



Dear Colleagues,

Earlier this summer, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued proposed rule changes that threatened the integrity, independence, and effectiveness of federally funded research. The proposed changes would undermine long-standing principles of merit-based review, academic freedom, scientific collaboration, and transparency that have long served as the foundation of high-quality research and innovation.

These proposed changes sparked a significant backlash nationwide, including from many UUP members who submitted comments; as a result, the proposed OMB changes have not been finalized, and Congress has paused implementation until December 11.

However, the National Science Foundation is planning to implement rule changes that align with the OMB's proposals. They are calling for changes to the financial assistance policies and procedures in the NSF's Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide. NSF's proposed changes would require political-appointee approval for all grants, ban certain international collaborations, and restrict communications and publication. The NSF proposal would add new institutional requirements, impose significant costs on grantees, and expand regulatory control over higher education through information collection. NSF is clearly overreaching by attempting to regulate speech and academic freedom at universities. These proposed changes will create uncertainty for researchers, institutions, and students who rely on stable, predictable funding.

What can we do?

NSF is accepting public comments until August 24. Let's flood the system with comments to show that we reject a political takeover of scientific research. Anyone may submit a comment on regulations, but to be counted, your comment should be unique and personalized.

Add your feedback and comments to the Federal Register by clicking [HERE](#) to access the Stand up for Science comment portal. When you leave comments via this portal, please identify UUP/AFT as your affiliated organization. Public comments are critical because they can support future legal action if NSF disregards public input and help Congress understand why the proposed regulations are harmful.

The comment period has started and will continue until August 24!

Let's once again work together to show that this has widespread opposition and that the current pause on the OMB proposed rules must be made permanent.

In Solidarity,

Fred

Frederick E. Kowal, PhD
President
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