

# Texas University Fund and Presidential Frontier Faculty Update

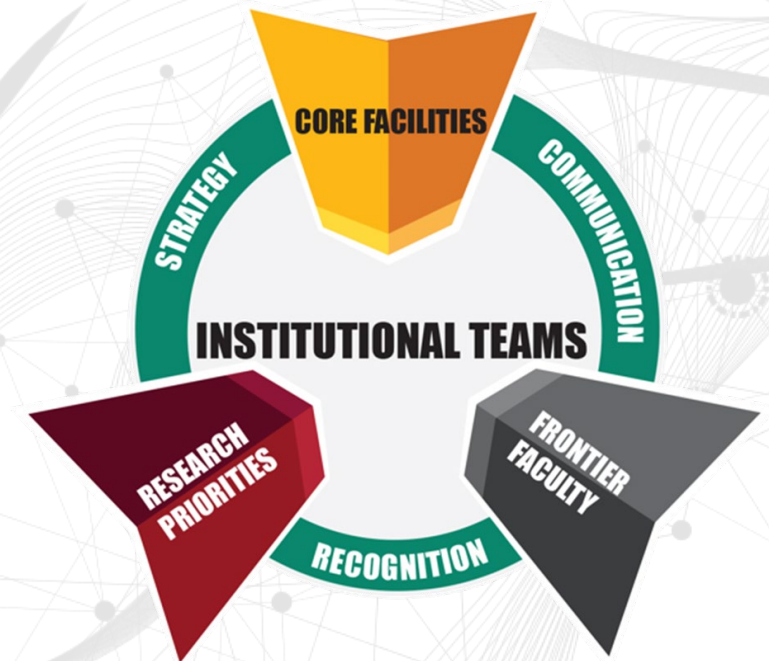
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Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee

University of Houston System Board of Regents Meeting  
February 19, 2025

# — Texas University Fund (TUF)

- \$3.9B State of Texas endowment: 4 Universities
- **FY 24 TUF Distribution to UH: \$48.3M**
  - 5-year Investment Initiative for 20-year allocation
    - Presidential Frontier Faculty: \$14.9M
    - Aspire: \$4.2M
  - Core Equipment/PFF Start-ups: \$5.7M
  - Core Equipment Support/Upgrades: \$2.0M
  - Compliance: \$3.0M
  - National Research University Fund Replacement (Faculty Start-up): \$6.1M
  - Core Research Support Fund Replacement
    - DOR Support for strategic initiatives: \$6.5M
    - Faculty salaries: \$5.2M
  - Small Reserve: \$0.5M



# — Presidential Frontier Faculty (PFF)

- **Top 50 University: double research expenditures**
  - Hire 100 new faculty over five years: initiated in FY 22
- **Goals**
  - Alignment with research priorities
  - Potential for collaborations across colleges
  - Interdisciplinary and impactful research
- **Recruitment Process**
  - Managed by the Office of the Provost and Division of Research
  - Colleges submit proposals
  - Central review and approval



# — Targeted Research Areas

- Energy
- Health
- Materials
- AI/Data Science/Security
- Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure



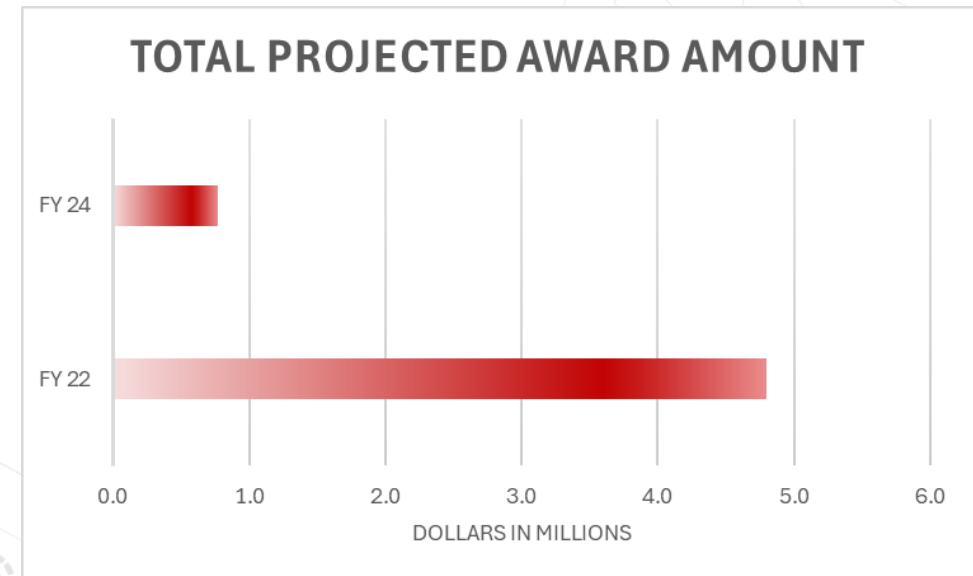
# Hiring and Early Successes

- Hiring

- FY 22: 17 PFF starting Fall 2022
- FY 23: Pause
- FY 24: 18 PFF starting Fall 2024
- FY 25: 22 searches ongoing

- Early Grant Funding Successes

- FY 22: 8 PFF received a total of 18 awards for a total projected award amount of \$4.8 M
- FY 24: 1 PFF received a total of 1 award for a total projected award amount of \$775K



# — Setting up for Success

- **Competitiveness**
  - Aligning research priorities with federal funding
  - Collaborative research
  - History of grants and patents
- **A bigger pool**
  - FY 22: candidates restricted to assistant professors
  - FY 24 and onward: assistant and associate professors
- **The ramp to landing awards**
  - Start-up funding
  - Grant writing workshops
  - Proposal writing support
  - Internal awards for preliminary data



# — Meet PFF Faculty

- **Ran An, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering**
  - Healthcare Innovations
  - Prestigious NSF CAREER Award
- **Dalia Munenzon, Assistant Professor, Architecture**
  - Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure
  - \$784K National Academies grant for sustainable design
- **Tyler Varisco, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy**
  - Opioid use disorder
  - Broad collaborations

