A Distribution model was reviewed in 2015 by an ad hoc committee appointed by Provost Jerald Ainsworth. The previous model allocated 50% to the General Fund, 40% to departments, 5% to colleges, and 5% to ORSP. The committee determined that the previous distribution model did not enable any unit to accumulate enough funds to make a significant impact on building capacity for research. The new policy also articulated the campus guideline that departments should make available 85% of F&A recoveries to the PI/PIs who generated them. In advance of hiring UTC’s first Vice Chancellor for Research, the Provost enacted this new model for F&A distribution. The new distribution model was phased in beginning July 1, 2015 and is now fully in effect, as described in the chart below.

| Recovery Unit | Distribution |
|---|--------------|
| Institution / General Fund | 35% |
| Department / Lead Administrative Unit | 30% |
| College / Center / Division of Lead Administrative Unit | 15% |
| Vice Chancellor for Research | 20% |
| | 100% |

F&A distributions follow this model with the Lead Admin Unit listed in Cayuse determining the distribution. The following exceptions apply for Center-affiliated proposals.

- For institution-level core centers such as SimCenter and CUIP, on proposals where the PI is the Center Director or a full-time Center-based researcher, the core center is considered the Lead Admin Unit and receives both the Department and College/Center/Division distribution.
- In cases where a researcher with a primary academic departmental appointment receives an award affiliated with a core center, the Department is considered the Lead Admin Unit and receives the full departmental share of F&A recoveries and the College/Center/Division distribution is split between the academic College and the Core Center.