



Important APLU Action

2 messages

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Dear APLU Members,

As you are aware, late on Friday, April 14, 2025, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [announced](#) it would cut critical groundbreaking energy-related research by imposing a 15% rate on Facilities and Administrative (F&A) reimbursements on new grants to colleges and universities. The agency also said it would terminate all existing grants that do not conform with the new policy.

Given the gravity of the situation, with very urgent but careful consideration, and with approval of the APLU Executive Committee of the Board, the association decided to again join the Association of American Universities (AAU) and American Council on Education (ACE) in litigation challenging the administration's F&A action. The associations are joined by nine universities as plaintiffs, including several APLU member institutions. You will recall the three associations are also plaintiffs challenging action relative to the National Institutes of Health that has led to a nationwide injunction, though the administration has filed a motion to appeal.

The DOE action represents an immediate and dire threat to research nationwide that is needed to enhance groundbreaking scientific discoveries; support and advance key emerging technologies such as quantum science and artificial intelligence; ensure our national security; build, operate, and maintain world-class scientific facilities; advance energy technologies required for the nation to achieve energy dominance; and maintain the highly-skilled science and technology workforce that is essential for the United States to compete globally. It also presents an immediate and significant financial challenge for APLU's members who rely on these promised reimbursements to carry out this research on behalf of the American people. Importantly, DOE's action also sets a very dangerous precedent that could be used to undermine federal investments in research at all other federal research agencies.

The [complaint](#) and a [motion for a temporary restraining order](#) were filed today in the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts. Though the arguments will be somewhat different than in the NIH case

given differences in statutory language, the associations will defend its member interests with no less vigor. You can read the joint Statement from the Association of American Universities, Association of Public & Land-grant Universities, and American Council on Education Regarding our Legal Challenge to DOE's action [here](#).

As I am sure you can appreciate, APLU did not reach this decision lightly. We do not wish to ever have to file legal action, let alone against the federal government. Yet, this is now the second time in two months in which we are compelled to do so given the significance of the U.S. government's actions and adverse impacts to member institutions and the nation.

Critically, while this lawsuit is focused on DOE, we are cognizant that if not blocked, additional federal research agencies could take similar action.

While APLU and partner associations defend our members' interests in court, we also continue to [support efforts](#) to improve the indirect costs funding model and engage lawmakers on the vital importance of F&A. We firmly believe this process should be given time to achieve its goals and policymakers should give more thoughtful consideration to F&A approaches rather than slashing indirect rates.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Mark