GRADUATE FELLOWS INITIATIVE

PAMELA M. NORRIS
EXECUTIVE DEAN OF ENGINEERING
Initiative began with a question from our board:

“What are the greatest research needs expressed by faculty?”
SAFETY NET FELLOWSHIPS

FUNDS RAISED:
$5 million through fundraising efforts of the UVA Engineering Office of Advancement and matching funds from the Office of the Dean

OBJECTIVE:
Give faculty members the confidence to immediately extend offers to graduate applicants until grant funds are awarded

SUSTAINABILITY MODEL:
The higher the transition rate of safety net recipients to grants, the larger the amount of funds that can be used in future years, and the more years these funds are available.
SAFETY NET FELLOWSHIPS PROCESS

- Departments allocated a specific number of “slots” based on the number of Ph.D.-advising faculty.
- Funds only made available to faculty with one or more proposals submitted.
- Proposal IDs tracked for award status and available funds.
- Safety net recipients manually moved to grant funds immediately upon availability.
- Funding covers only “actual cost” of student (Since tuition is returned to the school in our RCM model, no tuition is charged to this funding source.)
EXPERIENCE WITH SAFETY NET FELLOWSHIPS

While the net transition rate for AY2017-18 was only 38%, we developed better tracking processes and enhanced understanding of the program, and then our projected transitions were surpassed:

– 50% net transition rate for AY2018-19 (actual rate was 71%)
– Increase to 60% AY2019-20 and 65% AY2020-21 (since then have updated to 70%)
– Steady state of 70% by AY2021-22 once behaviors become ingrained
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th># Allotments</th>
<th>Net Transition Rate</th>
<th>Funds Utilized</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16/17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17/18</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>$921,830</td>
<td>$4,078,170</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>18/19</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>$356,588</td>
<td>$3,721,582</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>19/20</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>$334,341</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>20/21</td>
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<td>$368,969</td>
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<td>$415,278</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>0.7</td>
<td>$453,786</td>
<td>$61,740</td>
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</table>

Projections made in 2019-2020
PH.D. PROGRAM GROWTH

**Ph.D. Applicants**
- 2016: 776
- 2017: 944
- 2018: 1218
- 2019: 1150

**Ph.D. Matriculates**
- 2016: 78
- 2017: 131
- 2018: 148
- 2019: 187

**PH.D. Applicants** since 2016: 48%

**PH.D. Matriculates** since 2016: 140%
PH.D. PROGRAM GROWTH

Graduate Enrollment (2013-2019)

- PhD
- MS
- ME
- Total (not including online masters program or non-degree students)
“We offered six safety net fellowships and three accepted our offers. Because of these fellowships, we made ten more offers of admission than we would have otherwise. These fellowships allowed us to be competitive to our best prospective students but control our long-term funding risk at the same time.”

“Faculty offered safety nets were able to be more aggressive in pursuing students. We have matriculated five new outstanding Ph.D. students we would not have gotten otherwise.”

1:4 T3 Faculty to Ph.D. Student Ratio
RESEARCH PROGRAM GROWTH

UVA Engineering Sponsored Research Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2016</td>
<td>$44M</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>$60M</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>$76M</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>$77M</td>
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75% growth from FY16 to FY19
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