



# EAB

# Five Communication Tools to Educate Stakeholders on Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Funding

University Research  
Forum





#### **Who Should Read**

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Chief research officers (CROs) and their teams

Directors of research communications

Deans and department chairs

Faculty researchers

## **Five Communication Tools to Educate Stakeholders on Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Funding**

### **Five Ways to Use This Toolkit**

- Craft stakeholder-targeted messages that resonate with federal legislators, state legislators, faculty, and the public
- Create an F&A one-pager to share with multiple stakeholder groups
- Develop an introductory presentation for internal stakeholders (e.g., Board of Trustees, Executive Committee) that includes your institution's F&A rate and data
- Learn what information to prioritize when developing F&A presentations, infographics, and/or videos
- Consult examples of effective collateral when developing your own communication materials

# University Research Forum

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▶ Electronically access this tool: **[eab.com/FACommunications](http://eab.com/FACommunications)**

# How to Use This Tool

While the research community staved off the threat of a proposed 10 percent cap on facilities and administrative (F&A) funding in 2017, chief research officers (CROs) were forced to confront persistent shortcomings in their F&A communication strategies. Historically, research advocates have relied on “one-size-fits-all” communication about F&A and reiterated the same message without considering their target audience. Most CROs prioritized educating external audiences like federal legislators but neglected internal stakeholders. As a result, faculty, deans, and/or department chairs continue to misunderstand F&A and perpetuate false beliefs on and off campus. Institutions also have not been transparent in their F&A communications. While CROs have valid concerns about “opening up the books,” the research community needs to embrace a higher degree of transparency to convince stakeholders of the importance (and necessity) of F&A.

CROs and their teams should combine broad, general F&A messaging with targeted messages that align with stakeholders’ priorities and interests, including federal lawmakers, state lawmakers, faculty and staff, and the public at large. To support these efforts, the five tools in this resource provide examples and recommendations for better communicating about F&A with stakeholder groups. The table below outlines each tool and what it helps CROs and their teams accomplish. Tool 1 serves as the foundation for Tools 2-5. All institutions should utilize Tools 1-3 to inform their F&A communication strategy, while Tools 4-5 are optional resources for institutions that want to further build their library of communication materials.

The intended users are research communications staff and CROs, although several tools are also relevant for centralized communications staff, federal relations staff, deans and/or department chairs, and faculty.

## Outline of Communication Tools

Tool	Description	Mandatory/Optional
<b>Tool 1:</b> Stakeholder-Targeted Messaging Matrix	Offers a prioritization cheat sheet and thematic talking points designed to resonate with key internal and external stakeholders.	Recommended for All
<b>Tool 2:</b> One-Pager Development Guide	Provides recommendations and considerations for creating a multipurpose one-pager, along with sample one-pagers and a plug-and-play template.	Recommended for All
<b>Tool 3:</b> Internal Presentation Templates	Equips institutions with recommended teaching points for internal stakeholders as well as a customizable slide deck for internal presentations to institutional leaders.	Recommended for All
<b>Tool 4:</b> Infographic Design Plan	Pinpoints key components of F&A infographics and offers four steps for developing and deploying your own infographic.	Optional
<b>Tool 5:</b> Video Production Guide	Outlines characteristics of effective F&A videos and profiles three samples.	Optional

## Tool 1

# Stakeholder-Targeted Messaging Matrix

### Goal

Use this matrix to determine the most appropriate F&A topics and talking points for conversations with key stakeholders.

### Intended User

Chief research officers (CROs) and their teams, research communications staff, deans and department chairs, federal relations staff

### Overview











































This tool helps users prioritize F&A information to share with specific stakeholders and provides them with key themes and/or talking points to emphasize. The goal is for users to develop stakeholder-targeted F&A messages that are customized to align with their audience's unique needs, interests, and/or priorities.

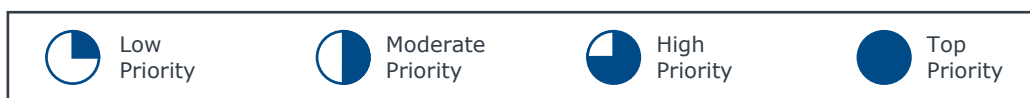
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# Tool 1: Stakeholder-Targeted Messaging Matrix

CROs and their teams should tailor F&A messages to align with the interests and priorities of their target audience. The following pages provide recommended topics and talking points for conversations with six stakeholder groups.

## Prioritization of F&A Topics for Stakeholder Groups

	Federal Audience	State Audience	Non-Federal Funder	General Public	Faculty	Staff & Admin
History & Rationale						
Negotiation & Rate-Setting Process						
Cost-Sharing Mechanisms						
Rates & Recovery						
Institutional Policies & Procedures						
Campus Utilization						
Policy & Real World Impact						





## Tool 1: Stakeholder-Targeted Messaging Matrix (cont.)

Audience	Select Talking Points	Implementation Guidance
<b>Federal Audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longstanding partnership between federal government and universities makes the U.S. research enterprise the envy of the world</li> <li>• Federal government controls the negotiation and rate-setting process—it is rigorous and includes safeguards</li> <li>• Universities contribute their fair share to the research enterprise since negotiated rates are less than actual costs and administrative costs are already capped at 26 percent</li> <li>• F&amp;A returns cover costs already incurred by the institution (and that the institution would not have incurred if it did not conduct research on behalf of the sponsor)</li> <li>• Reducing and/or eliminating F&amp;A could have detrimental effects for the country (e.g., reputational damage, global competitiveness, national security, health and safety, employment and educational attainment)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reiterate that the federal government instituted the current structure and rules</li> <li>• Connect F&amp;A to real world legislative interests and priorities</li> <li>• Communicate large-scale impact, as opposed to individual- or institution-level impact</li> <li>• Explain charging policies for different types of sponsors (as needed)</li> <li>• Minimize jargon and technical details</li> </ul>
<b>State Audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F&amp;A rates are negotiated with the federal government through a complex process that includes numerous safeguards and restrictions</li> <li>• Universities contribute their fair share to the research enterprise since negotiated rates are less than actual costs and administrative costs are already capped at 26 percent</li> <li>• F&amp;A returns cover costs already incurred by the institution (and that the institution would not have incurred if it did not conduct research on behalf of the sponsor)</li> <li>• Reducing and/or eliminating F&amp;A could have detrimental effects for the state (e.g., employment and economic development, educational attainment, job market, health and safety)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State legislators often have less experience with F&amp;A than federal legislators, so be prepared to provide history and context</li> <li>• Minimize “reimbursement” terminology since it can prompt some state legislators to misunderstand F&amp;A returns</li> <li>• Avoid getting bogged down in discussions about the effective rate</li> <li>• Communicate local and community impact, as opposed to individual- or institution-level impact</li> <li>• Minimize jargon and technical details</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Federal Funder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universities are in a tough position because the 26 percent administrative cap applies only to them (doesn’t apply to industry) and the rates they negotiate with the federal government are lower than their actual costs</li> <li>• Industry doesn’t have the same restrictions on “overhead” as universities</li> <li>• Federal government prevents universities from giving for-profit companies a better rate than the federally negotiated rate</li> <li>• For industry: Reducing F&amp;A could have detrimental downstream effects on the local economy and workforce</li> <li>• For nonprofit entities: Reducing and/or eliminating F&amp;A could have detrimental downstream effects on issues they care about, such as educational access, community health and safety, and the local economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how F&amp;A at universities differs from overhead at companies</li> <li>• Develop and leverage formalized F&amp;A policies for industry and nonprofit sponsors</li> <li>• Come prepared to negotiate with industry (e.g., propose alternatives to lowering the F&amp;A rate)</li> <li>• Be skeptical of industry claims that other universities are offering better rates—remind them why they should fund research at your institution in particular</li> <li>• Only accept reduced and/or waived F&amp;A from a nonprofit if it provides written documentation of a formal policy that is applied uniformly to all institutions</li> </ul>

## Tool 1: Stakeholder-Targeted Messaging Matrix (cont.)

Audience	Select Talking Points	Implementation Guidance
<b>General Public</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The longstanding academic-government partnership has been critical for the success of the U.S. research enterprise and a major contributor to national innovations</li> <li>Along with the federal government, universities contribute their own funds to support the research enterprise</li> <li>Academic research has positive direct and indirect effects on local communities, the economy, and the globe</li> <li>Reducing and/or eliminating F&amp;A could have detrimental downstream effects (e.g., employment and economic development, educational attainment, job market, talent pipeline, health and safety, national competitiveness)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize jargon and technical details</li> <li>Avoid information overload—start by sharing only the most critical introductory information</li> <li>Communicate local and community impact</li> <li>Provide relatable, real-world examples of innovations and discoveries funded by the federal government</li> <li>Leverage stories and personal anecdotes</li> </ul>
<b>Faculty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F&amp;A rates are negotiated with the federal government through a complex process that includes numerous restrictions—institutions do not control the rules</li> <li>F&amp;A rates vary across institutions depending on geography, institution type, size, and facilities</li> <li>F&amp;A returns are strategically reinvested in the research enterprise to support faculty and advance the institution's research portfolio</li> <li>Universities don't recover 100 percent of F&amp;A and therefore are subsidizing the research enterprise</li> <li>Reducing and/or eliminating F&amp;A could have detrimental downstream effects on the ability of the university and individual PIs<sup>1</sup> to conduct research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leverage peer comparisons (e.g., rates, policies)</li> <li>Communicate impact on institutions and individual PIs (e.g., fewer resources and support services, closing of labs, less support for graduate assistants)</li> <li>Explain institutional policies and procedures (as needed)</li> <li>Be prepared for pushback and detailed questions, specifically about campus utilization</li> <li>Be as transparent as possible</li> <li>Provide opportunities for faculty to ask specific or sensitive questions one-on-one</li> </ul>
<b>Staff &amp; Admin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The longstanding academic-government partnership has been critical for the success of the U.S. research enterprise and a major contributor to national innovations</li> <li>F&amp;A rates are negotiated with the federal government through a complex process that includes numerous restrictions—institutions do not control the rules</li> <li>F&amp;A rates vary across institutions depending on geography, institution type, size, and facilities</li> <li>Universities don't recover 100 percent of F&amp;A (in part due to the 26 percent cap on administrative costs and negotiated rates that are less than their actual costs) so they are subsidizing research</li> <li>Reducing and/or eliminating F&amp;A could have detrimental downstream effects on the university</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leverage peer comparisons (e.g., rates, policies)</li> <li>Communicate impact on institutions (e.g., reduced competitiveness, declining rankings, reputational damage, recruitment challenges)</li> <li>Explain institutional policies and procedures</li> <li>Be as transparent as possible</li> </ul>

1) Principal Investigator

## Tool 2

# One-Pager Development Guide

### Goal

Use this guide to create a concise one-pager to educate a broad group of stakeholders about F&A at your institution.

### Intended User

Research communications staff, central communications staff, federal relations staff

### Overview

This tool provides three sample one-pagers and a list of items to consider incorporating on a one-pager. It also includes a plug-and-play template that communicators can use to create a customized one-pager for their institution.

▶ Electronically access this tool: [eab.com/FACommunications](https://eab.com/FACommunications)

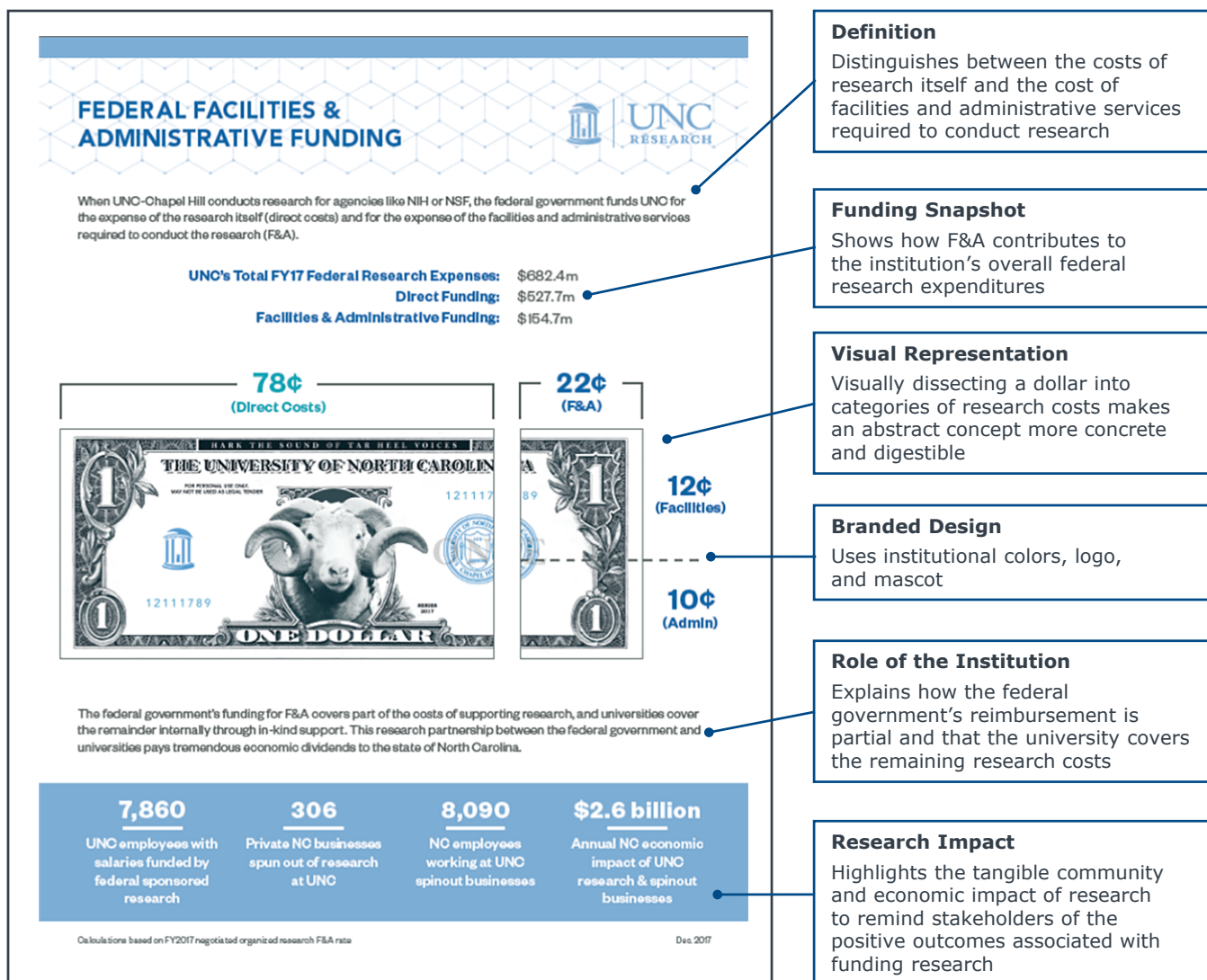
## Tool 2: One-Pager Development Guide

To educate a broad audience on F&A, CROs and their teams should develop an easily shareable one-page document that provides all stakeholders with a basic introduction to F&A at their university. CROs and their teams can use the one-pager as a guide for F&A conversations and customize the one-pager depending on the relevant stakeholder's level of interest and understanding.

### Sample One-Pagers

The following pages showcase one-pagers created by three institutions to share different types of F&A information with stakeholders. The boxes on the right highlight structural elements and design decisions for Research leaders and teams to consider when developing their own one-pagers.

#### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Front)

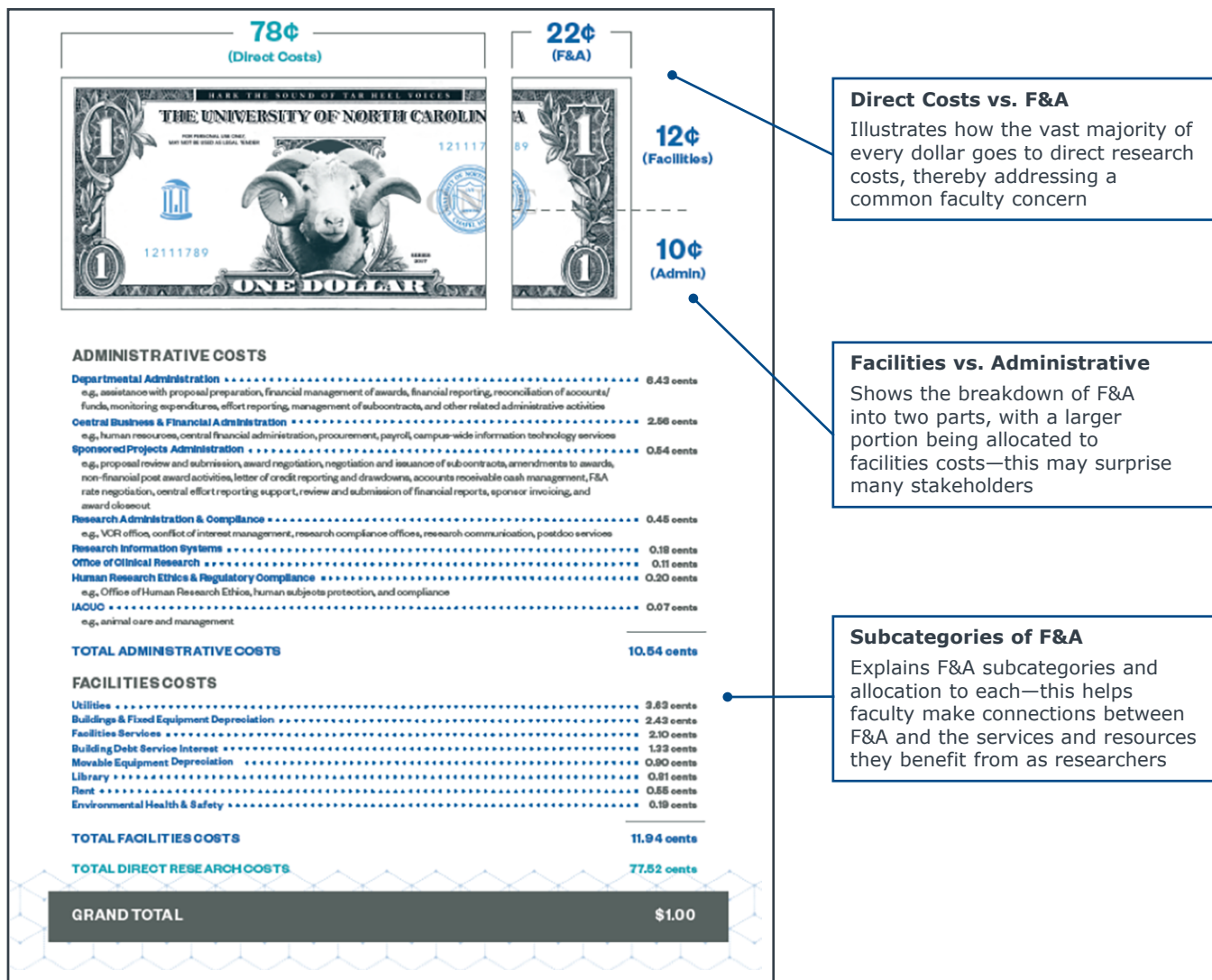


Download UNC Chapel Hill's one-pager at <https://research.unc.edu/files/2017/12/FnAdollar-one-sheeter-web.pdf>.

Source: EAB interviews and analysis; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, [Federal Facilities & Administrative Funding](#).

## Tool 2: One-Pager Development Guide (cont.)

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Back)



In this handout, UNC Chapel Hill has chosen to depict their effective recovery rate, not their federally negotiated rate. By aggregating all of their research funding (both direct & F&A), they are able to use a single dollar to depict both direct and F&A funding received (as opposed to using a dollar to represent direct funding from an award, and additional cents on top representing application of their federally-negotiated F&A rate). For the portion of the dollar bill that reflects F&A dollars received, UNC Chapel Hill uses the actual percentages associated with the F&A cost data it documents and submits as part of its federal F&A rate negotiation process (as opposed to the on-campus use of F&A dollars after the fact). UNC Chapel Hill has opted not to include details about the F&A negotiation and rate setting processes in the one-pager to avoid confusing stakeholders. For persons requesting additional information, government affairs or research office staff will explain the nuances of the F&A process and rates in one-on-one conversations or through targeted, follow-up materials.

#### Key Content

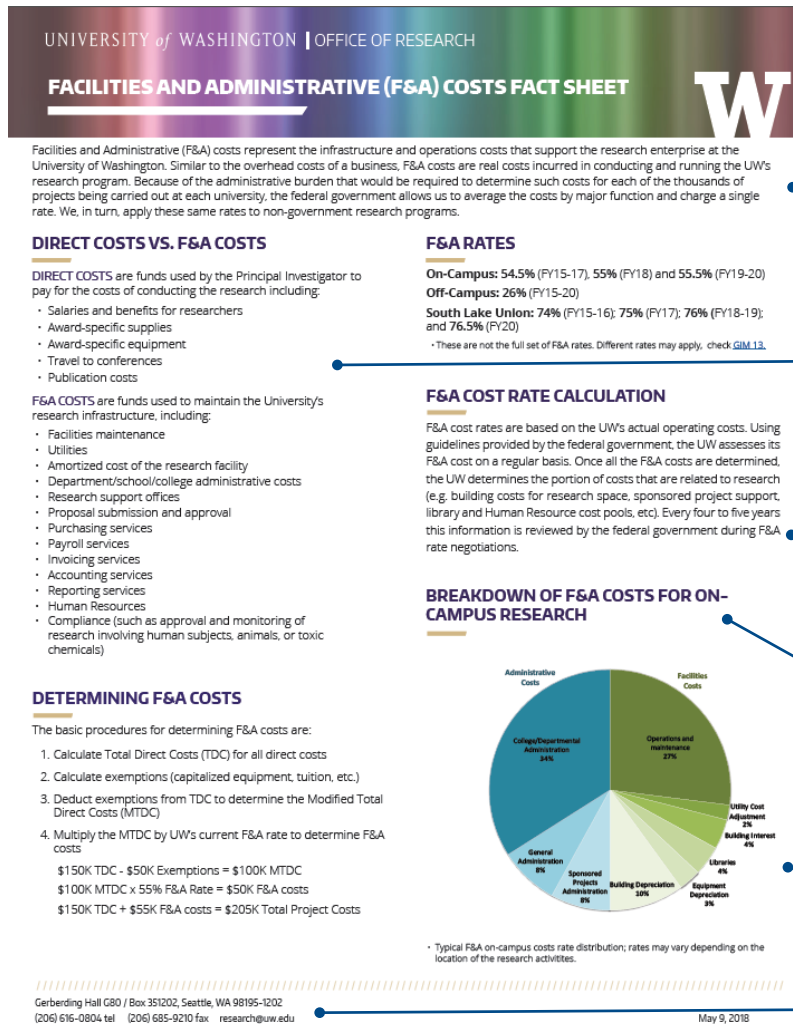
- |  |   |   |                                     |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| ✓ Basic definition                             | ✓ Direct vs. F&A costs                      | ✓ Subcategories of F&A                    | ✓ Federal-institutional partnership |
| ✓ Current institutional expenditures and costs | ✓ Economic impact of institutional research | ✓ Distribution of institutional F&A costs |                                     |

Download UNC Chapel Hill's one-pager at <https://research.unc.edu/files/2017/12/FnAdollar-one-sheeter-web.pdf>.

Source: EAB interviews and analysis; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, [Federal Facilities & Administrative Funding](#).

# Tool 2: One-Pager Development Guide (cont.)

## University of Washington



### Key Content

- ✓ Basic definition and purpose
- ✓ F&A as an institutional average
- ✓ Direct vs. F&A costs
- ✓ F&A calculation
- ✓ Current institutional rates
- ✓ Rate negotiation process
- ✓ Distribution of institutional F&A costs

Download University of Washington's one-pager at  
<https://www.washington.edu/research/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

Source: EAB interviews and analysis; University of Washington, [F&A Cost Fact Sheet](#).



## Tool 2: One-Pager Development Guide (cont.)

### University of Illinois

**Definition and Examples**  
Distinguishes between direct and F&A costs, emphasizing the importance of F&A for the research enterprise

**Institutional Investment**  
Introducing the concept of an institutional subsidy illustrates how university contributions to the research enterprise complement those of the federal government

**Examples of Impactful Research**  
Real project examples solidify the connection between F&A and research outcomes

**Concrete Example of Value**  
Profiles a frequently overlooked example of how researchers benefit from F&A

**Institutional Data**  
Shows how recovered and unrecovered F&A contribute to the institution's overall federal research expenditures

**Branded Design**  
Uses institutional colors and logo

**Additional Resources**  
Provides avenues for stakeholders to acquire additional information

#### Key Content

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic definition and examples | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct vs. F&A costs  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notion of reimbursement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Underrecovery                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institutional subsidy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impact of reduced F&A   |

Download University of Illinois' one-pager at  
<https://research.illinois.edu/sites/research.illinois.edu/files/upload/fanda.pdf>.

Source: EAB interviews and analysis; University of Illinois, [Understanding F&A costs](#).

## Tool 2: One-Pager Development Guide (cont.)

### Key Considerations for One-Pager Content

Content	Considerations for Including
<b>Direct vs. F&amp;A Costs</b>	Include this information on all one-pagers since it is critical for stakeholder understanding. Depending on your target audience and goals, it may be worth drawing an analogy between F&A and “overhead” for businesses.
<b>Subcategories of F&amp;A</b>	Always include at least a few examples of the subcategories of F&A costs. These examples make the concept concrete and can help show faculty how they directly benefit from F&A recovery.
<b>Notion of Reimbursement</b>	Reimbursement can be a useful way to explain F&A to some stakeholders, but you should be intentional about when you use this terminology. Some CROs have reported that “reimbursement” terminology has prompted confusion and concern from state legislators.
<b>Calculation and Negotiation Process</b>	Unless you are designing your one-pager specifically with the goal of educating stakeholders on calculation and negotiation, try to keep your discussion of these processes brief since they are not relevant to all stakeholders. Additionally, these processes are complicated and explaining them can take up a lot of space on a one-pager. Many one-pagers include a single sentence about calculation and negotiation. CROs often expand on calculation and negotiation in conversations or explain these processes in other materials (e.g., website, internal presentation).
<b>Institutional F&amp;A Rate</b>	Include this information if you want your one-pager to serve as a day-to-day resource for internal staff and faculty. However, some institutions have opted not to include their rate since it can prompt complicated questions about the rate-setting process, concerns from faculty, and requests for peer comparisons.
<b>Institutional Expenditures</b>	Highlighting your institution’s direct funding and F&A funding can illustrate how F&A relates to the institution’s overall research expenditures. It can also help stakeholders develop a realistic sense of how much F&A your institution receives. However, some institutions opt not to include this information because they don’t want to draw attention to their recovery rate.
<b>Distribution of Institutional F&amp;A Costs</b>	Consider including this information if you want to debunk myths and concerns about how and where F&A costs are incurred at your institution.
<b>Institutional Subsidy</b>	Include this information if you want to emphasize how your institution—along with the federal government—invests in research. Some institutions emphasize this subsidy as a strategy to reduce F&A waiver requests and ensure faculty include F&A in their proposals. Other institutions opt not to include this info to avoid creating the misperception that research is a poor investment since it requires universities to share in its costs.
<b>F&amp;A for Non-Federal Sponsors</b>	Most one-pagers do not include this information since it is not critical for baseline understanding and could potentially create confusion about different rates and recovery levels. However, this could be valuable information to include if you decide to customize your institution’s one-pager for particular audiences (e.g., only internal stakeholders, industry partners).

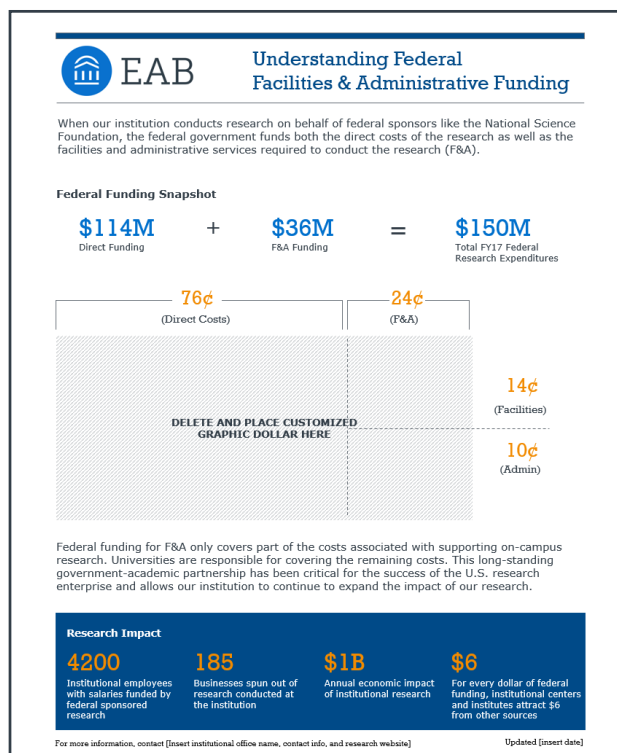
Source: EAB interviews and analysis.



## Tool 2: One-Pager Development Guide (cont.)

### Template One-Pager

CROs and their teams can download a template one-pager based on the UNC Chapel Hill example at [eab.com/FACommunications](http://eab.com/FACommunications). See below for an overview of its components and recommended customizations.



### Key Features

- Introduction to F&A
- Institutional federal funding snapshot
- Detailed breakdown of direct and F&A costs
- Acknowledgment of federal-institutional partnership
- Institutional research impact snapshot

### Recommended Customization

- Insert your institution's logo and/or mascot
- Use your institution's color scheme
- Adjust scripting to align with your institution's desired messaging
- Update with your institution-specific data (e.g., federal expenditures, distribution of F&A costs, research impact metrics)
- Increase/decrease specificity of the breakdown of F&A costs

### Eight Steps for Developing and Deploying a Compelling One-Pager





## Tool 3

# Internal Presentation Templates

### Goal

Use this tool to create your own F&A presentation(s) for internal audiences (e.g., faculty, staff, Board of Trustees).

### Intended User

Chief research officers and their teams

### Overview

This tool provides users with critical messages to communicate to internal audiences and sample presentation decks for faculty and staff. It also includes a plug-and-play deck for an executive audience to reduce the burden of creating an internal presentation from scratch.

▶ Electronically access this tool: [eab.com/FACommunications](https://eab.com/FACommunications)

## Tool 3: Internal Presentation Templates

To bolster internal F&A education efforts, CROs and their teams should develop several versions of presentations targeted at key internal audiences (e.g., faculty, staff, Board of Trustees). For example, CROs could create a detailed presentation for staff members that provides technical information about cost pools and the campus space survey, a broad presentation for faculty members that addresses common misperceptions, and a brief presentation that provides a macro-level overview of F&A for university executives and trustees.

Presentations allow CROs to provide more details and campus-specific examples than other mediums, such as a one-pager or infographic. CROs can leverage these presentations in one-on-one conversations or departmental meetings, monthly or quarterly research meetings, new faculty orientation, or any other meetings with institutional leaders.

### Key F&A Messages for Internal Audiences



Relatable examples of “F” versus “A” costs

**Rationale:** For faculty and institutional leaders not involved in cost accounting, F&A can seem like an abstract administrative concept. Explaining which types of costs fall into the facilities and administrative categories can help internal stakeholders relate F&A to their daily work.



Impact of no (or reduced) F&A on faculty

**Rationale:** CROs tend to focus on the implications of lost F&A on the institution and research enterprise as a whole, but not all internal stakeholders make the connection between institutional implications and the effects on their daily work.



Internal use of F&A dollars

**Rationale:** Most internal stakeholders are not opposed to the concept of F&A, but are often skeptical since they don’t know how their institution uses those dollars. Explaining how the institution reinvests F&A dollars in the research enterprise can convince skeptics of the value of F&A and boost the legitimacy of the research office.



Cause of rising F&A rates

**Rationale:** Internal stakeholders may question increases in F&A rates and falsely assume these are due to growing central administrative costs. Highlighting the 26 percent cap on administrative costs and explaining other causes of increasing expenses—such as the growing regulatory and administrative burden—can help correct this misperception.



Underrecovery and institutional subsidy

**Rationale:** Many internal stakeholders falsely assume that institutions “profit” on F&A, when in reality institutions never recover 100 percent of those costs. Addressing this misperception can reduce the likelihood that internal stakeholders will request and/or approve F&A waivers or reductions.



Peer comparisons

**Rationale:** Showing your institution’s F&A rates and recovery in comparison to some peer institutions can normalize F&A and reduce internal pushback.

## Tool 3: Internal Presentation Templates (cont.)

### Tips for Effective Internal Presentations

Tip	Implementation Guidance
<b>Start with the basics</b>	Do not assume that your audience has any prior knowledge about F&A. While most faculty and staff do have a general sense of F&A, their understanding is often limited by myths and misperceptions. Starting with a basic introduction allows you to establish a clean slate and get the audience on the same page before moving forward.
<b>Don't overwhelm the audience with too much information</b>	When giving internal presentations, CROs and their teams often try to cover too much ground in a short period of time. This can frustrate the audience and reduce the amount of information they retain. Instead, start with the most critical information for your particular audience and dedicate time to helping them truly learn the content. Then provide other opportunities and resources for them to broaden and/or deepen their understanding (e.g., follow-up session, online training).
<b>Organize presentations around common questions and misperceptions</b>	Consider building your presentation around common questions or misperceptions about F&A, especially those that you hear on your campus. This provides you with a simple structure and framework for your presentation and way to prioritize the topics to cover.
<b>Match your level of specificity and detail to the intended audience</b>	Tailor the depth and specificity of your presentation based on the needs and priorities of your particular audience. For example, if you are presenting to staff members who manage grant finances on a daily basis, then include details about the calculation process, cost pools, and/or space surveys. In contrast, if you are presenting to the Board of Trustees, include a high-level overview of F&A and focus on the benefits to the institution rather than sharing details about cost pools and space surveys.
<b>Keep your slide count low, but include hidden slides with additional details</b>	Even if you don't plan on talking about cost pools or the negotiation process, it can be helpful to include hidden slides on these topics in your presentation. These are useful if your audience has specific questions or wants more info on the topic than you originally anticipated.
<b>Leave plenty of time for Q&amp;A</b>	Attendees derive the most value from asking questions about F&A at internal presentations. This also can help you identify F&A topics or misperceptions to address in future presentations.

# Tool 3: Internal Presentation Templates (cont.)

## Sample Presentations

See below for sample presentations that provide in-depth information tailored to a staff or faculty audience.

### University of Minnesota

Staff Version



Faculty Version



Introductory F&A Presentations for Internal Stakeholders	
Both Versions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a brief history of F&amp;A</li><li>• Outline inclusions and exclusions in F&amp;A rate and basic calculation</li><li>• Address common misperceptions</li><li>• Introduce cost sharing and its effect on F&amp;A</li><li>• Highlight F&amp;A within the university’s budget model</li></ul>	
Staff Version	Faculty Version
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes more slides</li><li>• Includes additional resources about current F&amp;A rates</li><li>• Provides greater detail about how the F&amp;A rate is developed</li><li>• Depicts F&amp;A recovery over time</li><li>• Offers information on internal tools and resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes fewer slides</li><li>• Provides responses to common misperceptions</li><li>• Requires less detail and specificity</li></ul>

Download University of Minnesota’s staff presentation at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B49I9bdf1J9la21KQkJKamU0dzg/view> and faculty presentation at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pITBeoUwBzwrw1qCE5CbnqsiTiBGB04M/view>.

## Tool 3: Internal Presentation Templates (cont.)

## Template Presentation (Core Slides)

The following pages showcase six downloadable template slides for an introductory F&A presentation targeted at an executive-level audience. The boxes on the right highlight key elements and customization recommendations for CROs and their teams to consider before utilizing these slides. **Download at [eab.com/FACommunications](https://eab.com/FACommunications).**

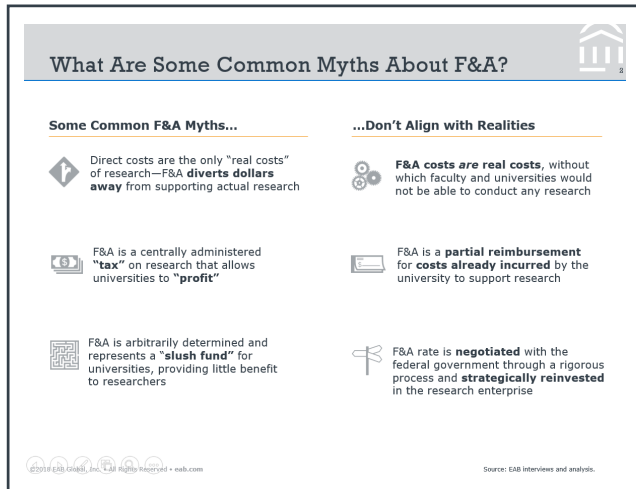
## 1



## Key Features

- Distinguishes between direct and F&A costs—note that some audiences may be more familiar with “overhead” or “indirect cost” terminology
- Provides examples of which types of costs fall into each category

## 2



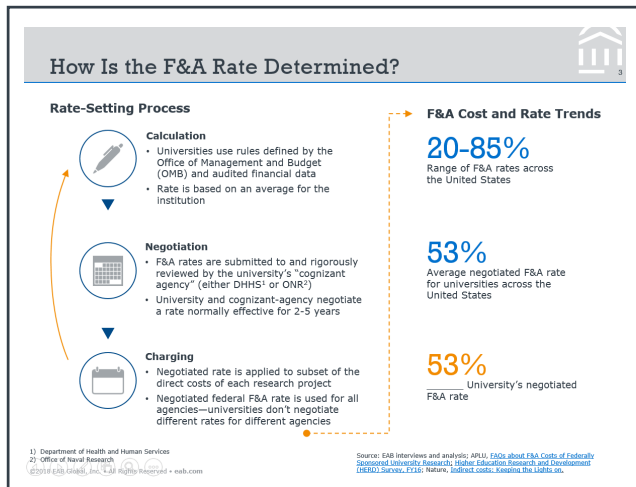
### Key Feature

- Identifies common misperceptions about F&A to set the record straight

## Recommended Customization

Consider adding other myths or misperceptions that are common on your campus and/or among your particular audience(s).

## 3



## Key Features

- Provides a simplified overview of the calculation, negotiation, and charging process
- Highlights the average negotiated F&A rate

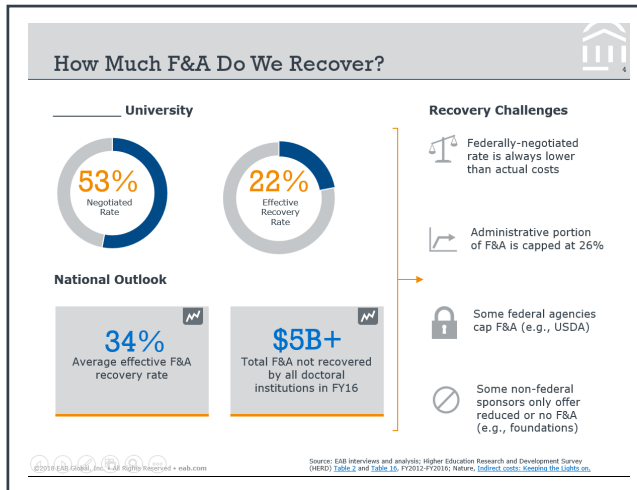
## Recommended Customization

Consider adding your institution's name and current F&A rate. Consider including names and rates for several of your peer institutions.

Source: EAB interviews and analysis.

## Tool 3: Internal Presentation Templates (cont.)

4



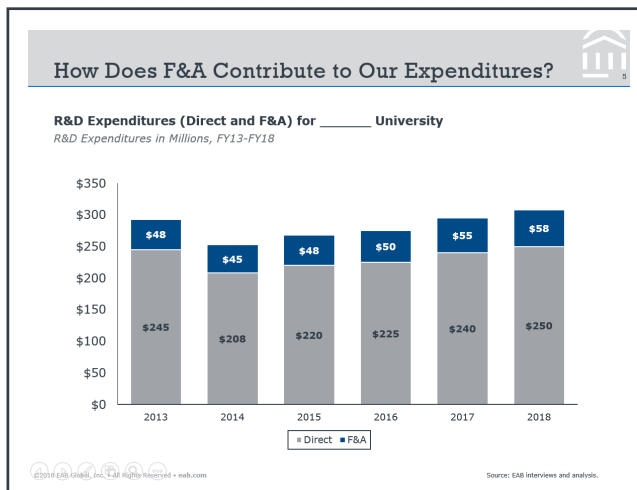
### Key Features

- Highlights national statistics on underrecovery
- Explains universal challenges to F&A recovery

### Recommended Customization

Consider adding your institution's name, negotiated F&A rate, and effective recovery rate. Adjust the graphics accordingly.

5



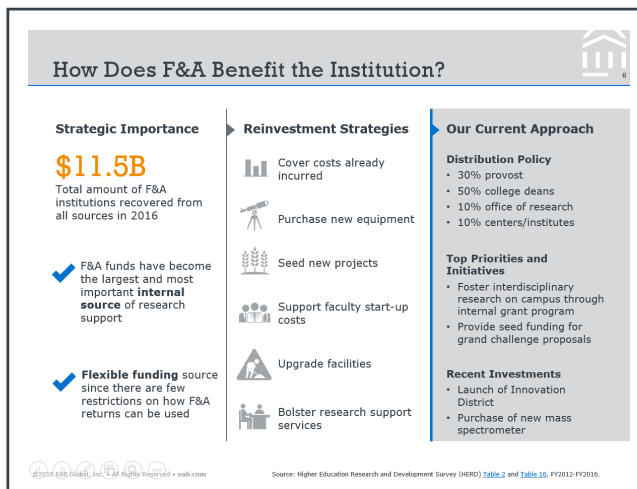
### Key Features

- Depicts how F&A factors into total expenditure calculations for an institution
- Shows trends in F&A and research expenditures over time

### Recommended Customization

Consider adding your institution's name to the graphic title and adjust the graphic by entering your institution's expenditure data.

6



### Key Features

- Explains the strategic value of F&A
- Identifies common reinvestment strategies
- Shows how F&A supports institutional priorities and investments

### Recommended Customization

Consider adding your institution's current F&A distribution policy, current research-related goals and priorities supported by F&A, and/or examples of recent research investments.

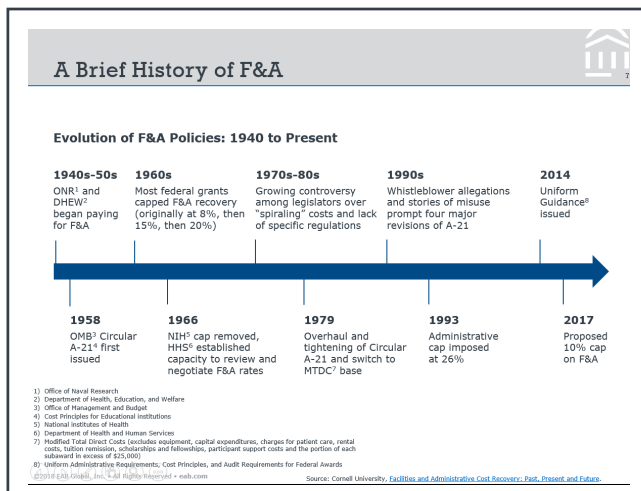


# Tool 3: Internal Presentation Templates (cont.)

## Template Presentation (Optional Slides)

This page showcases three downloadable template slides that can be added to the previous six slides for an internal presentation. The boxes on the right highlight when CROs might want to include each slide as well as customization recommendations.

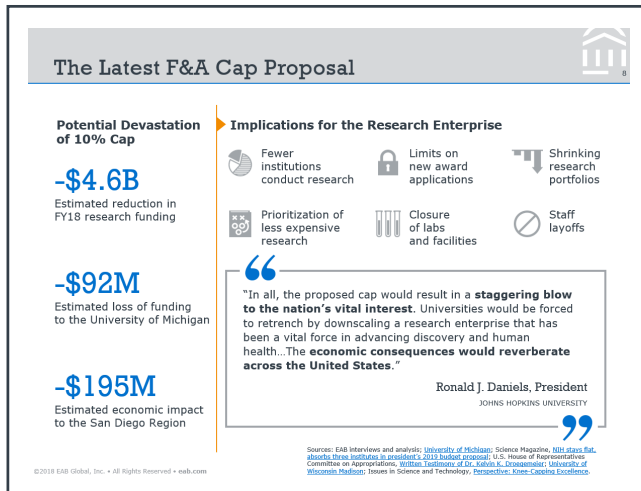
A



### When to Include

- You want to provide an overview of the historic research partnership between the federal government and academic institutions.
- You want to illustrate how federal F&A policy has evolved over time.
- You want to illustrate some of the restrictions placed on F&A.

B



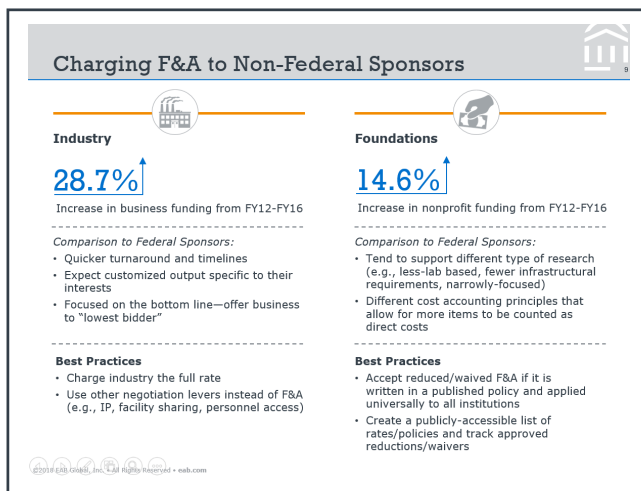
### When to Include

- You want to add an element of urgency to your presentation.
- You want to relate your presentation to current federal affairs.
- You want to communicate the significance of federal policy decisions.

### Optional Customization

Consider adding forecasting data for your particular institution and/or region.

C



### When to Include

- You want to deepen the audience’s understanding of F&A beyond the federal level.
- Your audience already has a baseline understanding of F&A.
- Industry and nonprofit funding are significant portions of your research portfolio.
- Your target audience is staff and/or faculty.

### Optional Customization

Consider replacing “Best Practices” section with your institution’s current F&A policies for industry and foundations.

Source: EAB interviews and analysis.



## Tool 4

# Infographic Design Plan

### Goal

Use this tool to create an infographic that aligns with your institution's goals and priorities.

### Intended User

Research communications staff, central communications staff

### Overview

The tool provides users with examples of infographics with differing target audiences and levels of specificity. It offers design and content recommendations, along with a four-step process to guide the infographic creation process.

### Optional

While all institutions should utilize Tools 1-3, this tool is optional. It is designed for institutions that want to expand their F&A collateral beyond the basics. Interested institutions should consider collaborating with the central communications office on campus to leverage their graphic design and/or digital media expertise.

▶ Electronically access this tool: [eab.com/FACommunications](https://eab.com/FACommunications)

## Tool 4: Infographic Design Plan

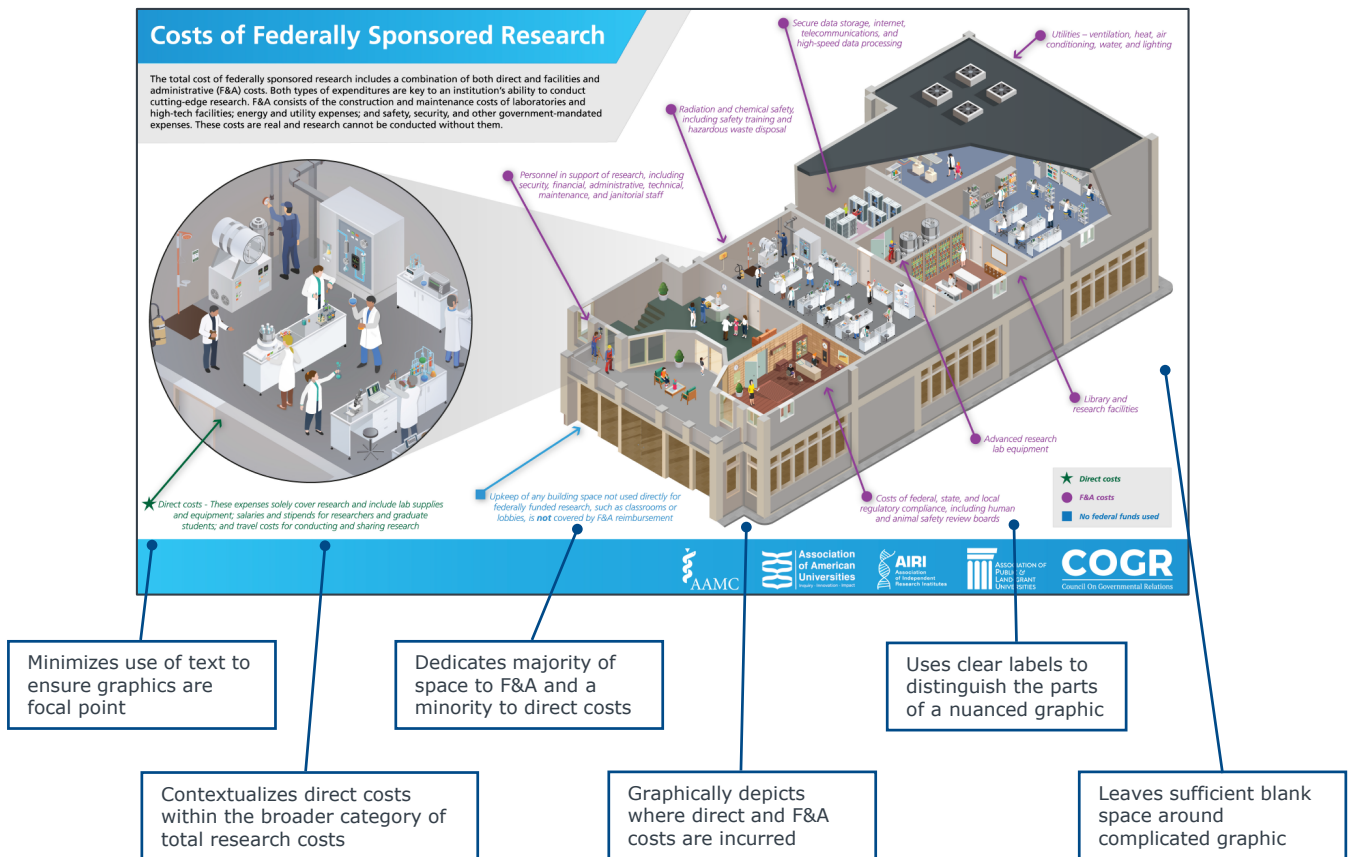
Given the complexity of F&A, it can be a difficult to explain the concept to stakeholders in the abstract. CROs and their teams can make F&A more understandable by creating a concise and shareable visual depiction.

### Sample Infographics

The following pages showcase sample infographics used to educate stakeholders on F&A. The blue callout boxes highlight key structural and content elements for CROs and their teams to consider when designing their own infographics. The grey box below each infographic provides a snapshot of the key F&A concepts depicted in the infographic.

#### AAMC, AAU, AIRI, APLU, COGR

The infographic provides a detailed graphic depiction of where and how direct costs and F&A costs are incurred. It is designed primarily for a federal audience, but CROs and their teams can also leverage the infographic to educate other stakeholders.



### Key Content

- ✓ Relationship between direct and F&A costs
- ✓ Allowable direct costs
- ✓ Allowable subcategories of F&A
- ✓ Costs not covered by F&A reimbursement

Download the infographic at [https://aamc-black.global.ssl.fastly.net/production/media/filer\\_public/c1/87/c187a351-2890-4360-9fae-7d99e4404e3b/costs\\_of\\_research\\_infographic\\_revised\\_170525.pdf](https://aamc-black.global.ssl.fastly.net/production/media/filer_public/c1/87/c187a351-2890-4360-9fae-7d99e4404e3b/costs_of_research_infographic_revised_170525.pdf).

## Tool 4: Infographic Design Plan (cont.)

### University of Minnesota

The infographic provides a “snapshot” of F&A that CROs and their teams can use to introduce a broad audience of internal and/or external stakeholders to F&A.

University of Minnesota-specific colors

Uses clear headers to distinguish parts of the infographic

Graphic depictions of relatable, real-world examples of F&A

Dedicates more space to facilities costs than administrative costs to graphically represent the balance between “F” and “A”

Graphic depiction is the focal point of the infographic

Simplistic design avoids creating unnecessary confusion

**UNDERSTANDING F&A COSTS**  
What are F&A costs?  
Facilities and administrative costs, also called F&A, are the human labor, lab infrastructure, and building utilities costs that come along with the act of conducting research.

**Examples of F&A**

**FACILITIES**  
LABS  
INTERNET AND DATA STORAGE  
UTILITIES  
HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL  
SAFETY PRACTICES

**ADMINISTRATIVE**  
COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES TO MEET FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS  
REVENUE, ACCOUNTING, AND PURCHASING

**Without sufficient F&A funds...**

- Research facilities could deteriorate
- Compliance problems could go undetected
- Tuition may increase to cover costs that have been shifted to the institution
- The US would lose its edge in science and innovation as university research suffers
- Universities may not be able to accept research awards that require large institutional F&A contributions

**F&A at the U of M**

- Facilities costs have increased from the cost of new U of M facilities and the renovation of existing ones.
- U of M and the federal government work to renegotiate F&A rates every three to four years.
- Federal guidelines limit administrative costs to 30% despite the growing overhead costs related to increases in federal compliance requirements.
- 100% of F&A recovery fundations to the U of M school or college that generated the costs.
- Federal research grants provide funding for F&A to help reimburse universities, which have already spent funds on these costs.
- The actual indirect cost of a specific project varies based on the amount of space occupied, heating and cooling costs of the building, and renovations to support certain types of research.
- US research institutions spend over 24% of their own research and development funds (\$1.2 billion in FY10) to help cover what federal F&A funding does not.

Compiled in part from information provided by the Association of American Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.  
Produced by the Office of the Vice President for Research. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request.  
Direct requests to: ovr@umn.edu  
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Examples of micro- and macro-level implications of insufficient F&A

Contextualizes F&A at the University of Minnesota

Balances institution-specific info with general F&A info

One-sentence introductions to key concepts

Provides Minnesota-specific contact information

#### Key Content

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic definition and examples | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 26 percent cap on administrative costs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notion of reimbursement      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasons for rising costs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distribution policy           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institutional subsidy                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasons for variation in F&A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impact of reduced F&A    |

Download University of Minnesota's infographic at  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw3yHuGQzD8CYWJxa2F2VvQyNnIYchPzSnNSa2QwMXcta3hB/view>.

## Tool 4: Infographic Design Plan (cont.)

### Step 1 Identify a problem and/or gap in current F&A understanding

#### Guiding Questions

- What is missing from our current F&A collateral?
- What common questions do we still get about F&A?
- What F&A concepts are particularly confusing for stakeholders?



#### Examples

- Faculty still view direct costs as the only “real” costs of research
- Faculty are concerned about a recent increase in the institution’s F&A rate
- Senior administrators don’t understand how the F&A rate is determined
- Staff are struggling to correctly identify direct versus F&A costs
- General public doesn’t understand the costs associated with conducting sponsored research

### Step 2 Assess the viability and potential value of creating an infographic

#### Guiding Questions

- Could this problem or gap be better addressed through a different medium?
- Can the desired content be depicted graphically?
- Is the investment worthwhile given the time frame and range of potential uses?



#### Examples

- Although faculty are concerned about an upcoming increase in F&A rate, an infographic focused narrowly on this topic would be relevant only for a short period of time and therefore would not be worth the investment—we would be better off communicating the rate change in a different format
- Both faculty and staff constantly have to look up what constitutes direct and F&A costs—this is an evergreen issue that could be addressed with a simple infographic they could post on their wall for easy reference

### Step 3 Customize the information and degree of specificity based on audience and goals

#### Guiding Questions

- What is the scope of the infographic?
- How much detail is needed given the target audience and scope?
- What information is critical to include?
- What information could be excluded?



#### Examples

- Use high-level, one-sentence summaries for broad infographics to educate the general public
- For faculty-focused infographics, include institution-specific information, data, and examples (e.g., F&A rate over time, effective recovery rate, institutional subsidy, internal use and distribution)

### Step 4 Strategically deploy the infographic to maximize value

#### Guiding Questions

- How and when should we distribute the infographic?
- What channels can we use to share this infographic? Which are best suited for reaching our desired audience(s)?



#### Examples

- Roll out during campus “roadshow” presentations
- Distribute copies to deans and department chairs
- Distribute via internal Research newsletter or listserv
- Post on internal website and/or social media
- Share with provost and other executives
- Distribute during new faculty orientation and/or staff onboarding

## Tool 5

# Video Production Guide

### Goal

Use this tool when developing a short video to educate key stakeholders on F&A.

### Intended User

Research communications staff, central communications staff

### Overview

This tool provides users with examples of educational videos targeted at different stakeholders and with differing levels of specificity. It highlights five key characteristics of effective videos to consider during the production process.

### Optional

While all institutions should utilize Tools 1-3, this tool is optional. It is designed for institutions that want to expand their F&A collateral beyond the basics. Interested institutions should consider collaborating with the central communications office on campus to leverage their graphic design and/or digital media expertise.

▶ Electronically access this tool: [eab.com/FACommunications](https://eab.com/FACommunications)

## Tool 5: Video Production Guide

Since most stakeholders do not have much time or interest for learning about F&A, CROs and their teams can better engage stakeholders by developing short, introductory videos that provide stakeholders with a baseline understanding of F&A.

### Sample Videos

The following pages provide examples of short videos institutions have developed to educate key internal and/or external stakeholders on F&A. The information on the right-hand side highlights the length, target audience, and strengths of each video. The grey box below each video provides a snapshot of the key F&A concepts covered in the video.

#### University of California San Francisco

The video provides a concise, animated overview of F&A and its importance.

*F&A Funding: The Bedrock of Biomedical Research*

Available [here](#).



Length: ~5 minutes

Target Audience: Faculty and legislators

Strengths:

- Concisely covers major terrains of F&A
- Animations are highly engaging for viewers
- Graphics provide viewers with visual support of F&A concepts
- Includes unique information specific to UCSF's federal funding and F&A recovery

#### Key Content

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> History and purpose of F&A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnership between universities and federal government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Types of federal support for research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Differences between direct and F&A costs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limitations to recovery    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institutional subsidy                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negotiation process                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impact of proposed cap                   |

Access University of California San Francisco's video at [https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2017/10/408601/congress-supports-nih-questions-remain-about-key-federal-funding-stream?utm\\_source=exacttarget&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pulsetoday&utm\\_content=edition54](https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2017/10/408601/congress-supports-nih-questions-remain-about-key-federal-funding-stream?utm_source=exacttarget&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pulsetoday&utm_content=edition54).

Source: EAB interviews and analysis; University of California San Francisco, [F&A Funding](#).



# Tool 5: Video Production Guide (cont.)

## Harvard University

The video concisely explains the practical importance of F&A for a faculty researcher.

*The NIH and the Need for Funding Facilities and Administrative Costs*

Available [here](#).



Length: ~3 minutes

Target Audience: Federal lawmakers

Strengths:

- Tells the story of a single researcher at the institution
- Shares a scientist’s perspective on the importance of federal support for research
- Leverages a faculty member as a spokesperson for F&A

### Key Content

- |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> History, rationale, and importance of partnership between universities and federal government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficiency of leveraging universities already conducting research (as opposed to building separate research labs) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Importance of grant and other administrative support for faculty researchers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partial reimbursement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institutional subsidy |
|---|---|--|---|---|

Access Harvard University’s video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZprvZ6\\_D3A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZprvZ6_D3A).

Source: EAB interviews and analysis; Harvard University, [The NIH and the Need for Funding Facilities and Administrative Costs](#).

## Tool 5: Video Production Guide (cont.)

### University of Idaho

The video provides a fairly comprehensive introduction to F&A for a broad group of stakeholders, including faculty and staff.

*OSP Introduction to F&A*

Available [here](#).



Length: ~15 minutes

Target Audience: Broad (internal and external)

#### Strengths:

- Introduces and standardizes terminology and language
- Draws on real-world photos and videos from on-campus locations
- Interviews administrators at the institution
- FAQs serve as the road map for the video
- Graphically depicts the building blocks of F&A
- Leverages multiple speakers and narrators
- Directly asks faculty to reduce F&A waiver and reduction requests
- Acknowledges limitations of the short video and provides follow-up information for further discussions

#### Key Content

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> History and purpose of F&A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negotiation and cognizant agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F&A as an institutional average	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of F&A in proposal development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Components of F&A and percentage of allocable costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notion of partial reimbursement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Space survey and use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negotiated versus effective rate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caps/limitations on recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institutional subsidy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F&A distribution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategies and implications for improved recovery

Access University of Idaho's video at  
<https://www.uidaho.edu/research/faculty/resources/f-and-a-rates/f-and-a-intro-video>.

Source: EAB interviews and analysis; University of Idaho, [OSP Introduction to F&A](#).

## Tool 5: Video Production Guide (cont.)

### Five Characteristics of Effective Videos

Characteristic	Implementation Guidance
<b>Concise</b>	<p>Videos should be concise and direct. Viewers are more likely to start and finish watching a short clip than a 30-minute lecture. From a learning standpoint, it is preferable for viewers to watch a complete 3-minute overview than to watch only the first 3 minutes of a 30-minute video, in which case they would likely learn only about one aspect of F&amp;A.</p> <p>Try to boil concepts and teaching points down to 1-2 sentences each. Remember that you do not have to cover every aspect of F&amp;A in a single video. Instead, acknowledge that your video is not all-encompassing, and then share additional resources and/or follow-up information.</p>
<b>Understandable</b>	<p>Begin by defining key terms or concepts and standardizing the language you will use throughout the video. This ensures viewers are on the same page and helps minimize future misunderstanding. Also try to eliminate unnecessary jargon. It is best to err on the side of overly simple (and provide additional details and resources as needed) than to overwhelm viewers and cause them to stop watching at the outset.</p>
<b>Engaging</b>	<p>Videos are a particularly valuable communication tool since they can engage viewers. Consider both the visual and auditory elements of the video. On the visual side, leverage multiple types of graphics. This could include photos, live videos, cartoons, drawings, and/or animations. On the auditory side, make sure speakers strike the right tone and pace. You may also wish to incorporate multiple speakers and/or narrators in order to create variation throughout the video.</p>
<b>Personal</b>	<p>Think about ways to “humanize” F&amp;A and make it seem personal to key stakeholders. This reduces the perception that F&amp;A is purely an abstract, administrative concept with little real-world importance. For example, consider having a faculty member speak about how F&amp;A has personally influenced their research or interview campus administrators who can share their personal experiences or expertise.</p>
<b>Relevant</b>	<p>Make sure your content and approach are relevant for your target audience. This means including as many real-world examples or analogies as possible. For example, if you are targeting a federal audience, then include examples of the impact of F&amp;A on their interests and priorities (e.g., federal investment in research led to a cure or creation of new jobs). If you are targeting a faculty audience, include campus-specific information most relevant to their work (e.g., implications of waiver requests on effective recovery). The best videos strike a balance between providing general information about F&amp;A and sharing specific examples, information, and resources for the target audience.</p>

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---

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