

Dear Colleagues:

While immediate fiscal challenges have been averted following the recent reopening of the federal government and the extension of the debt ceiling, I want to emphasize that the spending/debt agreement legislators have made is temporary.

This agreement leaves many unanswered questions, including those dealing with sequestration. Legislators are now working to create a FY14 federal budget that can be agreed upon by those on both sides of the aisle. If they fail to come to an agreement by January 15, 2014, we could wind up in the midst of another government shutdown. Lack of agreement by the deadline could also push us into another debt ceiling crisis on February 7, 2014.

Georgia Tech's Executive Leadership Team, Office of Federal Relations, and the Institutional Working Group will continue to monitor the situation, develop scenarios based on the latest data, and provide recommendations to help mitigate any operational impact, in the event of a recurrence of a full or partial federal government shutdown in January.

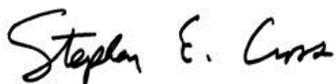
In the meantime, federal agencies are up and running but, as expected, there are some delays being experienced due to a backlog of grant applications and other research activities that were suspended during the October shutdown. Georgia Tech's Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is maintaining an online database of guidance information from major federal agencies. You can find the information at <http://www.osp.gatech.edu>. You should check frequently for updated information about deadlines and award cycles. Agencies such as NIH have modified the guidance that was provided immediately after the shutdown and the situation at many agencies continues to evolve.

If you have additional questions about grants, contracts, proposals, etc., please contact your OSP contracting officer directly, using the directory that can be found at: <http://www.osp.gatech.edu/directory-assignments/>.

As you can see, this remains a fluid situation, so we are still asking that everyone at Georgia Tech continue to preserve and conserve wherever possible. For instance, you may want to delay expenses that do not need to be made immediately until after the federal government comes to a permanent agreement regarding its FY14 budget.

Thank you for your patience as we work through this situation. As always, don't hesitate to contact my office if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephen E. Curra in black ink.