

June 25, 2021

To COGR Primary Representatives,

On the heels of an extraordinary last 18 months that has brought new and significant challenges, we first write on behalf of COGR to say thank you. As part of the COGR membership, your institution makes what we do at COGR possible, not only in terms of the time and expertise that many of you contribute but also your financial support through membership dues. Thank you for your institution's membership.

The COGR Board of Directors, which has fiscal oversight responsibility for the organization, reviews and approves the organization's budget each year, including member dues. Recognizing that the past year has been particularly challenging for institutions given the financial impact of a sustained pandemic, the Board has decided **there will be no change to membership dues for the upcoming membership year, which runs August 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022.** Membership invoices will be arriving shortly.

However, while COGR dues have remained steady since 2016, expenses have continued to rise and now outpace dues, making an increase in the future necessary. This conclusion was reached after a thorough review of COGR's revenue model by a workgroup comprised of both past and present Board members. The workgroup's recommendations, which were accepted by the Board and are in the process of being implemented, helped to minimize the amount of future dues increases.

As such, effective August 1, 2022, COGR dues will increase from \$10,500 to \$11,000 per year, and we hope this advance notice will assist you in your fiscal planning.

COGR's Recent Member Engagement and Outreach Efforts:

Produced webinars in early spring and summer of last year to address pandemic related issues, at no cost given the exceptional circumstances and need, with attendance upward of 800 people.

Because of the enthusiastic response, COGR will begin offering webinars to members on topics of significant interest a couple times each year.

Created robust website resources on pandemic related issues and science and security, collecting all agency guidance in one place for easy reference, along with additional COGR guidance and comparative institutional practices.

Hosted virtual discussion hours in which attendees could discuss relevant issues in real time with colleagues around the country.

Pivoted to virtual meetings, enabling more members than ever to attend (note that one meeting per year will continue to be virtual, in response to member feedback).

One of the most important things COGR does for its members is engage with funding and regulatory agencies to advocate for policies that are sensible and add minimal burden to federal grantees. COGR's engagement has made a noticeable difference in key policy areas over the last couple of years, including regulatory relief during the pandemic, agency actions in light of foreign influence concerns, and revisions to 2 CFR 200 (also known as Uniform Guidance). While COGR cannot lobby, we have worked closely with associations that do to make sure the issues associated with the administration of research are taken into account in their efforts.

Members also benefit from access [to meetings](#) and regular [reports and updates](#) addressing current, rapidly evolving federal policy affecting research institutions.

We greatly value each of our member institutions and seek to provide as much value as we can to them. Going forward, COGR anticipates doing as many other associations do by increasing dues a small amount every year, roughly tracking the rate of inflation. Hopefully, this will make any increase in dues more consistent and manageable for members.

If you have any questions – or any suggestions for how COGR might better serve its members – please feel free to contact Wendy Streitz at wstreitz@cogr.edu.

Sincerely,



David Norton, Ph.D.
COGR Board Chair
Vice President for Research
University of Florida



Wendy D. Streitz
COGR President