UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
UNIFORM GUIDANCE WORKING GROUP

Section Number & Name: Appendix III – B6. Departmental Administration Expenses
A21 Reference: F6

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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

Specifically describe the new language and how it differs: See attached.
Removes language referring to major programs and salaries of admin and clerical staff as F&A costs.

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:
F&A Proposal
DS-2 Item 3.1.0(d) – Department Administration
Accounting and Administrative Manual Section 200 Program Codes

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:
CRIS, Webspace

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

Recommended Action(s):

1. May need to revise DS-2 Item 3.1.0(d) for Department Administration if we make a policy change due to revision at 200.413

UA Responsible area requiring documentation of compliance: Tanya Hollis, Christi Eickholt – Cost Analysis

6. Departmental Administration Expenses

a. The expenses under this heading are those that have been incurred for administrative and supporting services that benefit common or joint departmental activities or objectives in academic deans' offices, academic departments and divisions, and organized research units. Organized research units include such units as institutes, study centers, and research centers. Departmental administration expenses are subject to the following limitations.

(1) Academic deans' offices. Salaries and operating expenses are limited to those attributable to administrative functions.

(2) Academic departments:

(a) Salaries and fringe benefits attributable to the administrative work (including bid and proposal preparation) of faculty (including department heads) and other professional personnel conducting research and/or instruction, must be allowed at a rate of 3.6 percent of modified total direct costs. This category does not include professional business or professional administrative officers. This allowance must be added to the computation of the indirect (F&A) cost rate for major functions in Section C, Determination and application of indirect (F&A) cost rate or rates; the expenses covered by the allowance must be excluded from the departmental administration cost pool. No documentation is required to support this allowance.

(b) Other administrative and supporting expenses incurred within academic departments are allowable provided they are treated consistently in like circumstances. This would include expenses such as the salaries of secretarial and clerical staffs, the salaries of administrative officers and assistants, travel, office supplies, stockrooms, and the like.

(3) Other fringe benefit costs applicable to the salaries and wages included in subsections (1) and (2) are allowable, as well as an appropriate share of general administration and general expenses, operation and maintenance expenses, and depreciation.

(4) Federal agencies may authorize reimbursement of additional costs for department heads and faculty only in exceptional cases where an institution can demonstrate undue hardship or detriment to project performance.

b. The following guidelines apply to the determination of departmental administrative costs as direct or indirect (F&A) costs.

(1) In developing the departmental administration cost pool, special care should be exercised to ensure that costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances are treated consistently as either direct or indirect (F&A) costs. For example, salaries of technical staff, laboratory supplies (e.g., chemicals), telephone toll charges, animals, animal care costs, computer costs, travel costs, and specialized

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shop costs must be treated as direct costs wherever identifiable to a particular cost objective. Direct charging of these costs may be accomplished through specific identification of individual costs to benefitting cost objectives, or through recharge centers or specialized service facilities, as appropriate under the circumstances. See §§200.413 Direct costs, paragraph (c) and 200.468 Specialized service facilities.

(2) Items such as office supplies, postage, local telephone costs, and memberships must normally be treated as indirect (F&A) costs.

c. In the absence of the alternatives provided for in Section A.2.d, the expenses included in this category must be allocated as follows:

(1) The administrative expenses of the dean's office of each college and school must be allocated to the academic departments within that college or school on the modified total cost basis.

(2) The administrative expenses of each academic department, and the department's share of the expenses allocated in subsection (1) must be allocated to the appropriate functions of the department on the modified total cost basis.

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(2) The salaries of administrative and clerical staff should normally be treated as F&A costs. Direct charging of these costs may be appropriate where a major project or activity explicitly budgets for administrative or clerical services and individuals involved can be specifically identified with the project or activity. "Major project" is defined as a project that requires an extensive amount of administrative or clerical support, which is significantly greater than the routine level of such services provided by academic departments. Some examples of major projects are described in Exhibit C.

(3) Items such as office supplies, postage, local telephone costs, and memberships shall normally be treated as F&A costs.

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