



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

3/1/2022

To: Heads of Member Agencies of the National Science and Technology Council
Re: Next Steps on NSPM-33 Implementation

After more than a year of productive partnership across Federal agencies, together with useful engagement with the external research community, the Office of Science and Technology Policy was pleased to release Guidance for Implementing National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM)-33 on National Security Strategy for United States Government-Supported Research and Development, on January 4, 2022. With appreciation to you and your colleagues who participated in these efforts as members of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Research Security, the Guidance is allowing us to start delivering on three key priorities, consistent with the values of the Biden-Harris Administration: (1) Protecting America's security AND openness; (2) Being clear in our delivery of guidance and information to impacted communities, so that compliance with NSPM-33 is easy, straightforward, and minimally burdensome; and (3) Ensuring that our policies do not fuel xenophobia or prejudice. I encourage you to review the Guidance and to consider how it can help to strengthen research security and integrity at your agency. The Guidance is available on the White House website:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/010422-NSPM-33-Implementation-Guidance.pdf>

The Office of Science and Technology Policy is now redoubling efforts to provide further clarification on the outstanding issues laid out in the Guidance, including streamlining compliance processes for the research community and ensuring interagency harmonization. The Subcommittee will oversee some of this work directly, as I describe below.

In addition, as the Guidance anticipates, agency-specific modifications may be necessary to account for agencies' differing statutory, regulatory, policy, or other substantive requirements. As we know, the Disclosure Requirements and Standardization section of the NSPM-33 Guidance states, "Disclosure requirements will be standardized across research agencies to the greatest extent practicable. Variations among research agencies should be limited to cases ... as coordinated through the NSTC." (emphasis added.)

The question has arisen as to what this last phrase means.

For clarity, "coordination through the NSTC" means that, as agencies draft regulations or other policy provisions or guidance to implement NSPM-33, any proposed language that is inconsistent with the NSPM-33 Guidance should be shared and discussed with the NSTC Subcommittee on Research Security, at least 15 calendar days prior to the proposed release. The NSTC Subcommittee members will discuss the draft's consistency with the NSPM-33 Guidance, convening NSTC leadership or other NSTC body, as appropriate.



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In addition to providing greater clarity on the meaning of “coordination through NSTC,” I would like to turn your attention to the two obligations for agency collaboration and accord, which will be overseen directly by the Research Security Subcommittee, over the next six months. Deadlines are in parentheses:

- Establishing standardized grant application formats for disclosing conflicts of interest and conflicts of financial commitment among researchers applying for Federal funding awards (May 4); and
- Establishing standardized Research Security Program requirements (August 2).

Upon the completion of these workstreams, these standardized requirements will be shared with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) to begin the notice and comment process.

We also anticipate that as the work to meet these deadlines continues, we may ask you to ensure that your agency’s representation on the Research Security Subcommittee includes the expertise to shift from policy development to policy implementation in partnership with the U.S. research community. Our goal in all of these efforts is to advance a secure and open research environment supportive of one of our country’s greatest strengths, its scientific and technological leadership.

We look forward to working closely with your agencies to make NSPM-33 implementation smooth and effective.

Thank you for your collaboration and partnership in this work.

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