

April 7, 2020

To: UMass Dartmouth Research-Active Faculty, Deans, Chairs

From: UMass Dartmouth Office of Research Administration

Re: Continuation of Personnel Expenses on Federal Grants during COVID-19 Pandemic

The UMass Dartmouth Office of Research Administration has been closely monitoring updates from federal awarding agencies regarding award management concerns with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office of Management and Budget has released guidance M-20-17 stating that awarding agencies may allow recipients to continue to charge salaries and benefits to currently active Federal awards, consistent with the award recipients' practice of paying salaries during the COVID-19 pandemic from all funding sources, both Federal and non-Federal.

In keeping with this OMB guidance, along with recent guidance from NSF, ONR and other federal funding agencies, UMass Dartmouth will continue to charge ongoing personnel expenses (wage, salary, stipends, and fringe) to be paid at the rates that were in effect prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is true even for those UMass Dartmouth laboratories and programs in which on-campus research activity has been restricted to slow the spread of COVID-19.

All personnel costs will continue to be paid at the pre-COVID rates from the same sources that were in effect prior to the on-campus ramp down period. This includes the portions of their personnel expense that were being paid on other sources, including (but not limited to) UMass Dartmouth internal funding.

ORA will continue to monitor for guidance and will share updates as needed. The Council on Government Relations (COGR) is a valuable resource that provides guidance links to federal agencies. Please visit <https://www.cogr.edu/institutional-and-agency-responses-covid-19-and-additional-resources> for funding agency links and FAQs.

Please contact Megan Hennessey-Greene, Director of Research Administration, at mhennesseygreene@umassd.edu with any questions or concerns.