Facilities & Administrative Rate

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Higher Education: 4 Major Functions

- Instruction
- Organized Research
- Other Sponsored Activities
- Other Institutional Activities
F&A Rates

• All research and development activities of an institution Facilities and Administrative Cost - also known as *Indirect Cost*, *Overhead Cost*

• F&A Rates are Calculated per Major Function once every 3 or 4 years by the Office of Cost Studies

• F&A Rates of Instruction, Organized Research, and Other Sponsored Activities are then *Negotiated* with the Federal government

• **Organized Research** accounts for the largest reimbursement of the F&A Cost and is today’s focus
Organized Research

- All research and development activities of an institution are separately budgeted and accounted for including:

1. **Sponsored Research**: All research and development activities that are sponsored by Federal and non-Federal agencies and organizations

2. **University Research**: All research and development activities that are separately budgeted and accounted for by the institution under an internal application of institutional funds
F&A Rate Calculation

- The rate is based on a periodic calculation and submission of a rate proposal, which is then negotiated with Northwestern’s cognizant agency (DHHS)

\[
\frac{\text{Indirect Costs Supporting Organized Research}}{\text{Direct Costs of Organized Research}} = 58.0\%
\]
F&A Rate Development Methodology

- Indirect Cost Assignment & Allocation
  - Instruction
  - Organized Research
  - Other Sponsored Activities
  - Other Institutional Activities

Direct Cost Buckets
The F&A Ratio

The “Pools”
- Facilities costs
- Administrative costs
- Based on allocations of actual costs

Indirect Cost “Pools”
\[
\frac{\text{Indirect Cost “Pools”}}{\text{Direct Cost “Base”}} = 58\%
\]

The Base
- Based on actual costs charged to research projects
- Typically expressed as MTDC but can be TDC or salary & wages
# Facilities & Administrative Costs

## Facilities Related Costs
- Building Depreciation/ Use Allowance
- Equipment Depreciation/ Use Allowance
- Interest
- Operations & Maintenance
- Library

## Administrative Related Costs
- General Administration (GA)*
- Department Administration (DA)*
- Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA)*
- Student Services
F&A Rate Calculation

1. Assign expenditures to pools and bases by function code
2. Remove unallowable costs from pools*
3. Allocate allowable pool costs to major functions
4. Divide: F&A Costs allocated to OR/MTDC* of OR
Step 3: Allocate Allowable Pool Costs to Major Functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indirect Cost Pool</th>
<th>Allocation Basis</th>
<th>Allocation Basis Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>Square Feet</td>
<td>- Allocation Statistic is equal to Sq. Ft used for each Major Function divided by Total Assignable Sq. Ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Modified Total Cost of each major function</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Function</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
<td>University-wide MTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Administration</td>
<td>School/ Department MTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsored Projects Administration</td>
<td>Sponsored project MTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>Allocated 100% to Instruction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How F&A Costs are Distributed

Allowable Facilities Related Indirect Costs $150M

Space Allocations

Organized Research $100M MTDC
Instruction $200M MTDC

MTC & Other Allocations

Other Sponsored Activities $10M MTDC
Other Institutional Activities $90M MTDC

Allowable Administrative Indirect Costs $50M

$58M

$72.5M

$23.75M

$51.25M
Organized Research – F&A Rate

$34M

$24M

$58M F&A

Organized Research $100M MTDC

= 58% Research F&A Cost Rate

Allowable Facilities Related Indirect Costs $150M

Allowable Administrative Indirect Costs $50M

Space Allocations 25% to Research

MTC & Other Allocations 45% to Research

$58M F&A Rate
Space Survey

Why is it Important?
- Cost allocation for building and equipment deprecation/interest
- Operations and maintenance
- Rate is uncapped

How Can You Help?
- Key for F&A rate calculation*
- Offices will be calculated based on salary distribution by the Office of Cost Studies*
- For labs, account for who worked in the lab
  - Understand the funding per lab
  - Training grants vs. research grants
  - Recharge

*Note: Key for F&A rate calculation refers to a specific aspect of financial accounting that impacts the calculation of fixed and administrative expenses.
Maximizing F&A Recovery

- F&A recovery is a critical part of the University’s budget and necessary to support a sustained investment in the research enterprise

- Negotiated rate is almost always less than the actual calculated rate*

- Accessing the F&A rate represents recovery of costs already incurred by the University, which benefited the sponsors
F&A Rate Calculation: How Can You Help?

Conduct the following activities *Timely and Appropriately*:

- Effort reporting (working with Cost Studies)
- Space survey (working with Facility Management and Cost Studies)
- Equipment inventory (working with Account Services and Cost Studies)
Questions?