



### **Update on the RF and the Federal Budget Impasse**

This is a follow up to the communication sent out to the campus community on January 18, 2019 about the partial Federal shutdown. The agreement in Washington to re-open the closed agencies of the Federal government for three weeks has allowed them to re-start, and funds are now being transferred from requests that were received prior to the shutdown. That is an encouraging development, and will help us in the near term.

Since there is no assurance that another shutdown will not take place, the RF is taking a prudently cautious approach. What that means for us is the following:

- Forward funding and guarantees will be handled case by case, and considered only for fully executed contracts.
- OTPS payment requests should not be held back and should be submitted to the RF. They will be entered and paid if possible. Even if they cannot all be paid immediately, they will be entered into the system and ready as soon as the budget crisis is truly over, and steady funding is assured. RF would like to avoid a surge of submissions once the budget crisis is fully resolved.
- Discretionary expenditures should still be held back, but spending on essential grant-related supplies are now allowed.
- P-Cards that were suspended can be re-activated upon request by the Grants Officer/Provost per individual as long as they are fully reconciled. Reconciliations by PIs must be kept up to date.
- Personnel currently on the payroll and needing to be continued can be.
- New hiring will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

By working together, we have helped minimize the impacts of the shutdown, particularly on personnel and students working in labs and offices at Lehman College.

As mentioned in the previous communication, there will be new developments as the budget stalemate continues to unfold. We will convey new information to you as it becomes available. You can find the latest updates in the eDigest.

Feel free to contact Interim Dean Lemons with any questions you may have.

Daniel E. Lemons