

Resolution on the Federal Grant Funding Freeze and University Response

Rutgers University Senate

Proposed: 31 January 2025

WHEREAS, Rutgers University is a premier public research institution committed to advancing knowledge, innovation, and service to the public; and

WHEREAS, Federal research grants and student aid constitute a significant portion of the University's funding, supporting faculty, researchers, students, and critical public service initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The recent memo from the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directed federal agencies to pause payments on federal grants, loans, and other programs, creating uncertainty regarding its scope, legality, and duration; and

WHEREAS, A halt in federal funding threatens the University's ability to maintain ongoing research projects, support faculty and student researchers, and uphold its commitment to scientific progress; and

WHEREAS, The University Administration has acknowledged the need to assess and respond to potential stop-work orders and disruptions in grant funding, providing interim guidance to faculty and researchers; and

WHEREAS, Shared governance requires faculty, researchers, students, and administrators to work together in responding to challenges that impact the University's research mission:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rutgers University Senate urges the University Administration to utilize unrestricted reserves as a temporary stopgap to prevent disruptions in research projects impacted by the federal funding pause; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate calls for the establishment of an ad hoc shared governance committee, to include representatives of the Senate and University Administration,

- to collaborate in monitoring all stop-work notifications and funding delays received by Rutgers researchers, as they are reported through the University's designated tracking system (federal-tracking@rutgers.edu),
- to track ongoing developments,
- to provide timely updates to the university community, and
- to assess potential policy response options for addressing challenges resulting from the pending federal grant funding freeze or any related subsequent measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Rutgers University Senate calls upon the President and Board of Governors to adopt this resolution and work with state and federal policymakers to protect higher education institutions from politically motivated funding freezes that undermine the research and innovation critical to this institution's core mission.