

# Research Council

Minutes for meeting of November 17, 2025, 4:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

Chair: Dr. Linda Walters, Vice-Chair: Dr. David Luna

**1. Call to Order** at 4:02pm

**2. Roll call** was replaced with noting people as they entered the Zoom meeting. In attendance were: Walters, Luna, Toro, Major, Dykstra, Miller, Yalim, Kinchen, Johnson, Vilanova, Kim, Listengarten, Mendonca, Guldi, Kapucu, Hua, Lighthall, Terra, Delfyett, Norris, French, Kuebler, Duranceau, Jurca, Kean, Jensen, Schoenfeld, Ge.

**3. Approval of Minutes.** Minutes from 10/27/25 meeting were approved.

**4. Recognition of guests.** Marc Mendonca (Associate Vice President for Research and Scholarship), Winston V. Schoenfeld (Vice President for Research), Natalia Toro (Director, Office of Undergraduate Research).

**5. Announcements:** No announcements were made.

**6. Old Business.** No old business was discussed.

**7. New Business:** Discussion on 3 topics during this meeting.

*UCF Policy under review: #4-215.2, Use of Research Space by Third Parties and UCF Employees for non-UCF Purposes*

Council input on previous draft was incorporated into new draft. OR solicits new comments on the revision.

Lighthall: Sometimes space is not associated with academic units. A method is requested so third parties can easily find the governing units that are responsible for specific spaces. For example, a list of contacts for each space.

*Undergraduate Research Programs*

Dr. Toro provided an overview of the programs at UCF. Some points include:

- 10% of undergraduates say they have conducted research at UCF.
- Many of the freshmen who initially say they would like to participate in research do not actually participate.

- It is difficult for students to find research opportunities in some disciplines (e.g., biomed, psychology).
- Some areas are underrepresented (e.g., arts/humanities, business, others).
- UCF has adapted the Texas A&M model for launching the Knights Research Program. Some features of this program are:
  - Lower barriers for undergraduates to participate in research
  - Increased capacity through mentorships by graduate students and postdocs.

Kean: How can PI's be supported given the significant effort that comes with participation?

Toro: No funding is available but students can apply for grants.

Luna: One possible way to increase faculty involvement would be to provide course buyouts for X number of students mentored (e.g., 3 credits for every 10 students).

Toro: Announces Research Week, March 23-27.

[see Appendix 1 for relevant links to undergraduate research program]

#### Office of Research Updates

Dr. Schoenfeld presents a summary of metrics, goals, and a summary of internal research funding opportunities. Some key points include:

In 2022, UCF was falling short in progress toward 2030 goals regarding research expenditures. Several strategic initiatives and strategies were created to address that gap. As a result, by 2024 growth accelerated, to put us on track to be able to meet those goals.

UCF has exceeded research requirements for pre-eminence within the SUS.

We receive grants from a wide array of agencies—thus diversifying our risk of impact from shifting priorities in any specific agency.

Awards and proposals are up year over year.

We have a sustained number of patents generated (UCF is top 20 in the world).

Seed Funding: Dr. Schoenfeld requests reporting on how those awards lead to external funding or publications. This is helpful for continued commitments from UCF.

AAU-eligibility: In order to become AAU-eligible, UCF faculty needs to receive more prestigious awards. Dr. Schoenfeld suggests that UCF faculty should be nominated for these awards.

Brief summary of several OR programs. Dr. Schoenfeld asks Council to provide ideas for these or other programs/awards:

- Seed Funding (\$500k, 2 Tiers: <\$20k, \$20-50k): Partitioning into 2 tiers seemed to work well.
- Faculty Mentoring Program: Faculty are becoming more interested in these programs.
- NSF CAREER | DoD YFA | NIH Mentoring Programs: Expanded to Department of Defense.
- Grant Writing Academy: This is helpful for researchers coming directly from graduate programs or postdocs who may not have substantial training in grant writing.
- Industry Readiness Program: Growing interest among faculty
- FHTC Match Program: These are opportunities for significant impact through industry partnerships.
- Luminary Awards: These are impact-based.

Kean: How does UCF compare to others regarding internal awards?

Schoenfeld: We provide less support than others (e.g., Indiana University), but overall we are aligned with our peers in total support, although UCF probably underinvests in SEED funding.

Mendonca: Confirms that we are funding SEED to a lower level than others.

Walters: Does UCF have a plan to support open access publications institutionally?

Schoenfeld: This would be too expensive, although it does drive impact. Given budget constraints, we have to prioritize SEED funding.

[see Appendix 2 for slide deck provided by Dr. Schoenfeld]

**8. Other Business:** No other business was discussed.

**9. Adjournment** at 5:04 pm.

## Appendix 1

Knight Research Scholars Program

[Project List - Knight Research Scholars Program](#)

Office of Undergraduate Research (Current Researchers Resources)

[Current Researchers - Undergraduate Research](#)

Student Research Week Website

[Student Research Week - Student Research Week](#)

## Appendix 2



# Faculty Senate Research Council

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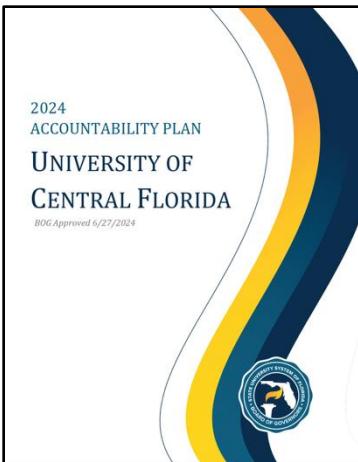
Winston V. Schoenfeld, *Vice President for Research & Innovation*

Marc Mendonca, *Associate Vice President for Research & Scholarship*

# Key Metrics & Goals | Discovery and Exploration



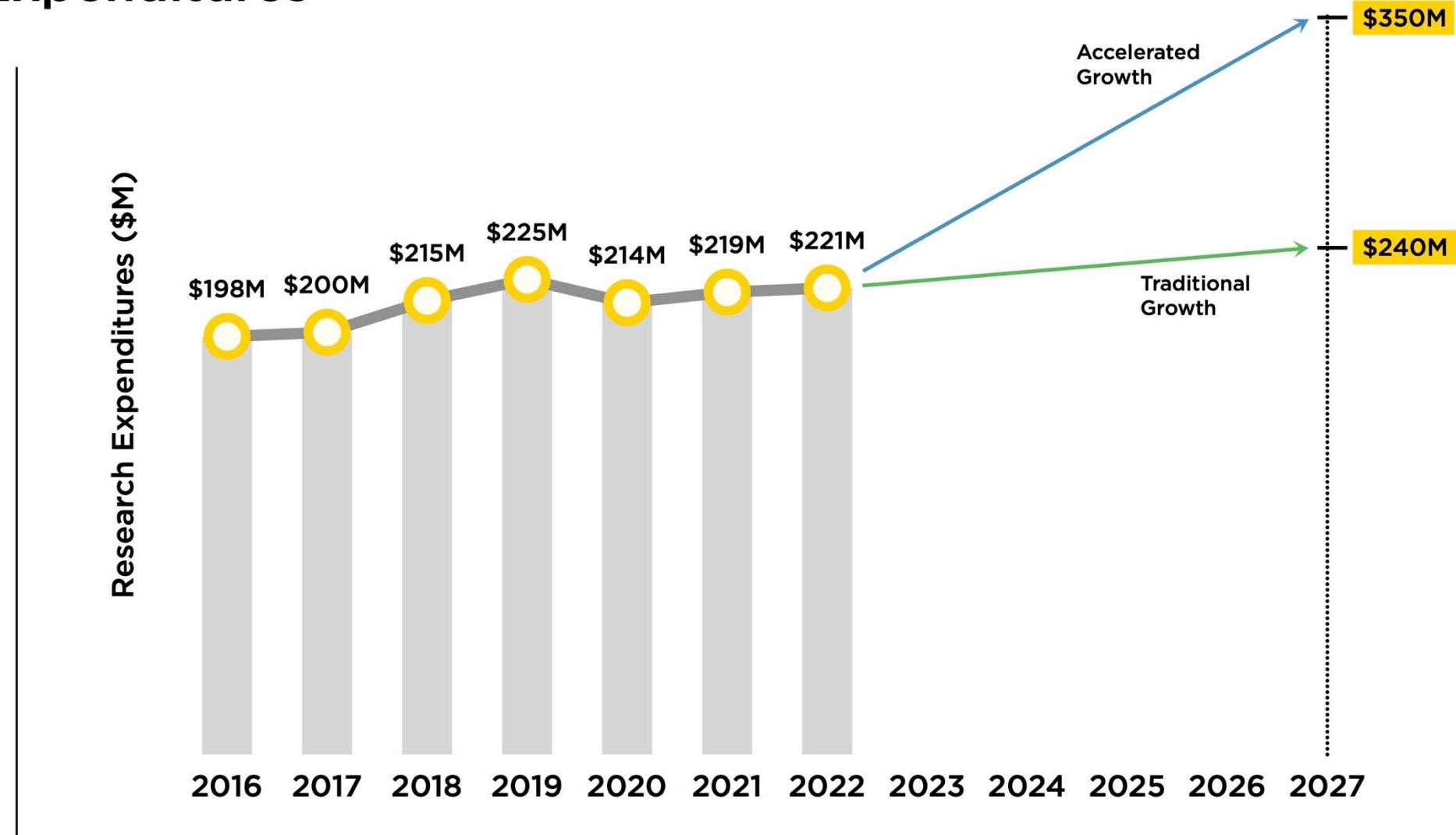
UCF Strategic Plan Metric / KPI	FY22	2027 Goal
Research & Development Expenditures (\$/yr)	\$221M	\$350M
<b>Number of Patents Awarded (#/yr)</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>55</b>
Licenses and Options Executed (#/yr)	32	36
Number of Start-up Companies Created (#/yr)	2	6
Post-doctoral Appointees (Fall Count)	152	225



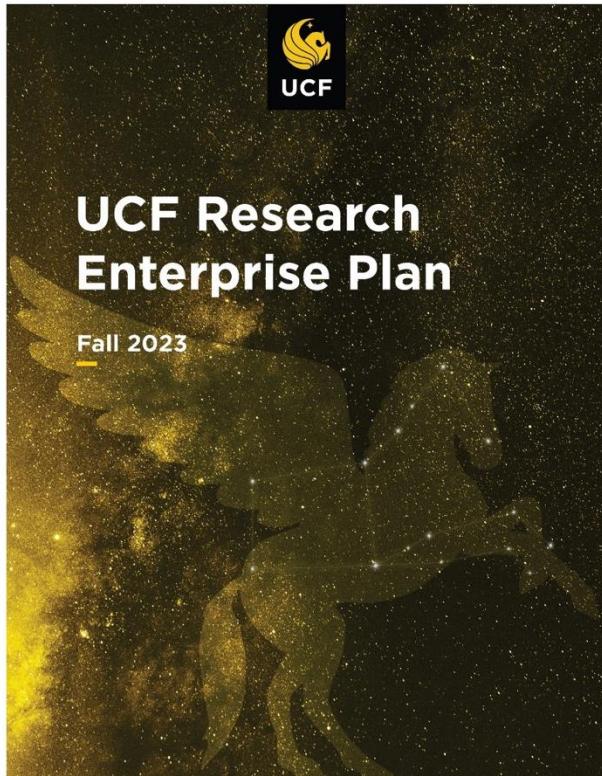
FL SUS Preeminence Metric / KPI	FY22	Requirement
Science & Engineering Research Expenditures (\$/yr)	\$186M	\$200M
Non-Medical Sci & Eng Research Expenditures (\$/yr)	\$167M	\$150M
STEM Disciplines with Top-100 Research Expenditures	<u>6 of 8</u>	5 of 8
Patents Awarded (over 3-year period)	<u>157</u>	100
National Academy Memberships	<u>8</u>	6
Post-doctoral Appointees (Fall Count)	152	200

# UCF Research Expenditures

**Accelerated Growth**  
necessary to realize  
2027 goals

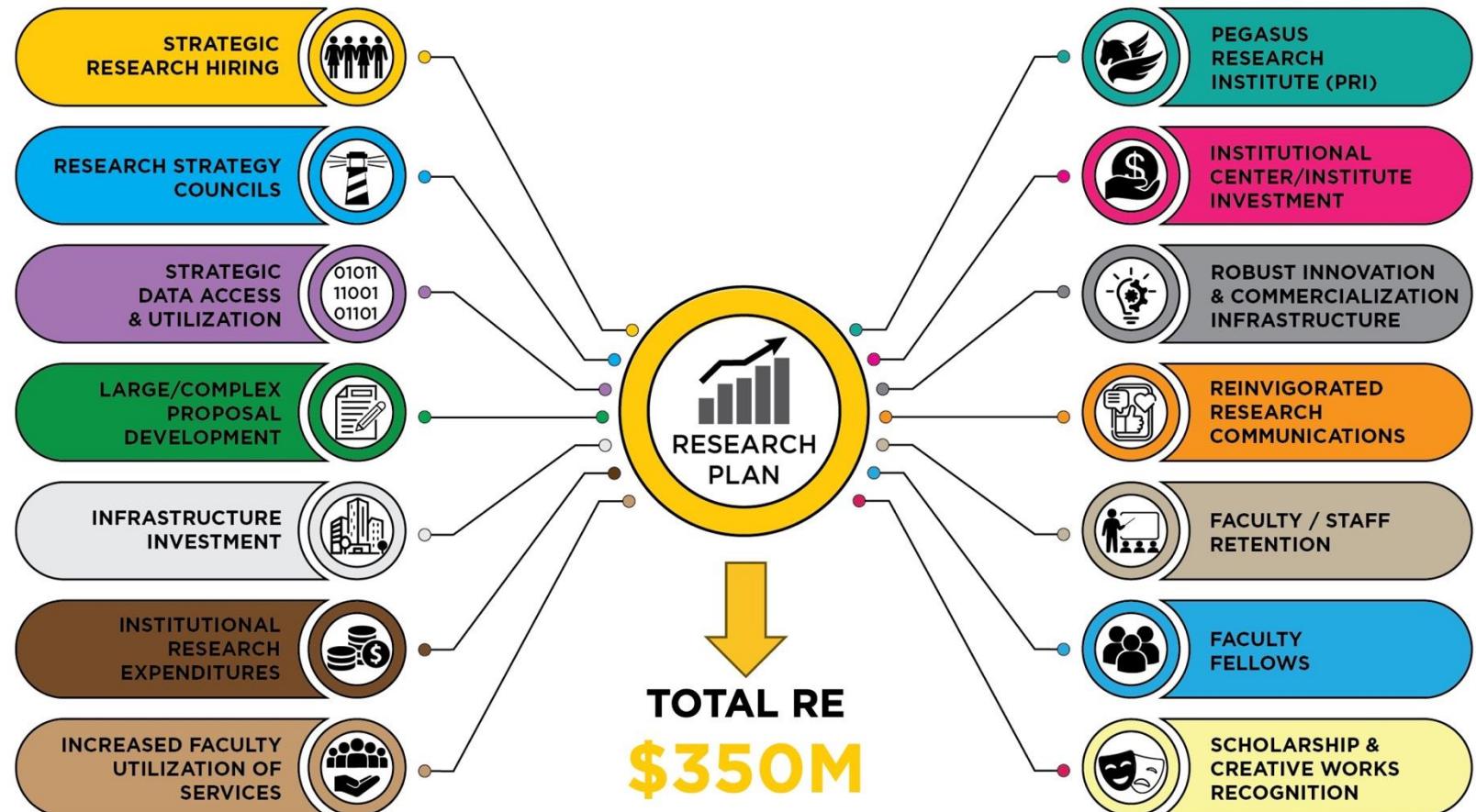


# UCF Research Enterprise Plan



## Strategic Initiatives and Strategies

Driving Accelerated Research Growth

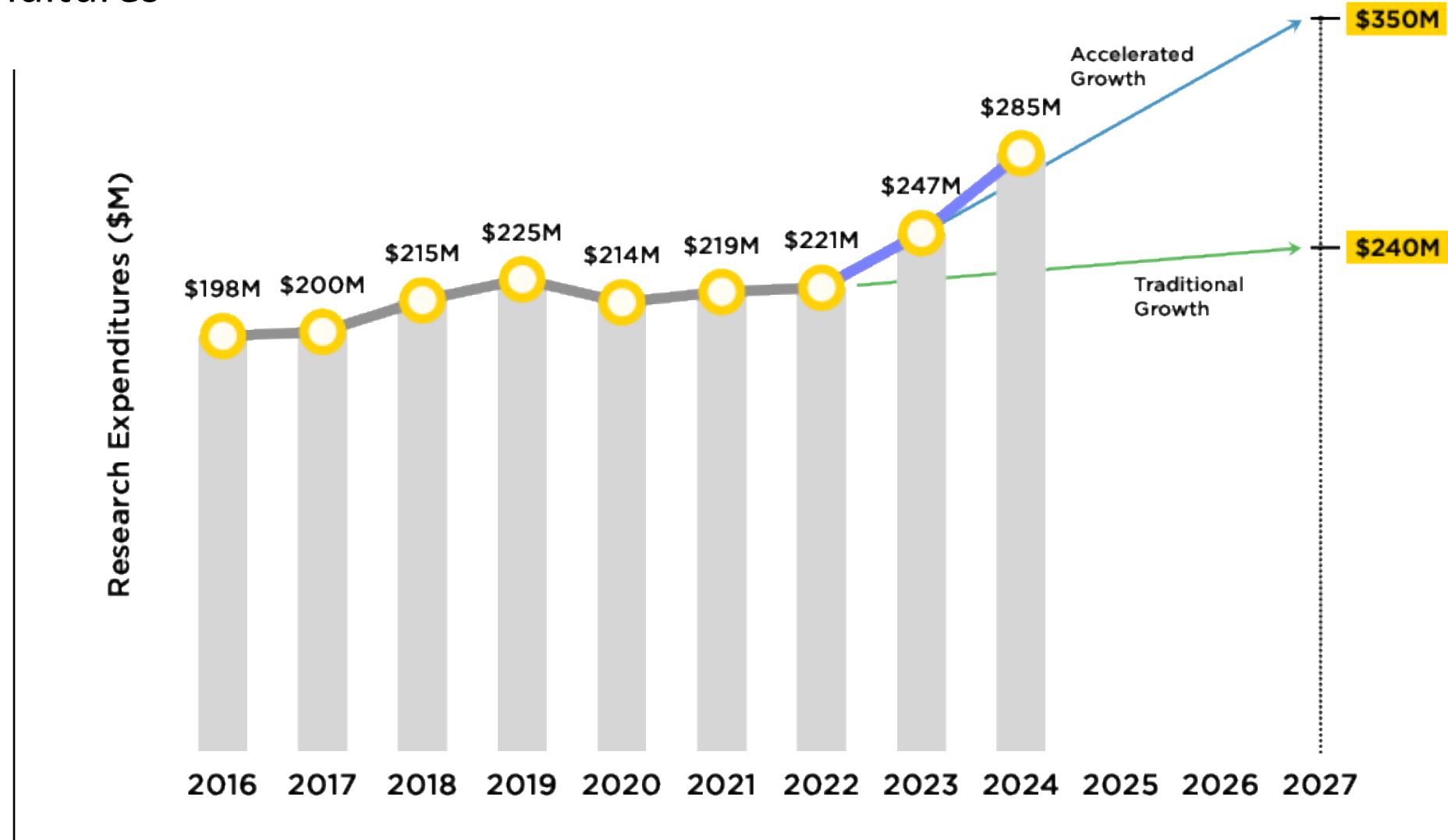


UCF Strategic Plan  
& Preeminence Metrics

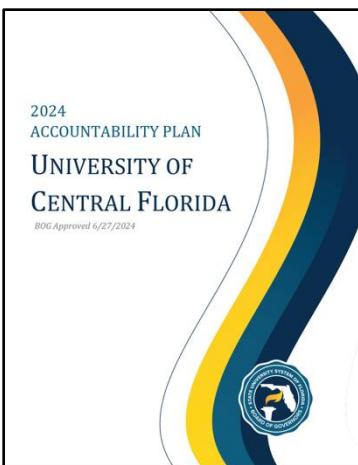
# UCF Research Expenditures

Significant Growth in  
FY23 & FY24

Growth aligned with  
needed trajectory



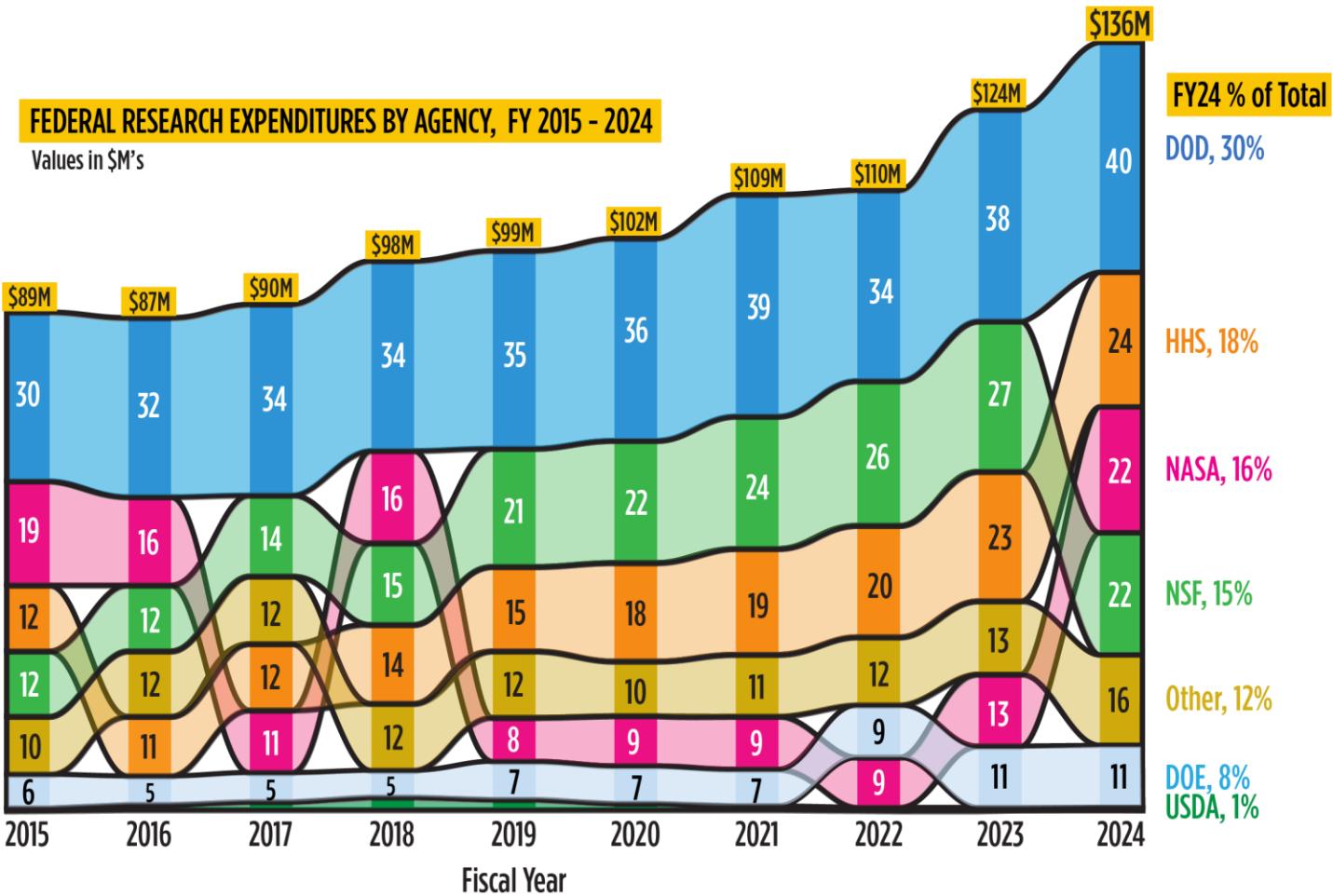
# Key Metrics & Goals | Discovery and Exploration



UCF Strategic Plan Metric / KPI	FY24	2027 Goal
Research & Development Expenditures (\$/yr)	\$285M	\$350M
<b>Number of Patents Awarded (#/yr)</b>	<b>68</b>	55
Licenses and Options Executed (#/yr)	30	36
Number of Start-up Companies Created (#/yr)	4	6
Post-doctoral Appointees (Fall Count)	218	225

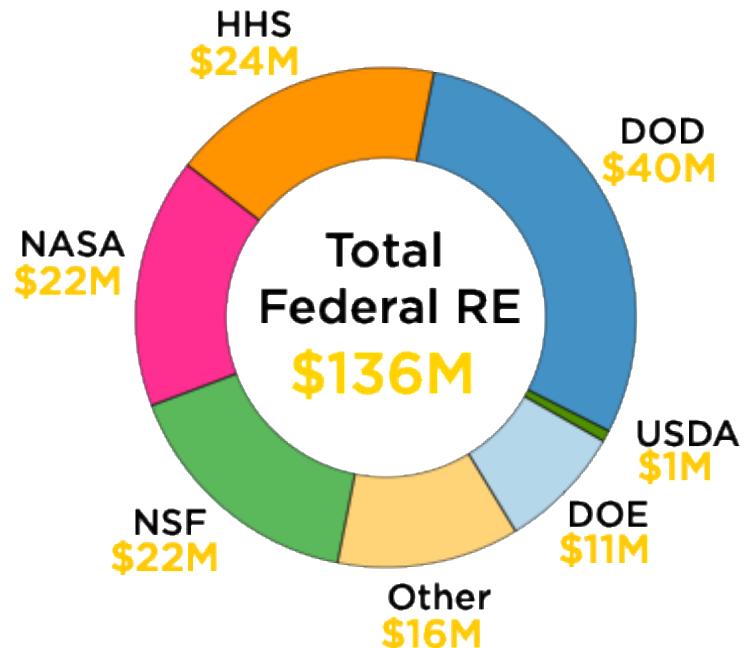
FL SUS Preeminence Metric / KPI	FY24	Requirement
<b>Total Research Expenditures (\$/yr)</b>	<b>\$285M</b>	\$200M
<b>Science &amp; Engineering Research Expenditures (\$/yr)</b>	<b>\$251M</b>	\$50M
<b>Non-Medical Sci &amp; Eng Research Expenditures (\$/yr)</b>	<b>\$224M</b>	\$150M
<b>STEM Disciplines with Top-100 Research Expenditures</b>	<b>5 of 8</b>	5 of 8
<b>Patents Awarded (over 3-year period)</b>	<b>189</b>	100
<b>National Academy Memberships</b>	<b>8</b>	6
<b>Post-doctoral Appointees (Fall Count)</b>	<b>218</b>	200

# Sources of Federal Research Expenditures



## Federally Sourced Research Expenditures

FY 2024



# FY26 Is Off To a Great Start – GREAT JOB!

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Numbers as of November 1<sup>st</sup>

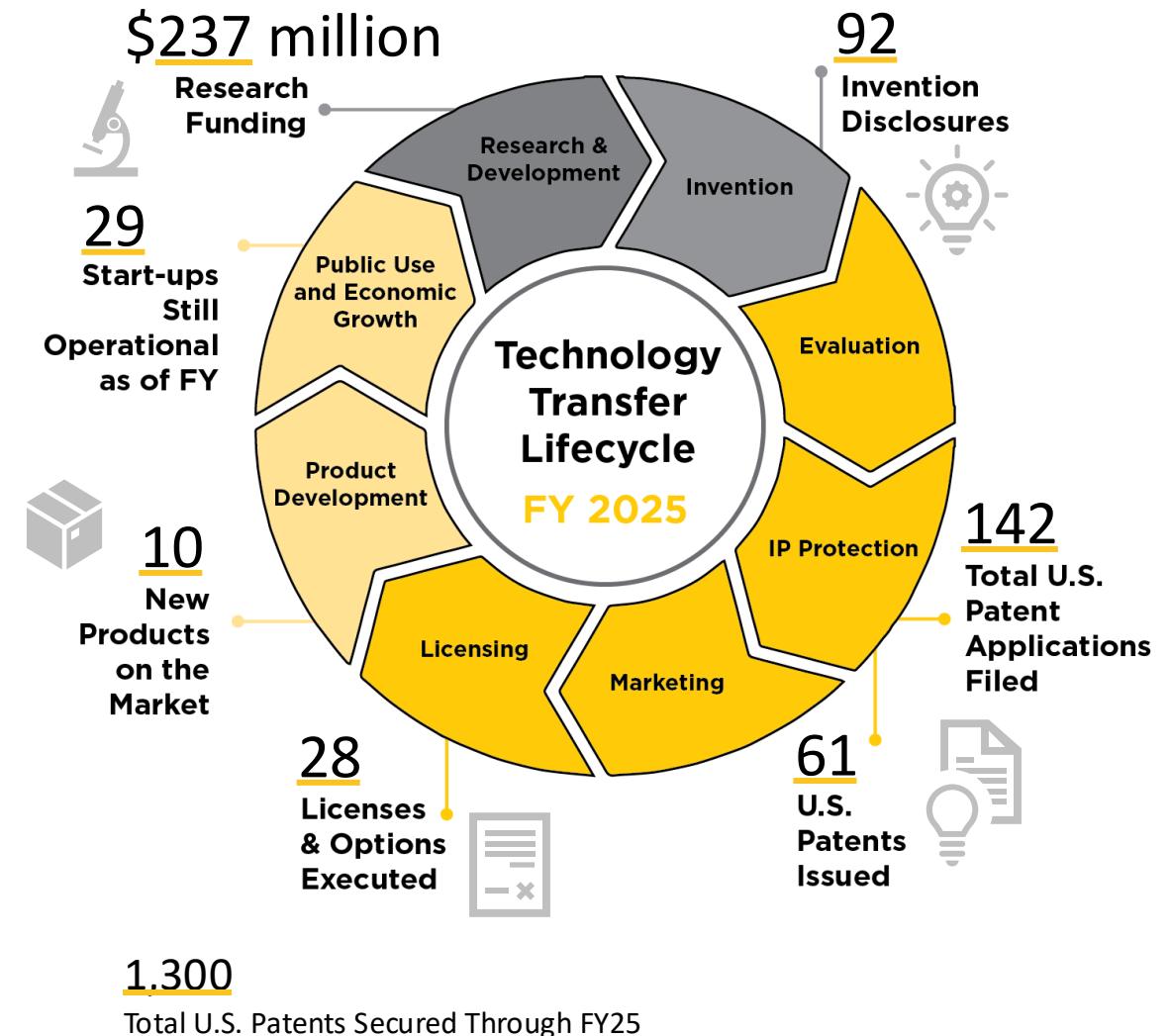
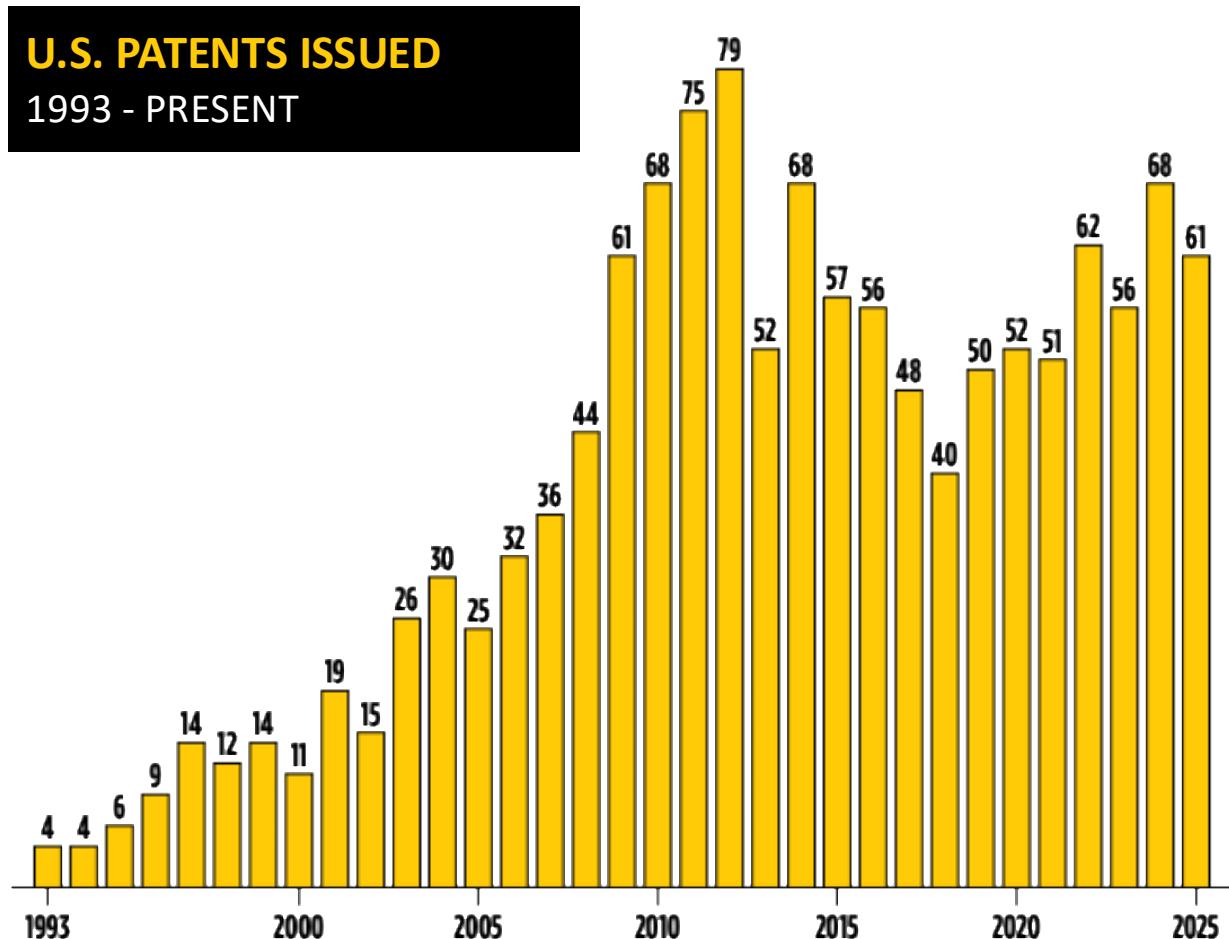
Actuals - \$81.6M, **+3.1%** FYTD vs FY25

Awards - \$127.1M, **+17.0%** FYTD vs FY25

Proposals - \$317.9M, **+3.7%** FYTD vs FY25

*Drop in Awards and Proposals anticipated in the coming weeks due to Government shutdown*

# UCF Technology Generation & Translation



# UCF Technology Generation & Translation

## Building a Robust Innovation Ecosystem

### **NSF ART (ACCELERATING RESEARCH TRANSLATION)**

\$6M | 4-YEAR AWARD | BUILD ROBUST INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

4 Seed Translational & Accelerated Research (STAR) Awards

>35 Applicants

4 Awards | \$800k Total - 3 Additional / \$500k planned in FY26

36 Translational Teams Active

46 UCF Innovation Ambassadors

Inventor Mentoring | Networking and Partnership | STAR  
Reviewers | Leadership Academy

2 Entrepreneurs in Residence Established



Kelli Murray



Louis Valsaint

University of Central Florida

## UCF Innovate

### Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

Entrepreneurial education for students



### Office of Tech Transfer

IP protection, marketing, licensing services for researchers



### NSF Innovation-Corps (I-Corps)

Mentoring for researchers with goal of moving fundamental research from lab to marketplace (7-week training program)



### Venture Lab

Entrepreneurship training and personalized business coaching for researchers interested in commercialization



### Business Incubation Program

Business development, operational support, and space for UCF and non-UCF early-stage businesses

# Office of Research Programs

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- Seed Funding (\$500k, 2 Tiers: <\$20k, \$20-50k)
- Equipment Program (\$500k, <\$100k awards)
- Faculty Mentoring Program
- NSF CAREER | DoD YFA | NIH Mentoring Programs
- Grant Writing Academy
- Industry Readiness Program
- EARLIER and Other Proposal Support Programs
- FHTC Match Program
- REU Support
- Luminary Awards

## QUESTIONS

Are these of value?

Timing of programs?

What is Missing?

# Faculty Support | **SEED Funding & Equipment Programs**

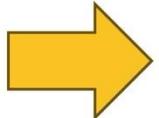
**FY21 SEED PROGRAM** - 20 Projects / \$588k Awarded

## **Program Outcomes after 2 yrs:**

**6** New Awards  
**\$7M** External Funding  
**17** Journal Publications

## **FY24 SEED PROGRAM**

Up to \$500k Funding  
Tier 1: <\$20k  
Tier 2: \$20-50k



	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>
35	Applications	50
13	Awards	8
10	Colleges/Units	7
18	Researchers	21
\$144k	Funding	\$353k

## **FY24 EQUIPMENT PROGRAM**

Up to \$500k Funding  
Award Max: \$100k  
Anticipate 10-12 Awards

We received **46** proposals  
from **12** different units



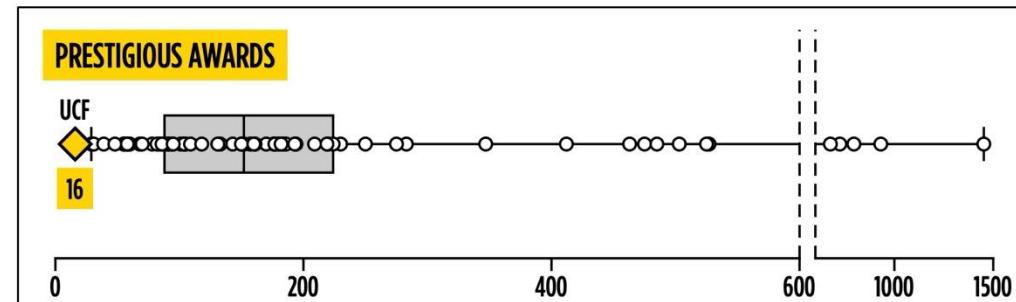
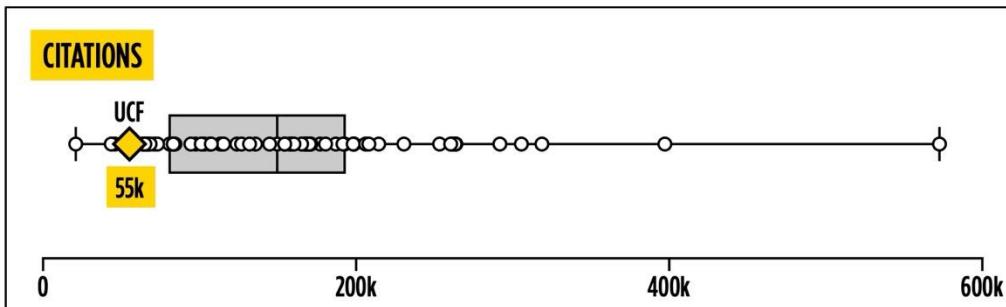
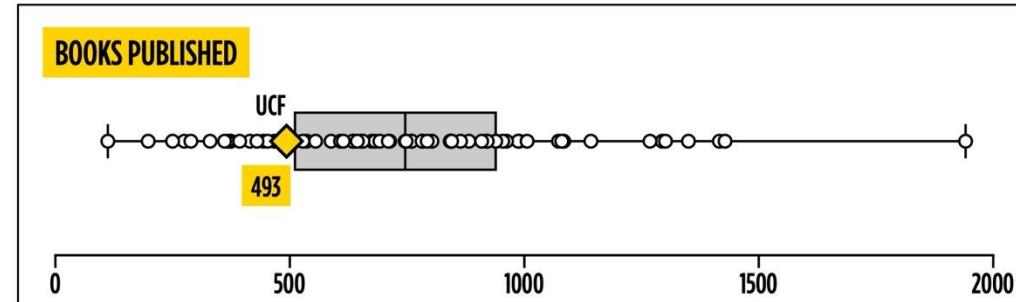
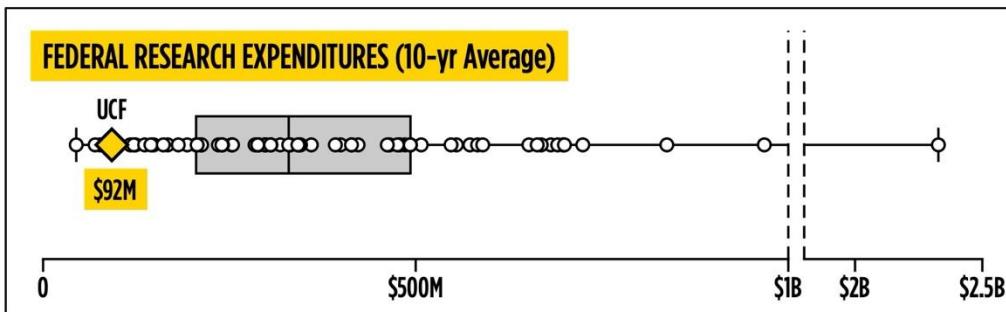
# Beyond 2027 | AAU Eligibility Targets



AAU Phase I Indicators	AAU 2023*			UCF	
	Min	Mean	Max	AA FY23*	2030 Target
Federal Research Expenditures (10-yr Ave)	\$44 M	\$390 M	\$2.3 B	\$92 M	\$155 M**
Prestigious Awards	29	227	1,452	16	30
Citations	21 k	152 k	573 k	55 k	75 k
Books	112	752	1,941	493	500

\*FY2023 Academic Analytics Data; \*\*Corresponds to Total RE of >\$410M

## Phase 1 Indicators Data of 71 AAU Member Institutions sourced from Academic Analytics FY2023





# Question & Answer (Q&A)

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