Colleagues –

As you know, the federal government has put in place a budget cut, known as “sequestration,” that will impact some federally funded areas—including research and development in academia—and will be rolled out via funding agencies over the course of several months.

The full impact of these reductions will differ from agency to agency and will not be realized until the end of April. However, in preparation for changes that may relate to Northeastern, key members of the university administration have been working on a strategic response to offset any impact on projects, faculty and staff whose work may be subject to reductions by their respective funding agencies.

While the cuts will not touch the Pell Grant program and will not impact Northeastern students for now, planning is underway to offset any future change.

The university’s initial plan to minimize the sequestration’s impact on various units focuses on the period of March 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013. Further planning is also underway as the sequestration is expected to roll out through September 30, 2013, the end of the federal fiscal year.

Additionally, Northeastern’s government relations officials are active in Washington D.C. working with our congressional delegations, advocating to minimize the impact of sequestration and pushing for its reversal.

Northeastern received more than $104 million in externally funded research in FY 2012, more than double the amount received in FY 2006. We have made significant investments in use-inspired research through our faculty hiring efforts and an extensive expansion of research space.

Accelerating our research enterprise is a top priority for the institution and our research efforts will continue even as the funding landscape becomes more challenging.

We will continue to provide timely updates on our efforts as appropriate and necessary. In the meantime, if you or your staffs have questions or concerns, please consult with your dean or department head.

Sincerely,

Melvin Bernstein
Senior Vice Provost for Research & Graduate Education