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Faculty Forum : Research and Graduate Education – Update

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Research and Graduate Studies Faculty Forum



Carol Kim

*Vice President for Research
Dean of the Graduate School*



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

Celebrating 150 years



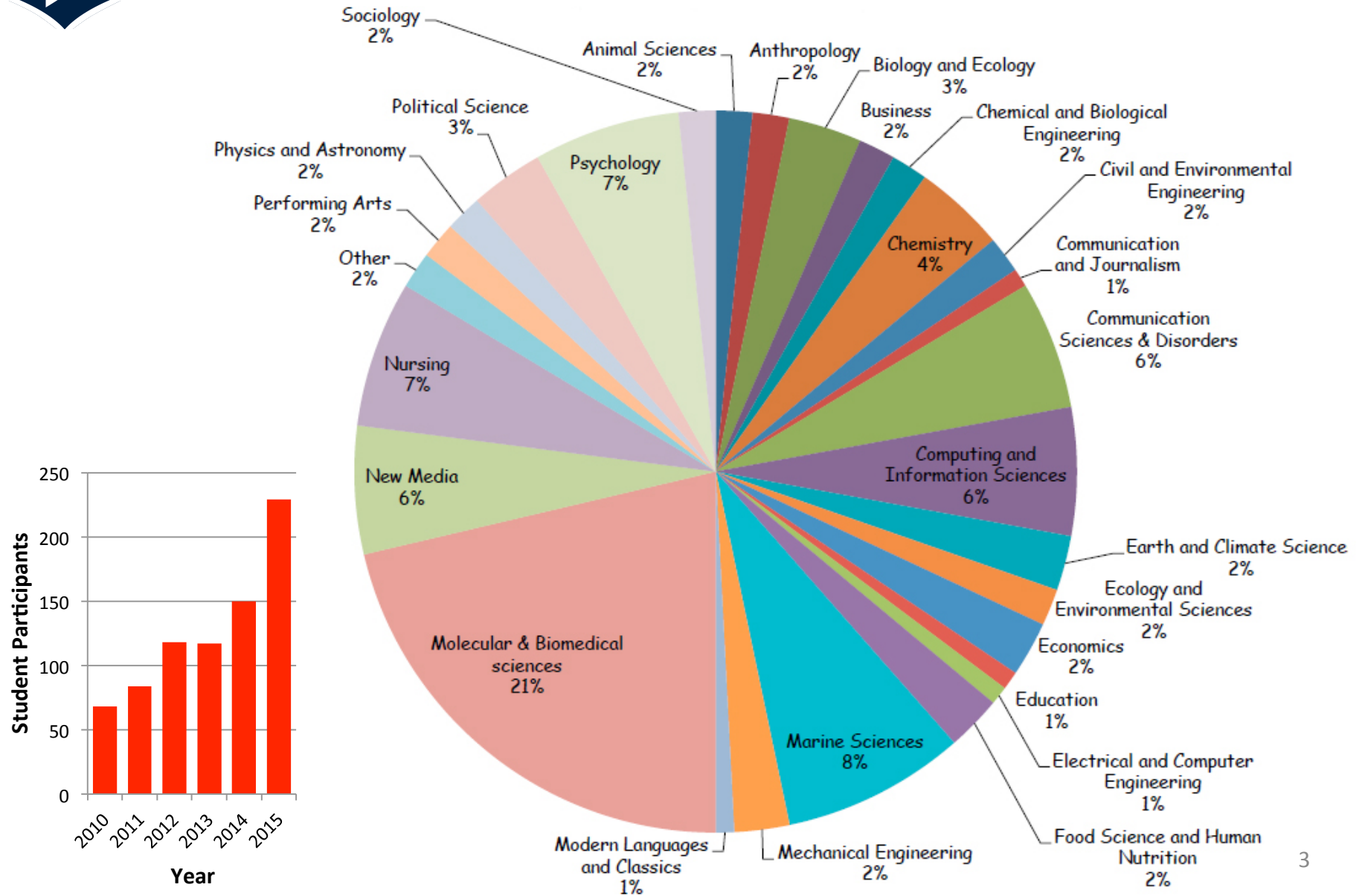
UMaine's Unique Mission



- State of Maine Land Grant and Sea Grant Institution
 - unique tripartite mission: **Research**, Teaching and Outreach
- Flagship campus of the University of Maine System
 - research infrastructure has been developed over a period of 150 years
- Distinction within a “one university” system is its research and graduate programs.
- Primary Ph.D. granting institution in the State



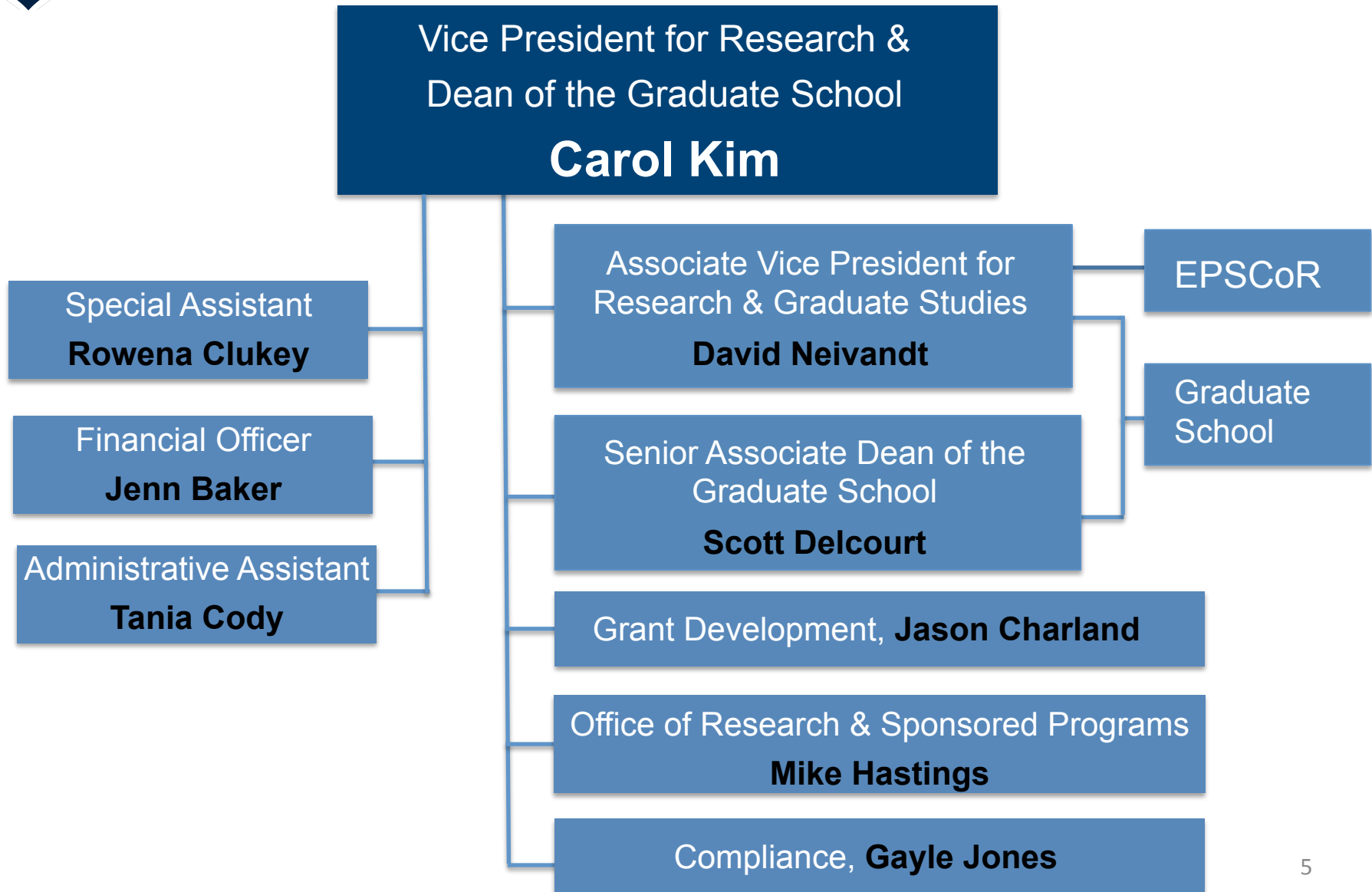
Undergraduate Research & Scholarship



Research Snapshot



Research & Graduate School Organization





Research Productivity FY 2015

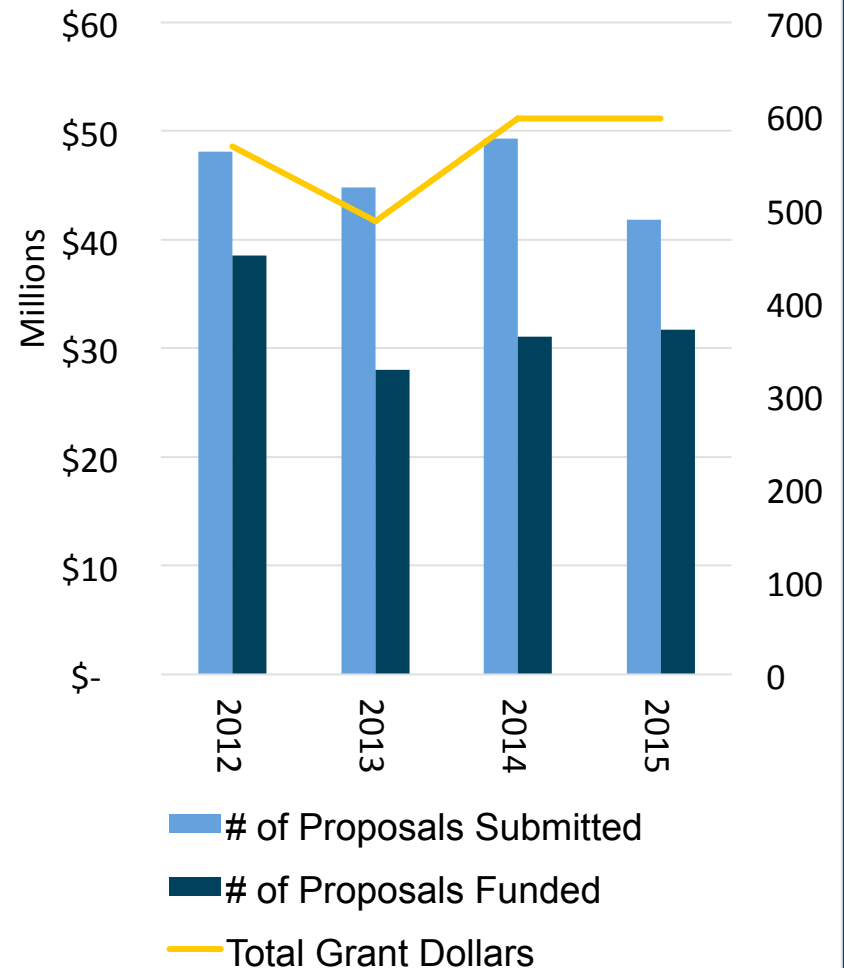
FY2015

488 Proposals submitted

370 Awards received

Total of
\$51,134,092
from external
sponsor grants and
contracts

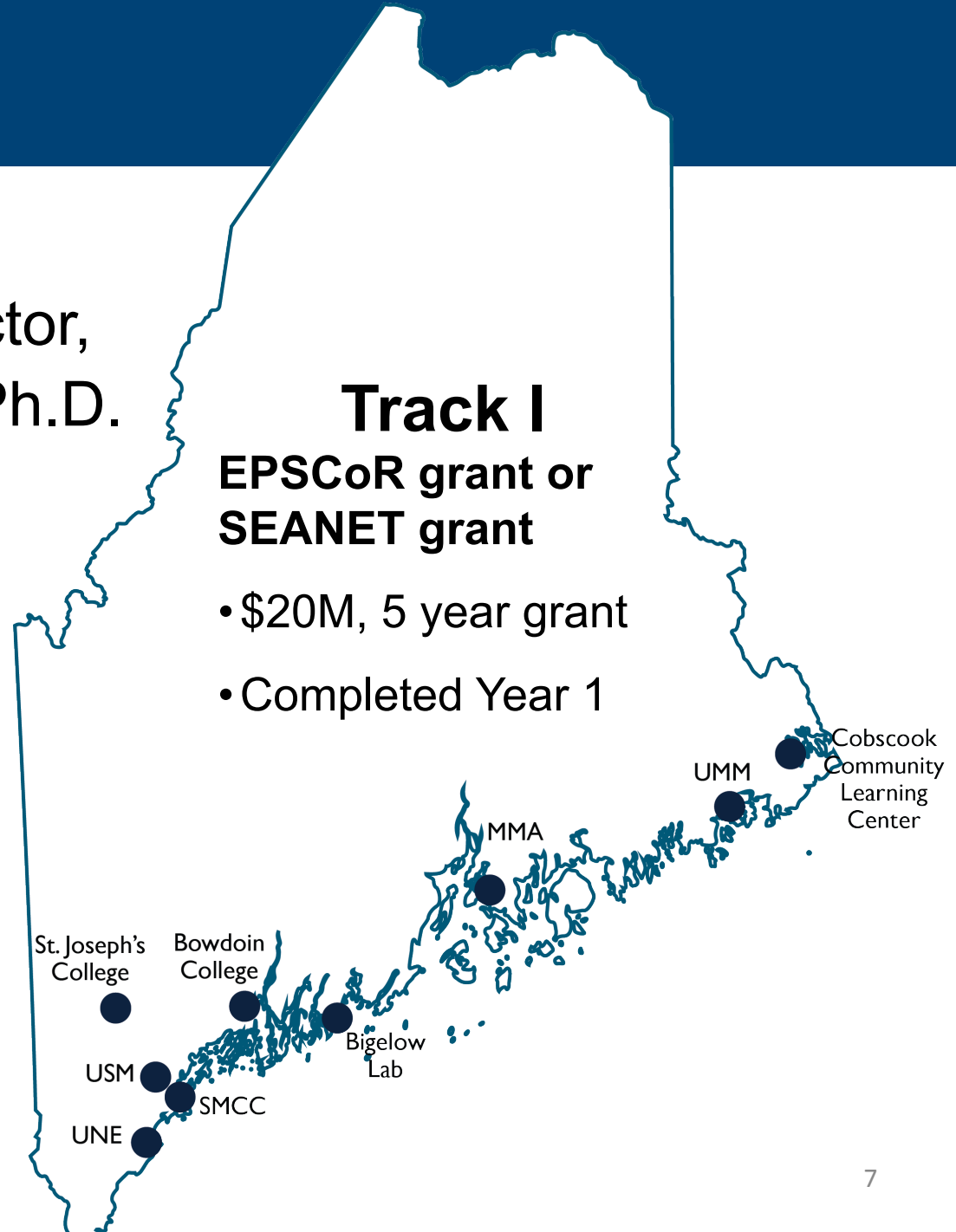
Grantsmanship Activity FY12-FY15





EPSCoR

- New EPSCoR Director, Shane Moeykens, Ph.D.
- **Track II EPSCoR**
New England Sustainability Consortium or NEST grant
 - Completing last year of grant





Research Reinvestment Funds (RRF)

Purpose: to strengthen research and development activities tied to Maine businesses and industries that are critical to the future of Maine.



Acadia Harvest Inc.



Board of Trustees (BOT) committed \$10.5MM (2.1MM/year for 5 years) from savings accruing from the UMS Administrative Reviews.



Research Reinvestment Funds (RRF)

- **Seed grants \$50,000 to \$100,000**
 - Ten multidisciplinary projects awarded, ~\$850,000
 - Funded projects expected to submit applications to federal, state or commercial sources by November, 2017
 - Second round anticipated for March 21, 2016
- **Planning Grants**
 - \$50,000 for groups to meet and plan in thematic areas

RRF GA Competition

- Provides funding for graduate assistants to work with UMS faculty on research projects
- Supports a 1-yr \$20,000 stipend
- PI covers tuition and 50% of the health insurance for GA
- Supports eligible graduate students enrolled at a UMS institution
- Deadline for proposal submissions - January 4, 2016
- Assistantships begin in AY2017 (September 2016)



Signature and Emerging Areas of Excellence

Signature Areas

Forestry and the Environment

Marine Sciences

STEM Education

Climate Change

Advanced Materials for
Infrastructure and Energy

College of Engineering

Honors College



Emerging Areas

Graduate School of Biomedical
Science and Engineering

Northeastern Americas:
Humanities Research and
Education

Data Science and Engineering

Sustainability Solutions and
Technologies

Aging Research

Finance Education



Celebrating Scholarship



- April 21, 2015
- More than 80 faculty honored research and creative achievement
- 28 different units were represented
- Featured exhibits highlighting UMaine faculty scholarship from 2011-2014, including research, books, and visual and performing arts

New Initiatives

Priority 1. Increase Grant Funding to \$55M by FY18

Priority 2. Increase Graduate Enrollment



New Initiatives

1.

**Increase
Grant
Funding
to \$55M
by FY18**

Strengths

- Excellent faculty, active in research
- Strong research infrastructure
- Identification of Signature and Emerging areas
- High quality Graduate School
- Reorganization of research and graduate studies



New Initiatives

1.

**Increase
Grant
Funding
to \$55M
by FY18**

Challenges

- Faculty attrition
- High undergraduate teaching loads, impacting research productivity
- Federal funding becoming more competitive and difficult to obtain



New Initiatives

1.

**Increase
Grant
Funding
to \$55M
by FY18**

Strategy - Indirect Cost Return

- Incentivize faculty
- Portion of indirect costs to be returned to faculty, departments, centers, colleges, etc.
- \$8.3M in IDC used to fill structural gap in budget
- FY17 \$500,000 returned to faculty who generate the IDC
- In the future, any amount over \$8.3M will be distributed, in addition to the \$500K



New Initiatives

1.
Increase
Grant
Funding
to \$55M
by FY18

Strategy – Grant Development Office

- Assist faculty with proposal development
- Re-submission strategic support
- Identify targeted funding opportunities
- Grantsmanship training

Priority areas

- Signature and Emerging Areas of Excellence
- Re-submissions
- Junior faculty grantsmanship support
- Limited competition finalists
- Large multi-investigator grants (e.g. EPSCoR or CoBRE)



New Initiatives

1.

**Increase
Grant
Funding
to \$55M
by FY18**

Strategy – New Graduate Assistants

- Additional support to graduate students and increase the University's research capacity
- Research Reinvestment Funds (UMS-wide projects)
- Coke (targeted to Signature and Emerging areas)



New Initiatives

1.

**Increase
Grant
Funding
to \$55M
by FY18**

Strategy - Shared Technicians

- Central pool of technicians
- Available to the campus community
- Skill set matched to the needs of the campus
- Faculty/Unit charged for technician time used (the goal is cost recovery)
- Provides ready access on an as-needed basis
- Provides greater job security



New Initiatives

**1.
Increase
Grant
Funding
to \$55M
by FY18**

Strategy - Research Faculty

- Appointments do not carry tenure but they do carry obligations to secure their own salary.
- Offers significant potential for enhancing future research support
- Would hold 9-month appointments with comparable faculty rank and seniority
- Research Faculty who are 100% soft money
 - 25% of indirect costs recovered from grants returned for research



New Initiatives

2.

Increase Graduate Enrollment

Strengths

- Reorganization of research and graduate studies
- Improved collaboration with VPEM, Office of International Programs, Office of Undergraduate Admission, and Division of Lifelong Learning
- Online master's and certificate programs for working professionals at a discounted tuition rate



New Initiatives

2.

Increase Graduate Enrollment

Challenges

- Few resources for recruitment and marketing
- Decentralized nature of graduate admissions presents challenges for communication and timely decision-making
- Increased competition in revenue-generating professional graduate programs
- Competition in the international student market



New Initiatives

2.

**Increase
Graduate
Enrollment**

Strategy- Streamlined Prospect Communications

- Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)
- Website
 - Develop recruitment-centric information
 - Update to University Wordpress template
 - Aid departments in updates to webpages
- Departmental communications
 - Develop consistent communication timeframes
 - Shorten decision-making timelines for completed applications



New Initiatives

2.

**Increase
Graduate
Enrollment**

Strategy- Direct Marketing

- Namebuys
- System Outreach
- Alumni Outreach
- Tabling events & Fairs



New Initiatives

2.

**Increase
Graduate
Enrollment**

Strategy- International Initiatives

- Outsource international recruitment
- Increase conference and seminar participation at national and international levels
- Assess admission pipelines, target markets, and internal limitations to international recruitment



New Initiatives

2.

**Increase
Graduate
Enrollment**

Strategy- Programmatic Initiative

- Conduct assessment of current and competing 4+1 programs
 - identify gaps and opportunities
- Continue to support departments as they develop dual degree options
- Continue to support departments and UMaine online



New Initiatives

2.

**Increase
Graduate
Enrollment**

Strategy- Shared Teaching Assistants

- Preserve instructional capacity in units
- Ensure best research experience
- Plan increases availability of financial support
- Since the teaching unit may nominate students, the plan does not limit research capacity in the teaching unit.



New Initiatives

2.

**Increase
Graduate
Enrollment**

Strategy- UMS Doctoral Teaching Fellows (*proposed*)

- Classroom teaching experience
- Support and teaching experience for UMaine doctoral students while meeting the teaching needs (sabbatical replacement) of other UMS campuses.



New Initiatives

Systemwide Aging Initiative

- Visited UMS campuses to discuss Aging Initiative
- Kick-off Event: August 25, 2015
- Wells Conference Center
- All campuses were represented
- >100 people attended
- Presentations from UMS campuses
- Discussion groups/Break out sessions

Research Video