Update on the Research Enterprise

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8 AM Meeting

September 14, 2020

Office of the
Vice President for Research

Research ramp up planning committees

Lightning Committee

- Constituted on April 9, 2020
- Focusing on laboratory facilities and equipment for research that cannot be done remotely
- 23 members of faculty and staff
- Chair: Tyler Jacks

Thunder Committee

- Constituted on June 17, 2020
- Focusing on issues regarding human subject research (on and off campus), accessing and using tangible collections, and analysis of restricted data sets that must be analyzed on campus
- 16 members of faculty and staff
- Chair: Chris Bourg

Photo by Michał Mancewicz on Unsplash

A community effort

Thunder Committee

Lightning Committee

Office of the VPR

MIT Facilities

Campus Space Contingency Working Group

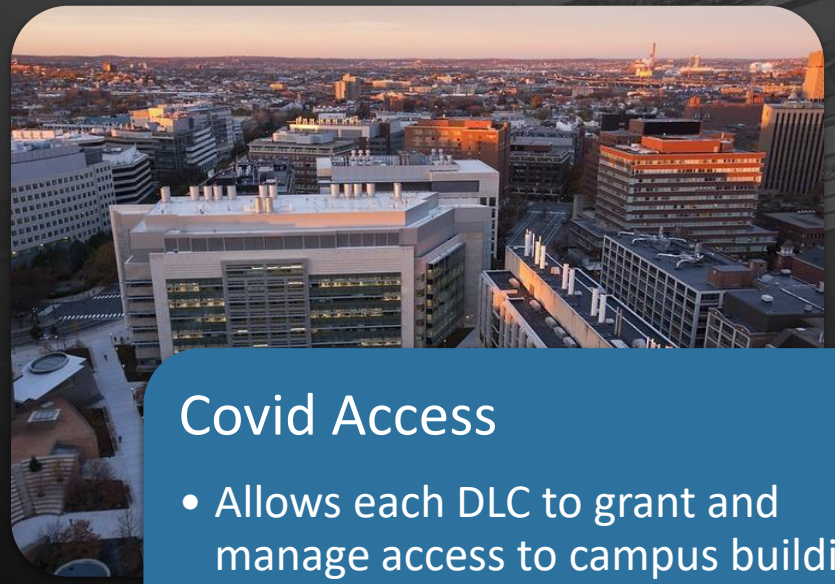
Legal, Ethical and Equity Committee

IS&T

Environment, Health & Safety

MIT Medical

Compliance with campus access protocols is key



Covid Access

- Allows each DLC to grant and manage access to campus buildings
- Allocation types allow for specific protocols for type of access needed
- Access activated through MIT ID card

Covid Pass

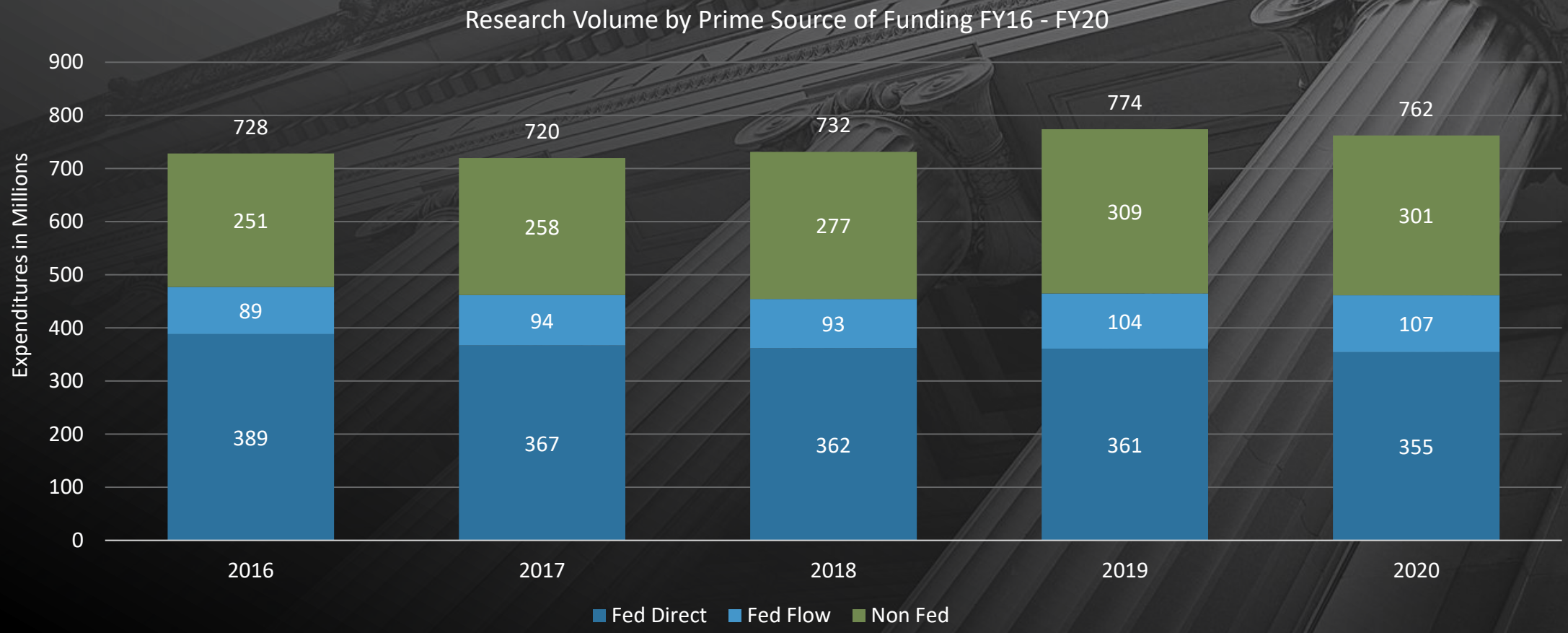
- Application used to manage requirements for accessing campus: acknowledgement form, daily health attestation, any needed training and Covid testing
- Online and mobile versions available

A gradual process for return to campus research

System Design & Building Access Pilot	Laboratory Researchers (faculty, students & staff) Only @ 10% capacity
Testing Building Density & System Refinement	Laboratory Researchers Only @ 25% capacity
Expanding Capacity & Testing Capabilities	Laboratory Researchers Only @ 50% capacity
Final Refinements in Preparation for Fall Semester	Laboratory & Non-laboratory Researchers @ 50% capacity
Onboarding for Fall Semester	Laboratory & Non-laboratory Researchers @ 50% capacity + Invited Undergraduate Students

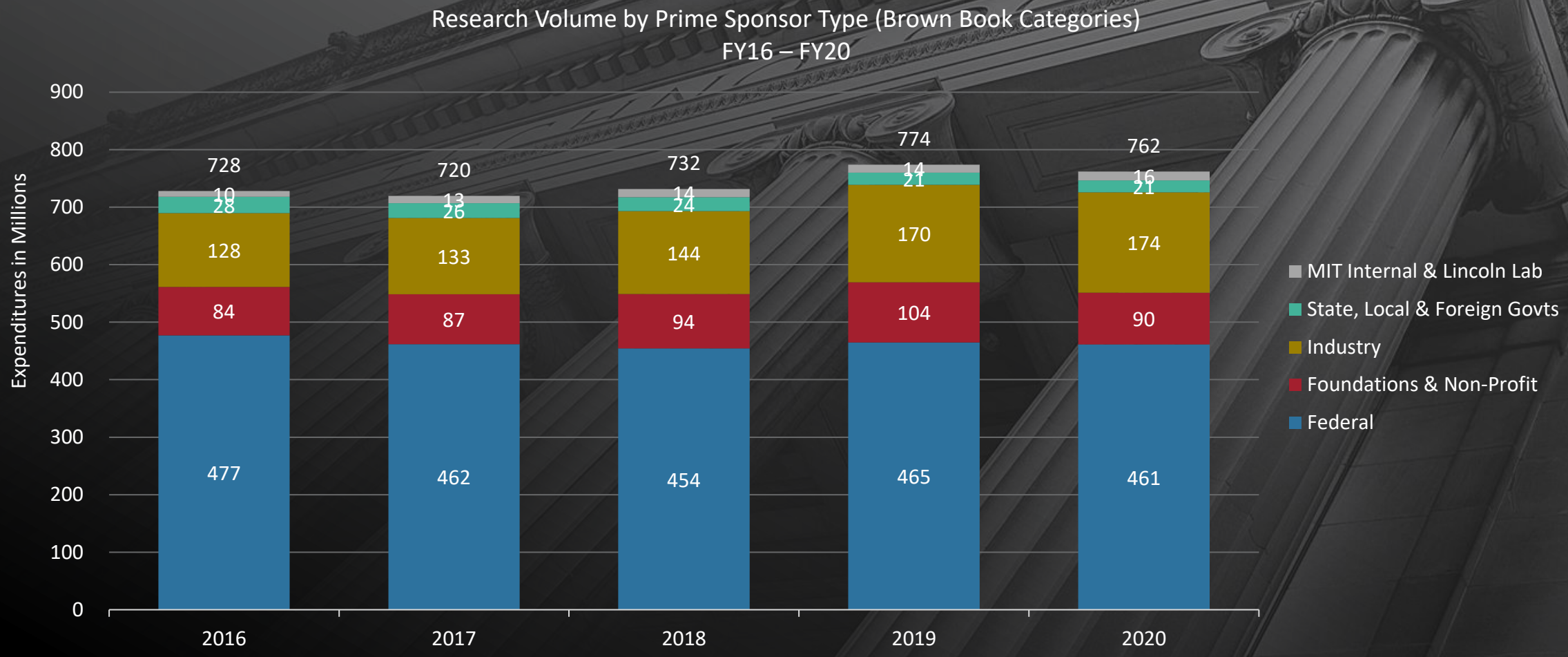
All research that can be done remotely continues to be done remotely

Pandemic impact on campus research expenditures: 1.5% decline at FY2020 close



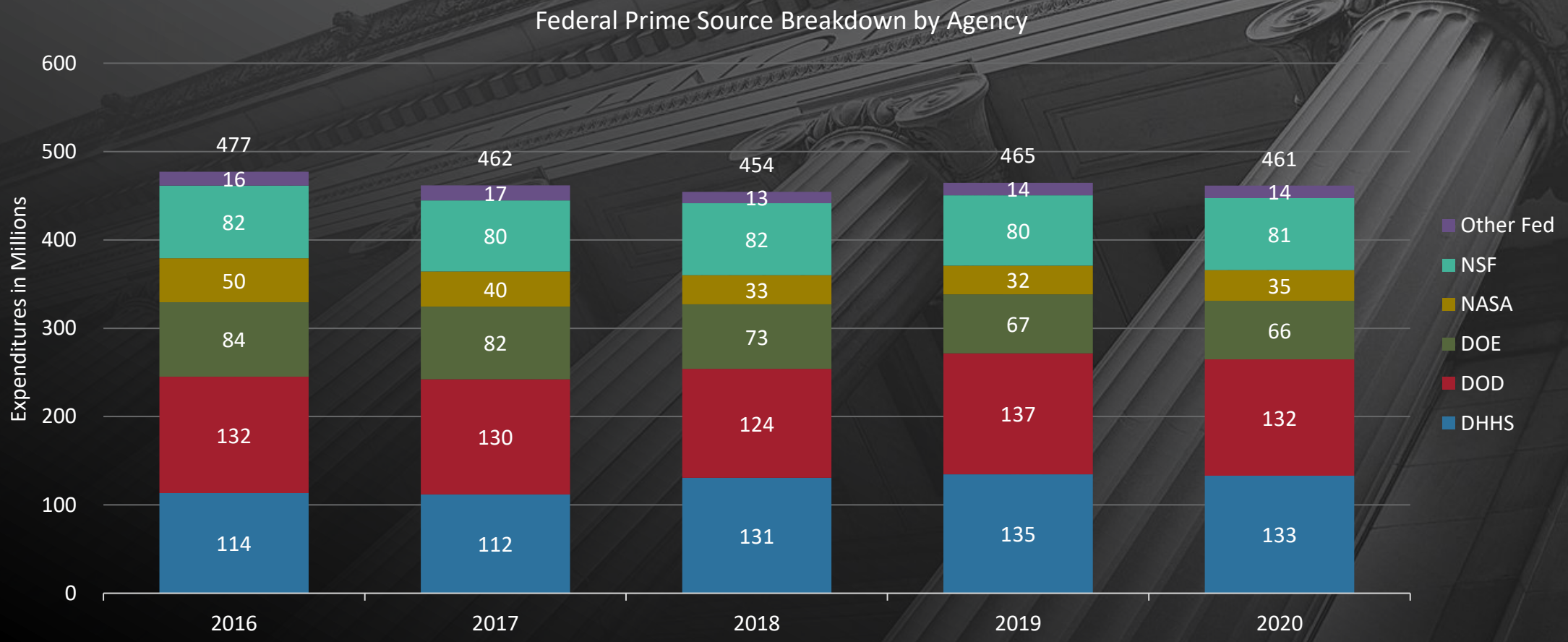
A more granular look

Industry expenditures were up 2%, Foundations and Non-Profits were down 13%

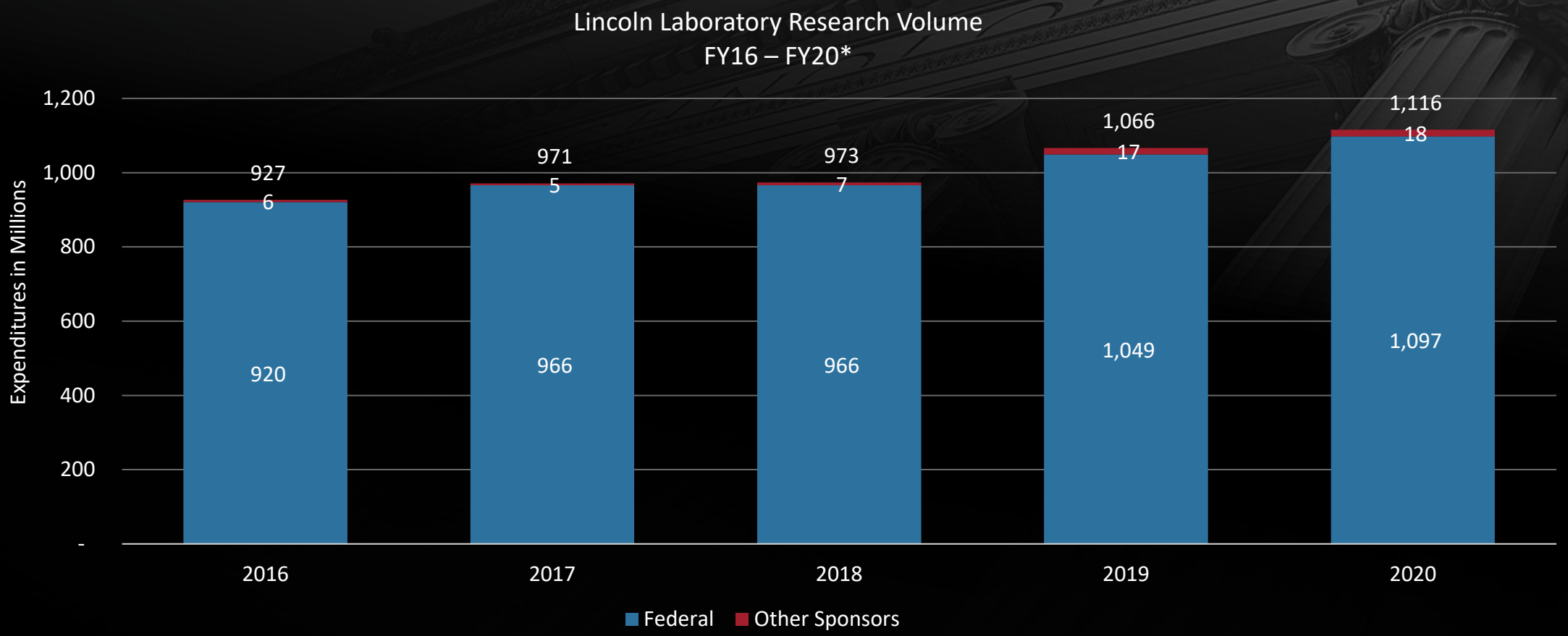


Change in federal research expenditures by agency

DOD, DHHS and DOE expenditures down, NASA and NSF expenditures up

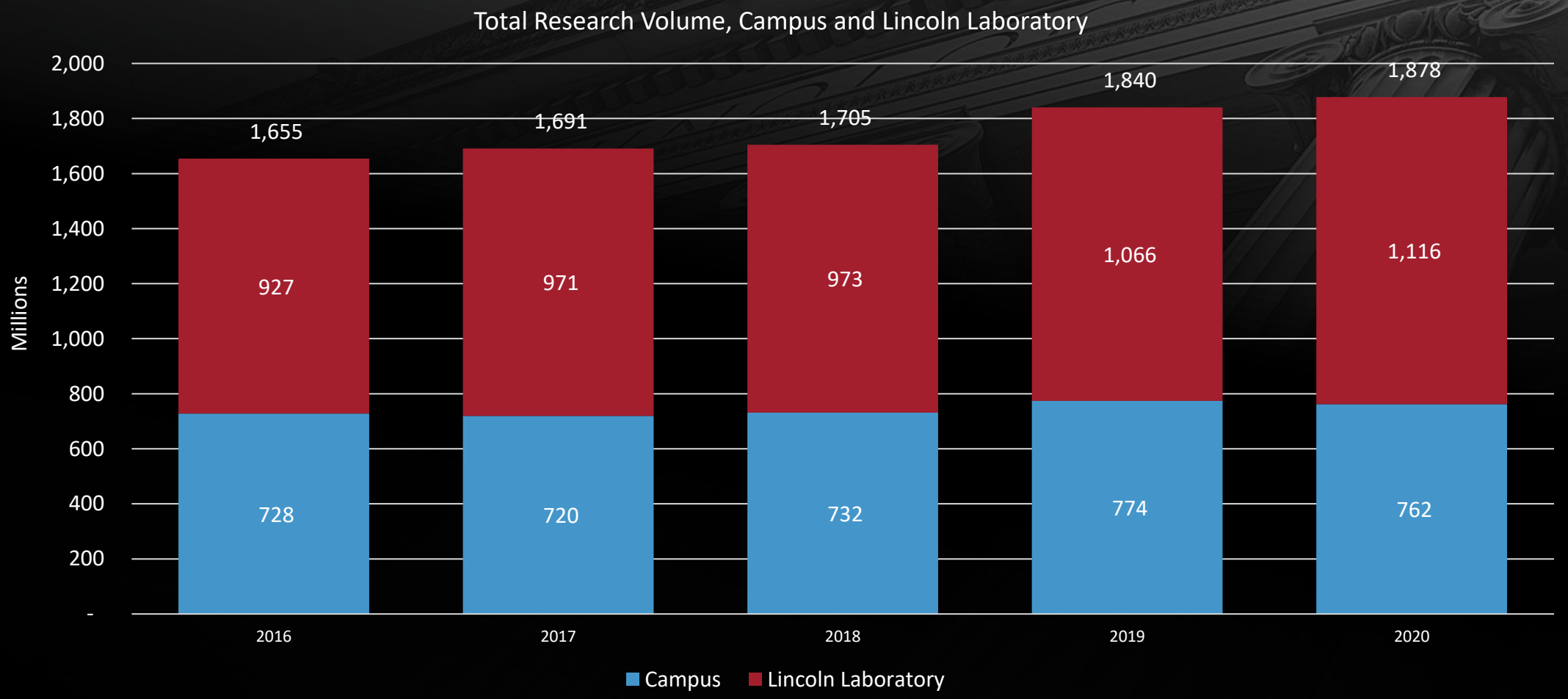
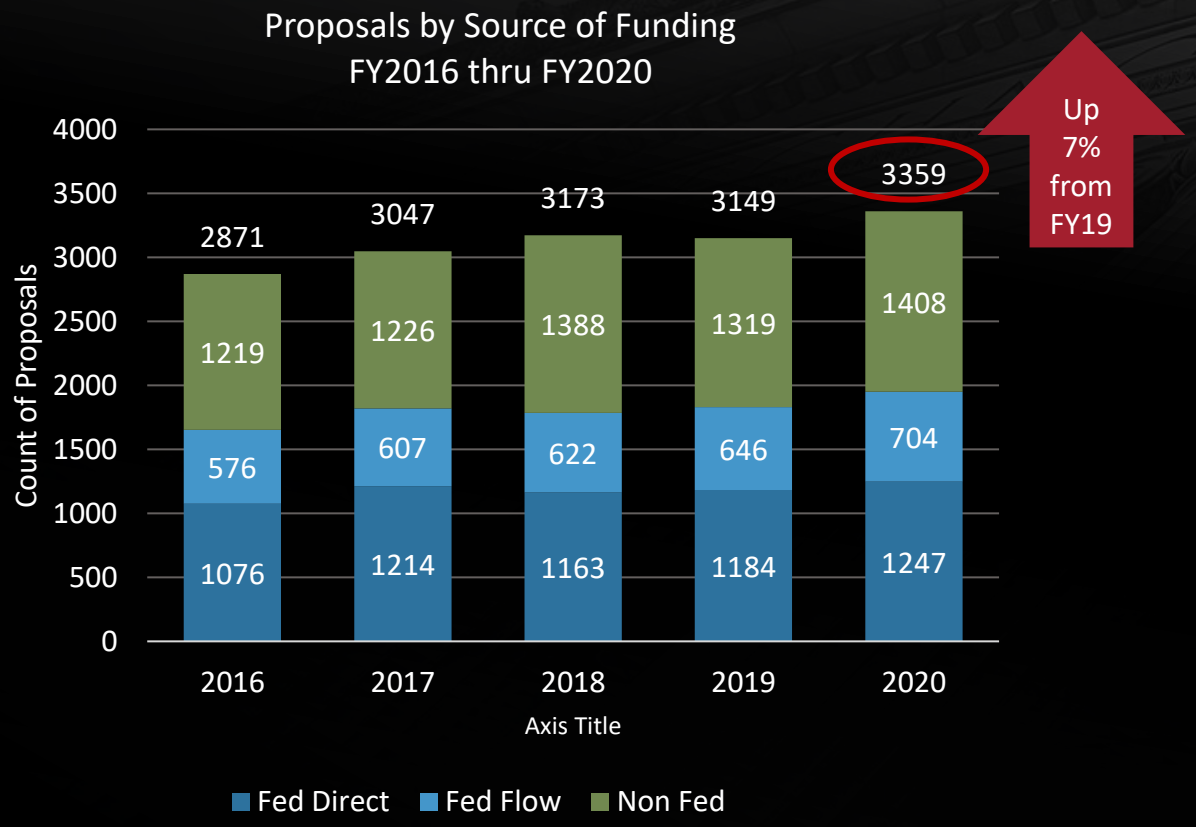
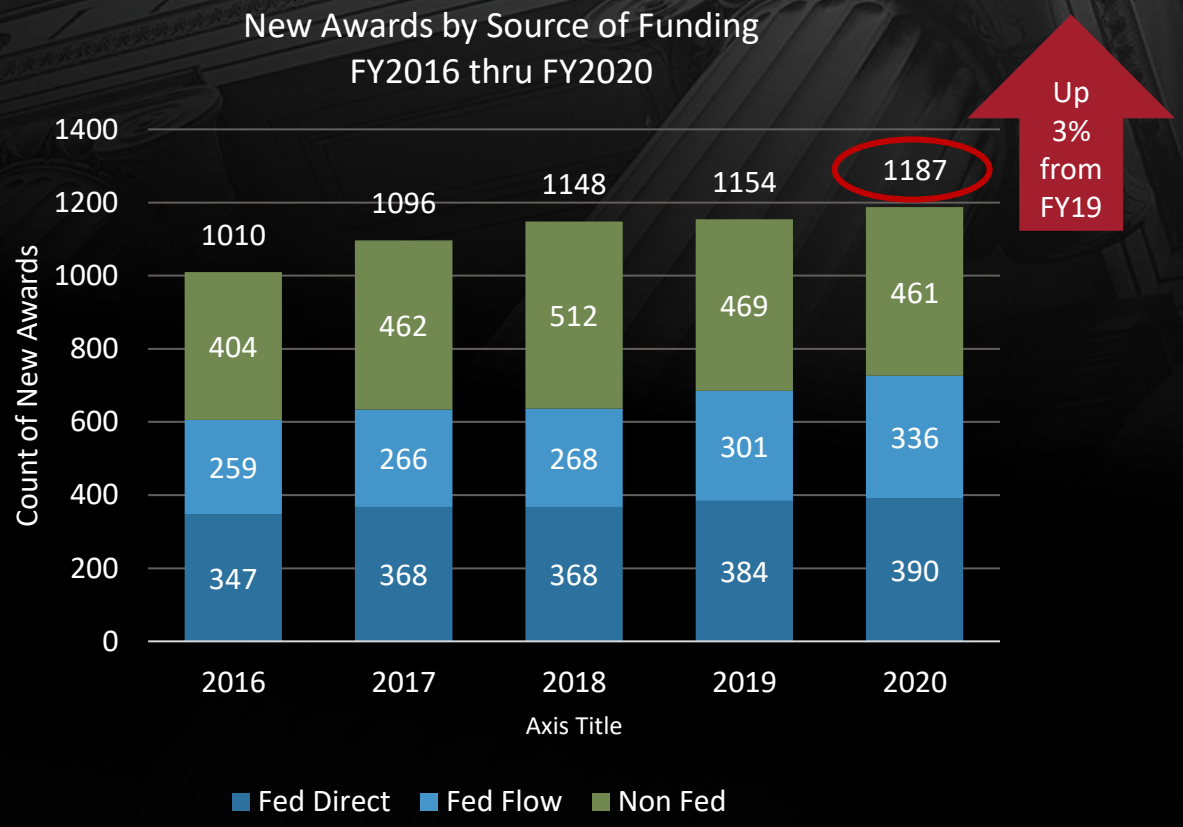


Lincoln Laboratory expenditures increased by 5%



* Based on Brown Book data. FY20 data is not yet published.

Total research expenditures increased by 2%



Campus proposals and new awards increased in FY2020