<u>**FDP Federal Agency Updates, September 20, 2021**</u>

<u>Air Force Office of Scientific Research</u>

Calvin Scott provided AFOSR's update, which began with overviews of AFOSR's technology directorates and locations as well as the grant and funding process from proposal submission to award closeout. The presentation also included a summary of resources to help investigators develop competitive proposals, and a review of current AFOSR funding opportunities.

<u>National Institutes of Health (NIH)</u>

Avery Tucker presented the NIH update, including new policy and systems process updates. The free NIH virtual seminar (Nov. 1-4) is open for [registration](#). The NIH has updated the [HHS language](#) on Non-Discrimination Legal Requirements to comply with 2 CFR 200.300, and will update FOAs and grant Terms & Conditions as well; there is no policy change. A reminder of the [NIH policy](#) on late submissions due to natural disasters was provided, as well as for the [NRSA childcare costs](#) support for recipients and the expanded eRA [Commons ID requirements](#) for Senior/Key personnel. The NIH commitment to transparency for all research activities (foreign and domestic) was stressed, and the updated Biographical Sketch and Other Support formats will be required beginning [January 25, 2022](#). The requirement to submit SF-425 and FFR via PMS was discussed; recipients receiving errors should review the [presentation](#) for more information. Updated application [Forms G](#) will be posted in late October and required for all submissions beginning January 25, 2022. Finally, the transition from [DUNS to UEI](#) will be completed by April, 2022.

<u>Department of Homeland Security (DHS)</u>

Heidi Custer opened the DHS update with an overview the Division of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO) mission, goals, and branches. Updates on current DHS initiatives followed, including an increased emphasis on performance measures and reporting requirements for DHS funding, and conformation that DHS's transition to the new Unique Entity Identifiers (UEIs) is expected to be complete by April 2022. Other topics covered included the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee and DHS's role in administering CARES Act funds allocated to FEMA.

<u>National Science Foundation (NSF)</u>

For the purposes of NSF, please see the link to the presentation and direct questions to the NSF Policy Office at policy@nsf.gov.

<u>USDA/NIFA</u>

Matthew Faulkner with NIFA gave an update on the impact of relocating to Kansas City and an overview of the Office of Grants and Financial Management (OGFM). NIFA lost 80% of staff, but is meeting the challenge: all FY21 competitive grants will be awarded by the end of FY21, and all capacity grants have been awarded. 80 of the 130 open positions within OGFM have been filled. The first year pilot of the Schedule for Program Implementation from RFA to Award (SPIRA) is complete, and Dashboards to track real time programs and funds obligation are in development. Open RFAs can be found on the [NIFA calendar](#). A policy guide update is coming in early 2022, and NIFA is reviewing the RFA structure and content, potential revisions may come based on stakeholder input.

<u>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</u>

Alexandra Raver presented the EPA update, beginning with a description of two current funding opportunities, the [People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Student Design Competition](#) and [National Priorities: Water Innovation, Science, and Engagement to Advance Water Reuse](#). Regarding the UEI

transition, until further notice all EPA opportunities will continue to use DUNS-compatible application packages. An upcoming webinar on EPA's application and grants processes will be held on September 28, 2021. For ongoing guidance, training, and updates to EPA grants policies and requirements, grantees should subscribe to the EPA Grants Listserv.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Mary Sladek with the Science Mission Directorate (SMD) provided updates on behalf of the Grants Policy and Compliance team, Office of Chief Financial Officer, on implementation of OMB memo M-21-20, dealing with effectively implementing programs funded by the American Rescue plan, as well as continuing flexibilities due to COVID-19 impacts. Certification of COVID-19 vaccination status preliminary guidance for visiting researchers to NASA facilities was discussed, as well as implementation of a new condition for for-profit awardees to limit harm to the Apollo lunar landing site. NASA actions related to Executive Order 13985*, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, were listed, along with community feedback and potential next steps. Updating has begun on the "*2021 Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual*" (GCAM) with release anticipated in late November 2021. Current and upcoming funding opportunities from the Space Technology Mission Directorate and SMD events were listed, please view the slides for more information.

Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR)
Susan Sloan announced the upcoming Fall 2021 GUIRR membership meeting; this will be a series of four, two-hour virtual workshops on supply chain and manufacturing challenges, held weekly (one per week on October 13, 20, 26, and November 4). An *ad hoc* workshop was held August 13 on transforming federal research funding and partnerships, focused on policy challenges as well as place-making of GUI partnerships, along with research capital. In addition, GUIRR holds monthly webinars on a variety of cross-cutting issues that are free and open to the public; see the website for details.

Department of Education
Antoinette Flores provided an overview of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) of 2021. After a review of the background and context of the ARP and HEERF and updates on the obligation of funds, two new required uses of funds were discussed, with more information available in the FAQs (specifically #28-35) on the ARP website. The bulk of the session focused on prioritizing use of funds for students with exceptional needs for an equitable recovery from the effects of the pandemic, with specific examples of institutions using funds for emergency aid, retention, reengagement, and COVID-19 prevention and mitigation. The presentation concluded with reminders about transparency and accountability, with additional detail on reporting and auditing requirements available in the above referenced FAQs. The final two slides contain numerous resources on the ARP and HEERF, and members are encouraged to watch the video and review the slides of the full presentation.