To effectively interpret and apply the various regulations related to a federal grant funded project, it is helpful to consider the regulations as levels of a pyramid, as illustrated below. The order of precedence starts with University Policy, and then each level of regulation is applied to determine the applicable rule. **In most cases, the more conservative or restrictive rule of all the levels apply.** If assistance is needed in determining the appropriate set of regulations for a specific policy or compliance issue, Project Directors are encouraged to contact their Program Officer at the sponsoring agency for guidance.

When the rules DO NOT conflict, the most conservative or restrictive rule applies.