

The School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies will commit 4 fellowships to the Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Studies: Specialization in Translational Bioengineering, for a period of 5 years to seed the startup of the program. These fellowship lines will be internally reallocated from the pool of fellowships controlled by SIGS, since SIGS has a mandate to foster creation of interdisciplinary graduate programs and provide initial student support for those programs. Dean Boehm has each year requested additional fellowship lines from the central administration to support development of new interdisciplinary graduate programs, but budget constraints have precluded an increase in fellowship lines to SIGS. Because reallocation of fellowship lines impacts the number of University Fellows that can be supported each year who matriculate into existing graduate programs, this may be the new last program that SIGS can support until other, already established, interdisciplinary programs become self-sustaining, or until SIGS is allotted new fellowship lines. Accordingly, we encourage the directors of the Interdisciplinary Translational Bioengineering program to begin to explore sources of funding to support students in the program, so that at the end of 5 years the program is self-sufficient with respect to funding of students.