Understanding Facilities and Administration Rates

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General Overview

- The university conducts research in partnership with governments and private entities.

- Performing research on behalf of federal and state agencies as well as private entities incurs a variety of costs that would not otherwise exist for the university (Facilities and Administration):
  - The university - not the funding agency- assumes the risk of building the necessary infrastructure to support this research.
  - The awarded university will be reimbursed for a part of the associated infrastructure costs.
Types of costs

- **Direct costs** - personnel, supplies, equipment and travel

- **Facilities and administrative costs** - the cost of research facilities including maintenance, compliance, and the administration of a grant throughout its lifecycle.

- These costs cannot be viewed separately; together they represent the total cost of performing research.
What are F&A Costs?

- F&A costs are those research operating costs incurred by all awards.
- Research institutions provide the physical space where research is conducted.
- Construction and maintenance of advanced research facilities and the resources necessary to conduct research.

  - Debt to build research buildings
  - Building maintenance
  - Utilities
  - Internet/Data storage
  - Libraries
  - Housing for research animals
  - Hazardous waste disposal
  - Insurance/Security
  - Human Resources
  - Accounting
  - Compliance and oversight activities
How Does F&A Work?

The mechanism for reimbursement is a negotiated F&A rate between the federal government and the university.
F&A at UNT

On-Campus:

- **48.5% Organized Research**: Activities that include experiment or investigation to increase scholarly understanding.

- **48% Instruction**: Specific instructional or training activities. Does NOT include research training.

- **31.5% Public service/other activity**: Health and community service projects, conferences, travel awards.

- **26% Off Campus**: More than 50% of the work occurs off campus.
# Standard IDC Distribution

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<th>PI/Dept/College</th>
<th>VPRI</th>
<th>VP Finance</th>
<th>Total Distribution</th>
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F&A Spending (UNT VPRI)

What is F&A spent on?

- GCA, RIC, RCA, RD Support
- New Faculty Startup & Faculty Retention
- Research Seed Funds
- Core Facilities and Institutes
- University Services (Data Analytics, Risk Management)
- Cost Shared Support (Direct College Support, Equipment Repairs, New Initiatives)
Most common asks for a reduction in F&A rate

- **Private companies**: No, private companies are subject to the federal F&A rate. Some universities charge private companies a higher F&A rate.

- **State of TX Agencies**: Reduced rate is often included in the RFP (generally similar to the off-campus rate). Justified via state resources provided to university.

- **Non-Profits/Foundations**: Most often have a consistently published policy/rate statement. Often included in the RFP.