

Message from SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr.

Dear SUNY Faculty and Staff,

Late Friday we learned that the National Institutes of Health had implemented a sudden cut in research funding for the so-called “F&A” expenses that researchers rely on for equipment, staffing, and other overhead costs. The *New York Times* quoted experts saying that the cuts “would have a devastating effect on studies aimed at finding treatments for diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.”

The SUNY Research Foundation’s initial estimate is that the change – which restricts F&A to 15%, effective immediately for all current grants for go-forward expenses starting today, as well as for all new grants – will cost SUNY research an estimated \$79 million for current grants, including more than \$21 million over just the next five months (through June 30).

At SUNY, we are proud of our extraordinary researchers and the life-changing, groundbreaking medical discoveries you have dedicated your careers to advancing. From working to cure Alzheimer’s disease to improving cancer outcomes, from supporting 9/11 first responders to detecting brain aneurysms, your research is essential to our national security and economic leadership. NIH’s cuts represent an existential threat to public health.

While I cannot predict how this will all unfold, I want to make three commitments to our faculty and staff:

- First, our resolve to continue to lead the way in groundbreaking research is unshakeable. As Governor Hochul said over the weekend: “students, jobs, and lives are on the line.”
- Second, we will take every step possible to protect your vital work. Earlier today, the New York State Attorney General – with support from SUNY – joined 21 other states in filing a lawsuit challenging the legality of the federal order and seeking to temporarily halt its implementation while it is challenged in court. SUNY has been working closely with the Attorney General, the Governor’s Office, and leading national higher education organizations, and we will continue to do so.
- And third, we will always communicate accurate, timely information to the SUNY community to share what we know, when we know it. I recognize that uncertainty about the potential impact on our campuses stemming from a range of recent federal actions can be unsettling, and it is important that we continue to respond with consistency and care.

SUNY will provide an update on NIH’s planned cuts as soon as we have additional information. In the meantime, the SUNY Board of Trustees and I remain grateful for all that you do, every day, to advance SUNY’s pillar of *research and scholarship* as you leverage the power of knowledge and innovation to advance the public good.

Sincerely,

John B. King, Jr., J.D., Ed.D.



John B. King, Jr., J.D., Ed.D.
Chancellor

The State University of New York
H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
Albany, New York 12246