

Astrophysical Research Consortium Indirect Cost Policy

3.5m Telescope Program and SDSS Policy on Indirect Costs

The 3.5m telescope program, from its beginnings in the mid 1980's, and the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS), from its beginnings in the early 1990's, have had a policy whereby the substantial in-kind contributions from their various participating institutions have been carried out at cost, i.e., without any institutional overhead or indirect cost. In particular, overhead and indirect cost are not counted towards the buy-in costs for institutional membership. The one exception to this policy is New Mexico State University, which has the site contract to the observatory and plays a key role in purchasing support and insurance coverage for the observatory. For SDSS, this policy is described in the "Procedures for Obtaining Membership in SDSS-V" (<http://www.sdss.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/sdss5-joining-2017-05-15-a.pdf>), and has been written into the Memoranda of Understanding between Astrophysical Research Consortium (ARC) and each of the member institutions. It has significantly reduced the overall budgets of the 3.5m telescope program and SDSS; indeed, without this very generous contribution from the member institutions, the SDSS may not have been financially viable, and may not have been nearly as successful as it is.

In this spirit, the following shall be the Indirect Cost policy for the 3.5m telescope program and SDSS:

No 3.5m telescope program member, nor any SDSS institution, with the exception of the host institution of Apache Point Observatory, shall charge overhead or indirect costs (IDC) on ARC-funding contracts (for the 3.5 m telescope program or Sloan Survey Project agreements) for work done as part of these programs. This includes in-kind contributions that are done as part of the buy-in costs for these programs and hardware and software development included in the Directors' budgets. Thus each institution that will use ARC funds must obtain an IDC waiver from their sponsored projects office, and this agreement will be written into the Memorandum of Understanding between ARC and the institution.

Contacts

Questions related to the interpretation of this policy should be directed to the ARC Secretary/Treasurer.

Effective Date

November 6, 2017