

# September 2025 Academic & Student Affairs

**Schedule**

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 8:30 AM — 8:45 AM CDT

**Organizer**

Colton Cockrum

## Agenda


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1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks	1
Presented by Jeffrey Marchetta	



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2. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum	2
For Approval	

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3. Approval of Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2025	3
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Presented by Jeffrey Marchetta	

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6. Adjournment	23
Presented by Jeffrey Marchetta	

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# 1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Presented by Jeffrey Marchetta



## 2. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum

For Approval



### 3. Approval of Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2025

For Approval

Presented by Jeffrey Marchetta

**University of Memphis Board of Trustees  
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting  
June 4, 2025**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Trustee Marchetta called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting minute.

**Agenda Item 2: Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum**

Trustee Marchetta requested a roll call. Secretary Cockrum called the roll. Trustees Marchetta, Johnson, McKinney, and Roberts were in attendance in-person. Several trustees who were not on the committee were also in attendance and Secretary Cockrum recognized those trustees. Those trustees included Trustees Edwards, Carter, and Springfield. Trustee North joined virtually, and he stated that he was alone and could hear. Secretary Cockrum declared a quorum.

**Agenda Item 3: Approval of Academic & Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2025**

Trustee Marchetta called for a motion and a second to approve the meeting minutes from March 5, 2025. Trustee Johnson provided the motion and a second was provided by Trustee Roberts. There was no discussion on the meeting minutes. Secretary Cockrum called a voice vote, and the meeting minutes were approved.

**Agenda Item 4: Tenure Upon Appointment**

Trustee Marchetta recognized David Russomanno, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Provost Russomanno explained that there were three recent faculty hires recommended for tenure upon appointment. He proceeded to provide backgrounds on the three candidates and recommended tenure on appointment. Trustee Marchetta made a motion to approve tenure upon appointment for Dr. Stafford, Dr. Xue, and Professor Newman. The motion was seconded by Trustee Roberts. There was no discussion. A voice vote was called and the motion carried.

**Agenda Item 5: Tenure and Promotion of Faculty**

Trustee Marchetta recognized David Russomanno, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Provost Russomanno explained that the tenure and promotion process was very rigorous. He stated that there were 26 candidates for the committee's consideration for tenure and promotion. The candidates were listed in the Board meeting materials. Trustee Marchetta made a motion to approve and grant tenure and promotion to the faculty members recommended by the Provost in the department, school or college of the University as indicated in



the meeting materials. Trustee Roberts seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was called and the motion carried.

### **Agenda Item 6: Promotion of Faculty**

Trustee Marchetta recognized David Russomanno, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Provost Russomanno stated of the 33 faculty recommended for promotion, 16 of those faculty are non-tenure track. He stated that those faculty are on the teaching, clinical, and research track respectively. This agenda item was for information purposes only and did not require a vote of the Board.

### **Agenda Item 7: Bachelor of Applied Science Approval**

Trustee Marchetta recognized David Russomanno, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Provost Russomanno reminded the trustees that at the last Board meeting, the trustees had voted to approve the creation of The Polytechnic. Provost Russomanno introduced Dr. Russell Deaton who will become executive director of The Polytechnic, and he introduced Dr. Alfred Hall from the College of Education who will serve as the director of the Polytechnic. Dr. Deaton and Dr. Hall proceed to provide a presentation on the Bachelor of Applied Science. This presentation included information regarding the goals of the degree program, the curriculum, the background, the resources need to launch the program, and the finances associated with the program.

Trustee Roberts asked the presenters to explain how the TCATs feel about this program and how it may be marketed to students. Dr. Deaton said that they are excited about it and that there's a possibility that the TCAT faculty may pursue this type of degree and that high school students have a pathway to earn TCAT credentials and eventually work towards a bachelor's degree. Provost Russomanno stated that the purpose of The Polytechnic at the UoM is pathways for stackable credentials of value. He stated that historically students may see TCATs as a dead end in turns of educational progress. Now the institution can provide stacking of credentials for students to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Chairman Johnson stated that when Ford was negotiating with the state in moving to West Tennessee, this is one of the areas where it wanted the state to make an investment. He applauded Provost Russomanno on these efforts. Trustee Marchetta stated that he believed that Memphis is a great hub for this program since it is surrounded by industry that are tied to the concentration areas of the BAS program.

Trustee Springfield asked to what extent students know about having TCAT being available to them as early in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Hall stated that they are having great conversations with local school systems in regard to conversations that are having with the TCATs.

Trustee Marchetta made that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends a motion to approve the Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) degree program with concentrations in Information Technology, Manufacturing Supervision, and Construction Leadership, and a reduced general education requirement of 32 semester credit hours for the B.A.S. degree only. Trustee Roberts provided a second. There was no additional discussion. A voice vote was called and the motion carried.

President Hardgrave recognized Provost Russomanno for his work on this initiative and that he believes that the Polytechnic that was created will become a model that other institutions will follow. Provost Russomanno thanked Dr. Deaton, Dr. Hall, and President Hardgrave on their role in the creation of the program.

**Agenda Item 8: Additional Business**

Trustee Marchetta asked for additional business and there was none.

**Agenda Item 9: Adjournment**

Trustee Marchetta called for a motion and second for adjournment. A motion and second was properly made and the meeting was adjourned.

## 4. Research Update

Presentation

Presented by Jasbir Dhaliwal

## The University of Memphis Board of Trustees

### Recommendation

Presentation (adjust based on your presentation i.e. For Approval, Report, etc.)

**Date:** September 3, 2025

**Committee:** Academic & Student Affairs Committee

**Presentation:** Annual Report for Research FY2025

**Presented by:** Jasbir Dhaliwal

**Background:** The Division of Research & Innovation presents its annual report every September.

**Motion to be Made:** None

# *Division of Research & Innovation*

## *Academic & Student Affairs Committee*

Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal  
EVP for Research & Innovation

September 3, 2025



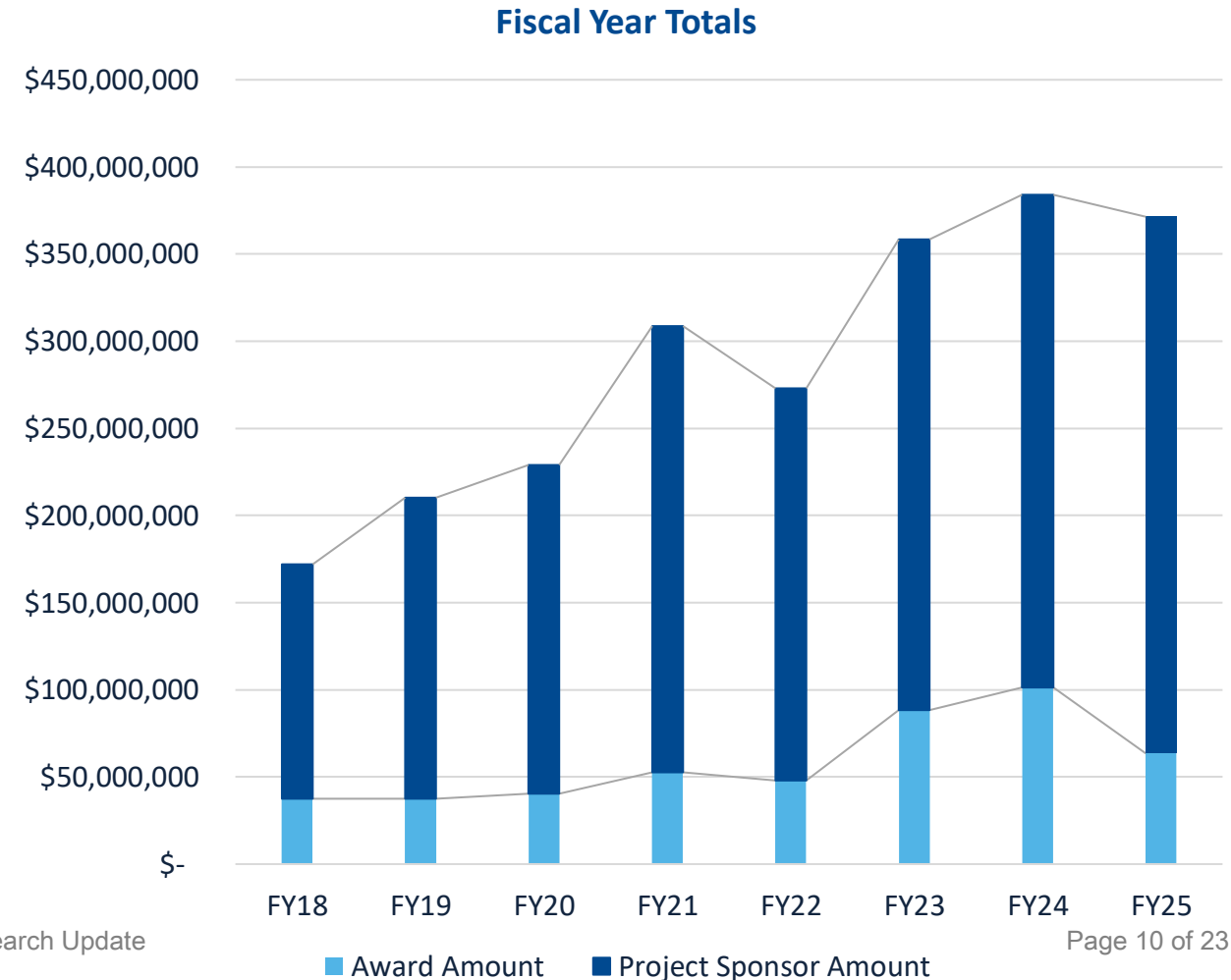
**Board of  
Trustees**

# A New Era for UofM Research

- **Historic Transformation of our National Innovation System:** The U.S. is experiencing its most significant transformation in research support and infrastructure since World War II.
- **Difficult Year for Research at UofM:** Awards coming in fell to \$65M (third highest in our history) given the funding freeze in January. Despite the uncertainties, UofM faculty continued their hard work with a record-breaking year of applications with **\$307M in research funding sought** – this is the most in our history - beating last years record of \$272M applied for and sought.
- **Carnegie R1 Redesignation Success:** UofM was redesignated as a **Carnegie R1 research institution**, reaffirming its status as a national top-tier research university.
- **Going Forth :** Need to be proactive, nimble and willing to change as a new national innovation system takes shape.

September 2025 Academic & Student Affairs

4. Research Update



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# Risk Management in A New Environment

- **Minimal funding loss despite sudden terminations**  
Only **2.2% of UofM’s total research funding** was terminated, showing institutional resilience even as major funders like **NSF and NIH** report significant declines in funded proposals.
- **Healthcare sector funding takes the biggest hit**  
Cuts to **Health and Human Services agencies** have impacted critical healthcare workforce training programs — a key area where UofM is seeking renewed opportunities including a \$25M proposal.
- **Need to be proactive in helping shape a new national research system:**  
Actively engaged with the Council of Research of the APLU, OSTP at the White House, Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense and with Congress, etc.

## Research Funding Risks That Need to be Managed

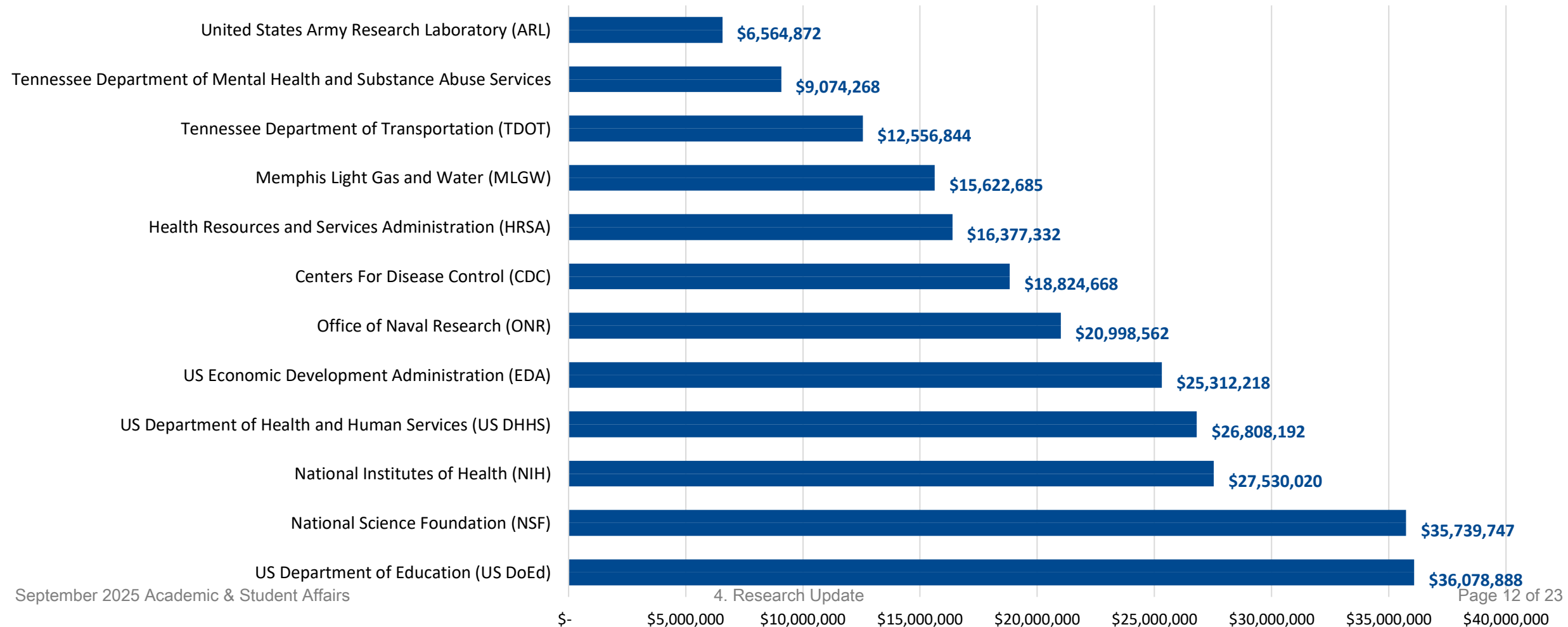
*Several of the 170+ Executive Orders (EOs) focused on research.  
The impact of these policies on the University of Memphis has been wide ranging.*

Freeze in Federal Funding	Despite our backlog of \$300M+ in proposed research funding sought, review processes and funding decisions have slowed to a trickle and some programs have even been cancelled.
Terminations of Grants	\$2.3M in lost research funding   21 student and staff positions defunded   16 Grants previously awarded to the UofM, and seven pending awards were terminated.
Facilities and Administration Rates Reduced	Federal agencies unilaterally began reducing negotiated overhead rates to 15% across the board. The federal government had previously funded research nationally through these negotiated rates based on audits - with ours being 46.5%. The impact of these decisions are still pending in federal court given injunctions.
Defense Research	The Continuing Resolution (CR) of the FY Federal Budget injected uncertainties into our ongoing NDAA research programs. At least \$12.5M in allocated defense research projects for FY25 remains unclarified and a work-in-progress.



# Top Funding Sources

Top Funding Agencies, Total Awards FY21-FY25





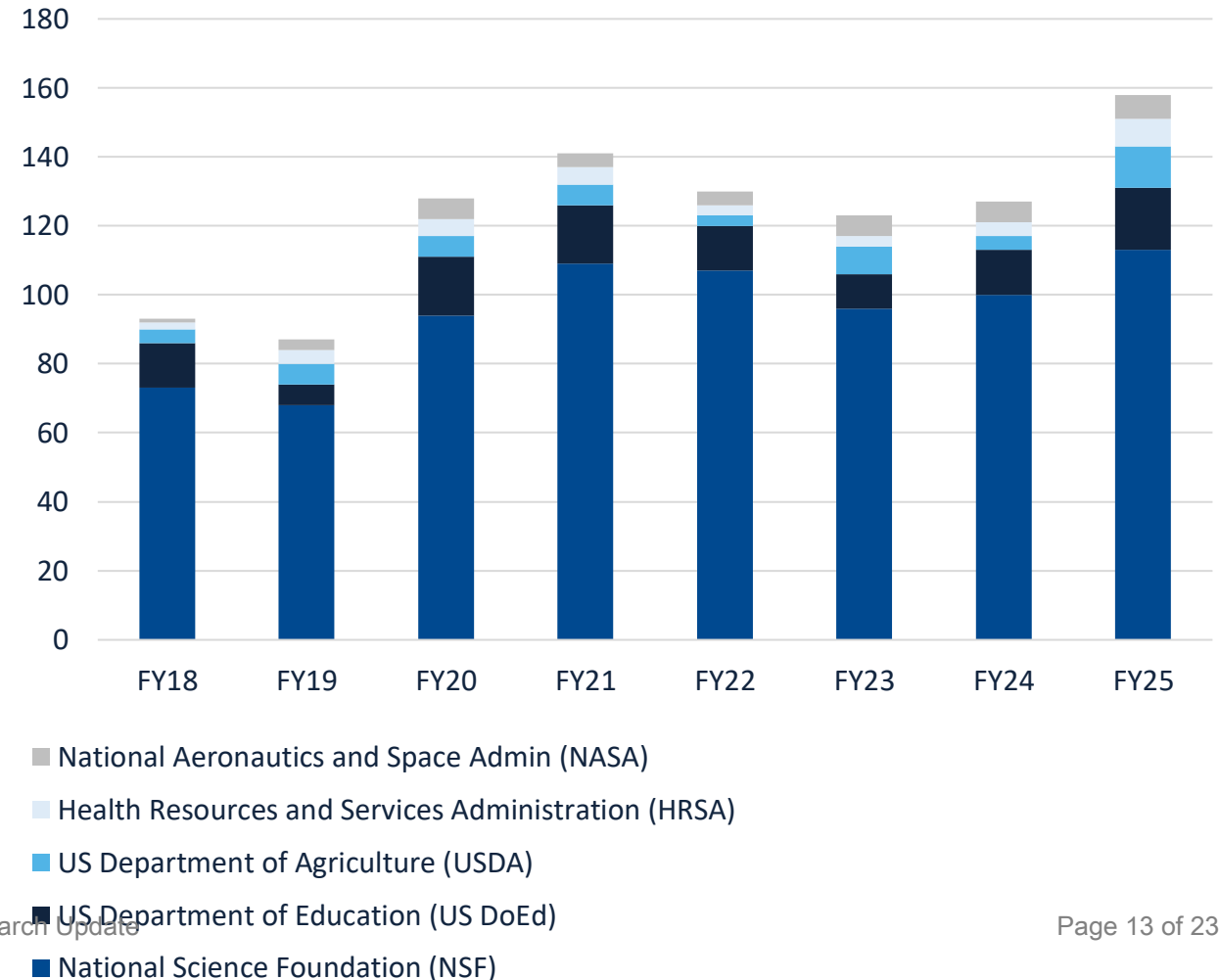
# Self-Funding Research With State Support



Board of Trustees

- **Faculty commitment to seeking funding for their research ideas, students, and laboratories remains strong.**
- **Record Submissions:** The University set new records for submissions to several major funding agencies including the **NSF, Department of Education, USDA, HRSA, and NASA.**
- **High Research Activity:** We continue growing the number of **active principal investigators** and **strategic research capacity** that is aligned with current and future national and industry research priorities.
- **State Investment in Research Modernization:** The Governor and Tennessee Legislature **allocated \$70 million** towards modernizing research facilities to help us build research capacity for the future.
- **Our research expansion has resonated in Nashville:** We have received about \$125M in special allocations from the state for research in the last five years. Thank you, Governor Bill Lee!

Agencies with Proposal Submission Records



**13**

Organizations Funding  
\$1M or More in Awards

**26**

First-Time PIs

**13**

Millionaire Investigators

**28**

PI Awarded \$500K or More

**\$65.5M**

Total Research Award Dollars

# Thriving in a Shifting Funding Landscape

- **Status quo wasn't necessarily favoring UofM**

Historical biases in research funding favored large legacy institutions (many private and on the coast). We are working to shape a new national innovation system that democratizes research funding for agile, mission-driven, emerging R1 universities like the UofM. (8/7/25 EO includes this).

- **Our strength lies in applied, community-focused research**

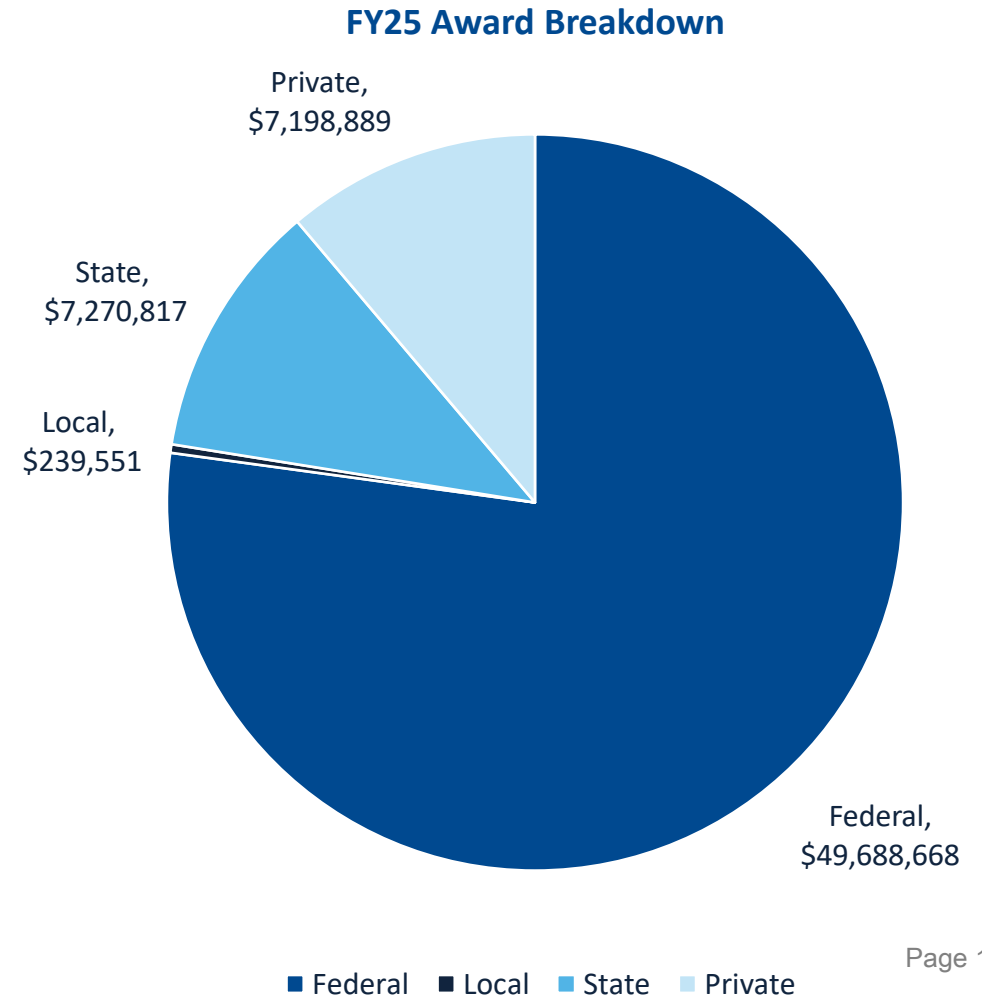
UofM's research awards continue to prioritize applied science, industry collaboration, community engagement and defense — areas aligned with emerging federal agency priorities. Memphis Institute of National Defense Sciences (MINDS) launched.

- **Partnerships are key in the face of short-term disruption**

While FY25 saw a 22% decline in federal awards due to a shifting national environment, UofM's strong partnerships (especially with the Department of Defense), will help it keep momentum.

- **Strategic investment is key to future success**

Continued growth requires investing in research faculty, facilities and support infrastructure to grow research capacity in new growth areas: we are doing that.



- Chaos breeds opportunity!

# Celebrating Our Research Millionaires

## Research Leaders Winning \$1 Million or More in Research Funding in FY25



Emily  
Puckett



Eric  
Bailey



Janey  
Camp



Stephanie  
Ivey



Matthew  
Smeltzer



Eddie  
Jacobs



Linda  
Jarmulowicz



Santosh  
Kumar



Jim  
Whelan



Sabya  
Mishra



Susan  
Neely-Barnes



Radesh  
Palakurthi



# Kudos: Our Second-Tier Research Leaders

## Research Leaders Winning Between \$500K to \$1 Million in FY25



Rebecca  
Adams



Hasan  
Ali



Daniel  
Foti



Melvyn  
Harding



Will  
Hunter



Subhash  
Jha



Ashish  
Joshi



Carolyn  
Kaldon



Meghan  
McDevitt-Murphy



Claudio  
Meier



James  
Murphy



M. David  
Rudd



Mary  
Tucker



Jeremy  
Whittaker



Mitch  
Withers

# Significant Faculty Achievements 2025



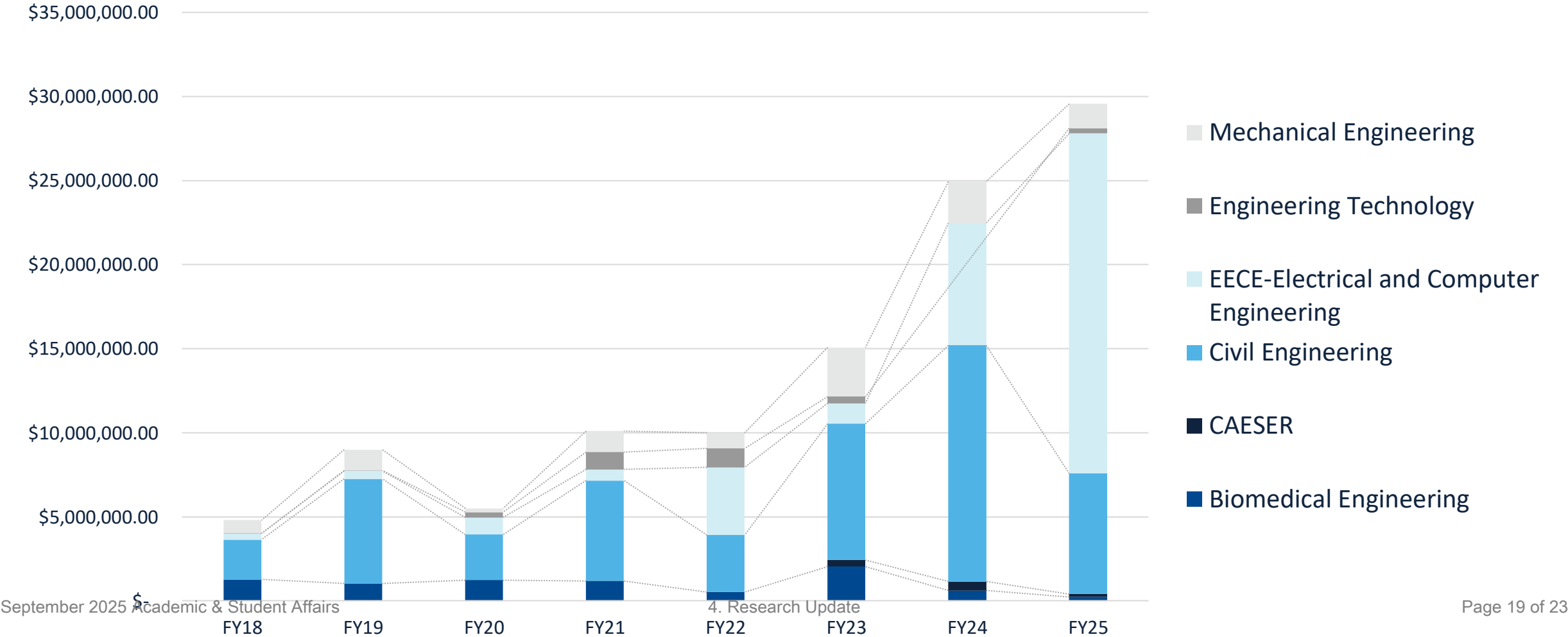
**Dr. Duane McKenna** elected as fellow by American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)



NSF CAREER: Temporal Learning Towards Trustworthy Decision for Healthcare by **Dr. Xiaolei Huang**

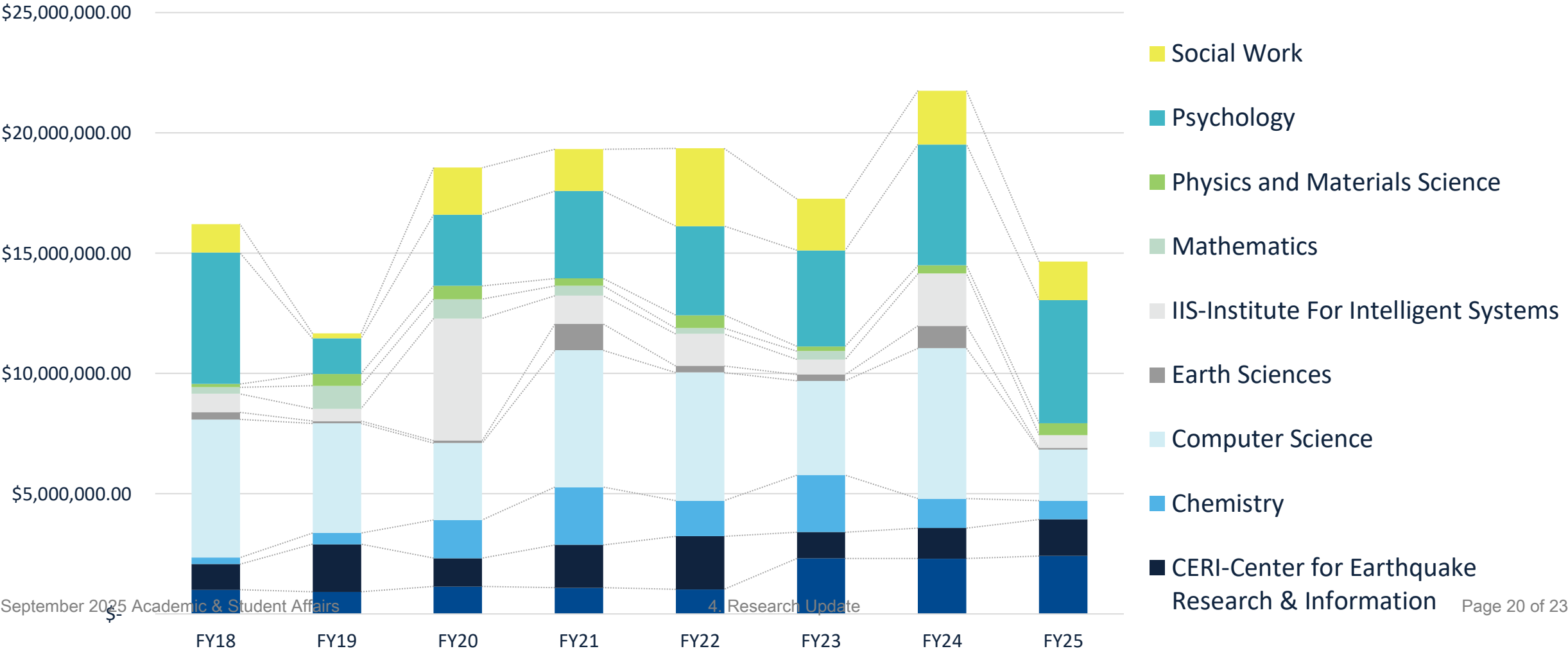
# Progress of STEM Academic Units 1

Herff College of Engineering Departments



# Progress of STEM Academic Units 2

College of Arts and Sciences STEM Departments





# Thank You, Research Faculty!

For more information, contact  
Jasbir Dhaliwal, PhD  
Distinguished University Professor  
& EVP Research & Innovation  
[jdhaliwl@memphis.edu](mailto:jdhaliwl@memphis.edu) | 901.678.1618





## 5. Additional Business

Presented by Jeffrey Marchetta



## 6. Adjournment

Presented by Jeffrey Marchetta