Memorandum

To: Faculty, Research Administrators and Deans

From: Andrés G. Gil, Vice President for Research

Subject: Changes in Electronic Internal Clearance Form (eICF) to allow sharing of F&A across colleges in
           proposals involving multiple colleges

Date: March 6, 2012

As science and funding agencies continue to move in the direction of interdisciplinary research as the approach to address today's scientific questions and challenges, we have established more mechanisms to support and encourage interdisciplinary research. Our cluster and strategic hiring initiatives have been based on interdisciplinary opportunities. Our current initiatives to create interdisciplinary research networks and new centers and institutes in extreme events and STEM research have also been focused on interdisciplinary science. The recently announced *Research Merit Bonus Program* also follows an interdisciplinary approach by giving equal credit to Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators, as well as allowing credit for students across multiple cooperative projects.

In the new electronic ICF form (eICF), we also recognize interdisciplinary research by allowing the selection of multiple departments and colleges in which the investigators have appointments/roles. After discussions with the Deans, we have determined that it will be important to allow for the sharing of F&A across colleges in instances where grant applications include faculty from multiple colleges. To accomplish this, we activated a feature of the eICF that allows for a percent allocation to the various departments listed in the departmental credit section of the eICF. This approach caused much confusion, and we have deactivated the feature. Instead, by early next week, the eICF will have an additional question that will allow (at the proposal submission stage) for a pre-determination of the F&A shared across colleges. The question will be as follows: *"Will this proposal expand across multiple colleges? If so, please indicate split across colleges in comment box."* Subsequently, when the grant is funded, DoR will distribute F&A to colleges based on the answer to this question.