

GCR Update

January 27, 2024

Washington DC

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Since assuming office, President Trump has issued more than two dozen executive orders. His administration has also issued a range of other directives to Executive Branch staff that could affect higher education and the scientific research enterprise in the United States. UC is closely monitoring the release of executive orders and analyzing them to determine their effects on higher education, healthcare, and the research enterprise. UC Federal Government Relations (FGR) has developed an [Executive Order tracker](#), the Trump administration has been issuing memos and guidance impacting agency operations. Here are a few of them:

Diversity, equity, inclusion, and access:

- [Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing](#) – This executive order ends programs related to diversity, equity, and inclusion at federal agencies. The order requires agencies to review which federal contractors have provided DEI training materials to federal workers and which federal funding grantees have been given funds to “advance DEI, DEIA, and ‘environmental justice’ programs, services, or activities.”
- [Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity](#) – This executive order [designates](#) institutions receiving federal financial aid as subcontractors, and prevents federal contractors and subcontractors from considering “race, color, sex, sexual preference, religion, or national origin in ways that violate the nation’s civil rights laws.” It also directs the attorney general and the secretary of education to issue guidance to institutions of higher education about the measures and practices they need to adopt in order to comply with last year’s Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action.

Immigration

- Acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Benjamine Huffman [issued a directive](#) last week rescinding previous guidelines that prevented immigration officials from conducting raids or arrests in “sensitive” locations, such as churches and university campuses.

- [Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats](#) – This executive order includes requirements for the enhanced vetting and screening of both “aliens” already in the United States and those seeking to enter the country. The order could result in visa delays and additional requirements for international students and scholars.
- [Protecting the American People Against Invasion](#) – This executive order directs the attorney general and the secretary of homeland security to review all contracts or grants providing federal funding to non-governmental organizations that are directly or indirectly providing services to “removable or illegal aliens.” This order could affect institutions of higher education with enrolled undocumented students.

Medical Research

- *The Washington Post* [reported](#) last week that “the Trump administration has instructed federal health agencies to pause all external communications, such as health advisories, weekly scientific reports, updates to websites and social media posts.” The pause is expected to last [until at least February 1](#). The directive applies to the National Institutes of Health.

Artificial intelligence

- Trump rescinded President Biden’s 2023 executive order on the “[Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence](#)” and issued an order on “[Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence](#).” President Trump’s order directs government officials to develop an “AI Action Plan” to “sustain and enhance America’s global AI dominance in order promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security.”

Science

- [President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology](#) – This executive order establishes “an advisory council on science and technology” that brings together “the brightest minds from academia, industry, and government to guide our nation through this critical moment by charting a path forward for American leadership in science and technology.” The President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology will consist of no more than 24 members.

This executive order comes after President Trump [rescinded](#) Biden’s previous executive order establishing PCAST. The new executive order designates the “Assistant to the President for Science and Technology (APST) and the Special Advisor for AI & Crypto” as members of PCAST.

The order also states that “The APST and the Special Advisor for AI & Crypto shall serve as co-chairs of the PCAST.”

Federal Advocacy

February 3-5: Professor Shane Cybart, Kathy Eiler Senior Director of Federal Relations and Rochelle Qu, PhD student met with Congressman Jay Obernolte and legislative staff from the offices of Senator Padilla, Congressmembers Takano, Ruiz, Min and Kim. They also met with NSF Engineering Directorate representatives and DOE Office of Science. The purpose of their visit was to discuss the Calit2 initiative, support of quantum, artificial intelligence, microelectronics chips and future funding for MSI's.



Advocacy Efforts

February 3-5 Chris Lynch, Dean of BCOE and Amit Roy-Chowdhury, Director of RAISE will be in Washington, DC to advocate for support of federal funding and OASIS, RAISE and broader engineering initiatives.

February 24-27 Peter Atkinson, Dean of CNAS, Patty Springer, Ag Dean will be conducting Hill meetings requesting continued federal support from Congress for agriculture research.

