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
Research Snapshot
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

- # of Proposals Submitted
- # of Proposals Funded
- Total Grant Dollars

2012: $50 Million
2013: $40 Million
2014: $50 Million
2015: $60 Million
New EPSCoR Director, Shane Moeykens, Ph.D.

**Track II** EPSCoR New England Sustainability Consortium or NEST grant

- Completing last year of grant

**Track I** EPSCoR grant or SEANET grant

- $20M, 5 year grant
- Completed Year 1
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.

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
• 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)
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

Strategy - Shared Technicians

1. Increase Grant Funding to $55M by FY18

- 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
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

1. Increase Grant Funding to $55M by FY18
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
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
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
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
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
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.
Systemwide Aging Initiative

- Visited UMS campuses to discuss Aging Initiative
- Wells Conference Center
- All campuses were represented
- >100 people attended
- Presentations from UMS campuses
- Discussion groups/Break out sessions
Research Video