

Pat Pitney  
UA President

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*For the latest information and updates on federal executive actions and their potential impact on UA, visit [alaska.edu/govrelations/federal/grants.php](http://alaska.edu/govrelations/federal/grants.php).*

Feb. 7, 2025

Dear UA Community -

Over the last week, the new federal administration signed dozens of executive orders and other actions that represent significant shifts in federal priorities.

Some of those actions have been rescinded or are on hold due to court action, but they have still caused concern and uncertainty throughout our university system. **I want you to know that I, the Board, and our entire leadership team remain committed to supporting all of our students, staff, and faculty. We'll continue working as quickly as possible to provide greater guidance and clarity on how these federal changes will impact UA.**

General Counsel Mowery and our Federal Relations Team are leading those efforts, and keeping UA and university leadership apprised as they assess and analyze how federal action may impact our work and mission.

**[We've also set up a webpage](#) with guidance and information we'll update regularly** as new actions or guidance from the federal government and courts become available. Please bookmark it and return to it for the most timely updates. It has more details on current actions, and I encourage you to read it.

Here's what else you should know about what we're doing:

- **For the most part, business will continue as usual.** The executive orders and actions - both those already issued and those to be issued in the future - will not immediately impact the vast majority of our students, staff, and faculty.
  - Our federal funds totals just over \$240 million systemwide. The vast majority of that is research that is deeply important and relevant to Alaskans and our nation, and I expect we'll be able to weather much of the turbulence and uncertainty.
- **Assessing our grants for potential risk under suspended or held executive actions.** University leaders and staff, along with federal grantees and PIs, are reviewing our portfolio of federal awards and assessing which may be at high, low, or no risk for potential changes or amendments under the executive actions that are on hold as they work their way through the courts.
- **Staying alert and ready to take action.** Again, we don't anticipate significant, immediate impact on the vast majority of our people and programs as a result of federal executive action. However, where action needs to be taken based on specific

agency guidance, we'll work to communicate directly with those who may be impacted.

Remember that executive orders and guidance memos don't have immediate effect in most cases. Impacted agencies and departments must interpret them and then provide further guidance to contractors or grantees, who will, in turn, need to review that guidance and determine how to comply. That process should give us time to analyze and assess executive actions or directives, and determine their potential impact on UA. **While swift changes and proclamations are unsettling, our actions as a university system will only change once the guidance is clear and we are confident it aligns with existing federal laws, regulations, and processes.**

A lot of the uncertainty over the past week has surrounded our \$240 million+ in federal grants largely associated with research. While some of that has died down, as we navigate these federal changes, I want our researchers in particular to know that I appreciate each of you and the valuable work you do. You and your incredible research position UA to manage some of the current turbulence.

This potential for major, sweeping changes understandably creates anxiety and uncertainty. University leaders will work as quickly and empathetically as possible to grasp the implications of these changes, assess their impact on us, and determine our path forward, all while ensuring compliance with the law and remaining true to our mission and values as Alaska's university system.

Thank you for your commitment to UA, and your patience and understanding as we take the time to work through these issues as a community.

Sincerely,



Pat Pitney  
President, University of Alaska