NSF $15M By 2026

ReDAC Discussion

March 1, 2023
Why Increase NSF Funds?

• VCU has 81 active NSF awards
• Others have more (UVA=304, VT=466, GMU=164, ODU=75)
• About 2% of VCU’s award dollars vs. about 11% of GMU’s
• The total dollar amount of UVA’s active awards is 5 times higher than VCU’s (GMU’s is roughly 2x VCU’s)
Number of NSF proposals has declined, while number of applicants and awards have been roughly flat.
We are capturing less funding than our success rate seems to indicate.

- Percent Success
- Percent of Requested Awards

Fiscal Year:
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
Room for Growth: Majority of applications come from COE and CHS

FY22 Proposals by School (N=95)
A Deeper Look at NSF Applicants

• Overall, VCU first-time applicants re-apply 50% of the time
• In FY22, only 30% re-applied
• Only 25% at VCU re-apply after a year lapse
• NSF: “In FY 2017 – 2019, PIs who received an award submitted, on average, 2.3 proposals per award.”
Needs

• Connect us with potential PIs and chairs of PIs
• Set up workshops with us in your units
• Direct PIs to us for support with NSF research proposals
• Help us spread the word
For Discussion With ReDAC

• How can we help PIs re-apply with ease and confidence?
• How can we get new PIs excited about NSF?
• What support does your unit have for NSF applicants?
Who Could Be Applying?

• More than 400 tenure-track faculty in NSF-aligned disciplines
• Only 5% of non-applicants become applicants organically
Proposed Goals

• $15M yielded from the FY25 Proposals
• $10M showing in our FY25 annual report (a 35% increase)
New PI-Centered Strategy

• Reach and support faculty at pivotal stages
• Increase the likelihood of applying
• Increase the quality of submissions
Recruit New NSF Applicants

• Work with ADRs and chairs to identify potential applicants
• Host more workshops to specific groups of faculty
• One-on-one follow up after workshops
• Recruit 10% (up from 5%) of the potential applicants
Retain NSF Applicants

- Reach out to first-time submitters and support one on one
- Increase the re-application rate from 50% to 66%
Lapsed Applicants

• Reach out and support
• Increase the rate from 25% to 40%
Faculty with an Award Ending

- Reach out and support
- Goal is to have nearly every PI apply for a new award
OVPRI One-on-One Support for Identified PIs

• Work with about 50 applicants who are in the target stages (recruitment, retention, gap)
• Strategize and assist with navigating the NSF process (130 touchpoints/meetings)
• Review complete grants
• Provide nudges at appropriate times to keep them on track
• Provide boilerplate, templates and proposal examples
Goals for Submissions in FY23

• 95 PIs submitting 143 grants
• Increase the success rate to 19% through one-on-one support
## Three-Year Plan

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**Assumptions:**
- 10% new PI conversion
- 66%-70% retention of NSF applicants
- 5% faculty turnover
- 40% return from lapse year
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2023 Goal calculations

2023 Goal calculations
Avg. # Proposals: 20-22
Avg. # Proposals 20-22 x Proposals per Proposer
# Proposals x Average Proposal Size - HS
# Proposals x Average Proposal Size - MP