UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
UNIFORM GUIDANCE WORKING GROUP

Section Number & Name: 200.446 Idle Facilities and idle capacity
A-21 Reference: J-24

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A. Does the revised guidance contain new language? ☐ Y ☒ N

Specifically describe the new language and how it differs: See attached

Allows for the costs of idle facilities when they are necessary to fluctuations in workload, such as those which may be typical of developing shared service arrangements.

B. Is the new guidance more or less restrictive than university processes? ☐ More ☐ Less

Specifically describe how it is more or less restrictive: Neither more nor less

C. Cite any relevant system-wide policies/regulations/procedures:
Accounting and Administrative Manual D-03 Accounting for Unallowable Costs
Functional Use Training

D. Cite any MAU-level relevant processes or manuals:

_____

E. Is there an impact to electronic systems (Banner HR/Finance, Web Timesheets, Effort Reporting, etc.)? ☐ Y ☒ N

List specific system(s) impacted and method of impact:

_____

ACTION PLAN: Is specific action needed? ☒ Y – see below ☐ N – no action needed

Recommended Action(s):

1. Update Accounting and Administrative Manual D-03 Accounting for Unallowable costs for definition and citation
2. Update Functional Use survey training for allowance for fluctuations in workload

UA responsible area requiring documentation of compliance:
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200.446 Idle facilities and idle capacity.

(a) As used in this section the following terms have the meanings set forth in this section:

(1) Facilities means land and buildings or any portion thereof, equipment individually or collectively, or any other tangible capital asset, wherever located, and whether owned or leased by the non-Federal entity.

(2) Idle facilities means completely unused facilities that are excess to the non-Federal entity's current needs.

(3) Idle capacity means the unused capacity of partially used facilities. It is the difference between:

(i) That which a facility could achieve under 100 percent operating time on a one-shift basis less operating interruptions resulting from time lost for repairs, setups, unsatisfactory materials, and other normal delays and;

(ii) The extent to which the facility was actually used to meet demands during the accounting period. A multi-shift basis should be used if it can be shown that this amount of usage would normally be expected for the type of facility involved.

(4) Cost of idle facilities or idle capacity means costs such as maintenance, repair, housing, rent, and other related costs, e.g., insurance, interest, and depreciation. These costs could include the costs of idle public safety emergency facilities, telecommunications, or information technology system capacity that is built to withstand major fluctuations in load, e.g., consolidated data centers.

(b) The costs of idle facilities are unallowable except to the extent that:

(1) They are necessary to meet workload requirements which may fluctuate and are allocated appropriately to all benefiting programs; or

(2) Although not necessary to meet fluctuations in workload, they were necessary when acquired and are now idle because of changes in program requirements, efforts to achieve more economical operations, reorganization, termination, or other causes which could not have been reasonably foreseen. Under the exception stated in this subsection, costs of idle facilities are allowable for a reasonable period of time, ordinarily not to exceed one year, depending on the initiative taken to use, lease, or dispose of such facilities.

(c) The costs of idle capacity are normal costs of doing business and are a factor in the normal fluctuations of usage or indirect cost rates from period to period. Such costs are allowable, provided that the capacity is reasonably anticipated to be necessary to carry out the purpose of the Federal award or was originally reasonable and is not subject to reduction or elimination by use on other Federal awards, subletting, renting, or sale, in accordance with sound business, economic, or security practices. Widespread idle capacity throughout an entire facility or among a group of assets having substantially the same function may be considered idle facilities.

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