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April 4, 2011

To: Directors, Offices of Research

From: Carrie Robison, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Administration

- RE:
1. Out-of-State Consultants' Reports and Funding Recommendations for Proposals Submitted under Board of Regents Support Fund Competitive Programs, FY 2010-11
  2. **MAY 2, 2011 DEADLINE** for Campus Responses to Funding Stipulations Contained in Consultants' Reports

#### **FY 2010-11 BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

The fourteen (14) reports from out-of-state consultants which recommend funding for proposals submitted in FY 2010-11 under Board of Regents Support Fund competitive programs are now posted on the website of the Office of Sponsored Programs, <http://web.laregents.org>. The Board is expected to act on these recommendations, as well as on campus requests for matching funds to endow professorships and first-generation undergraduate scholarships, at its meeting of April 28, 2011.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: ACTION BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS IS REQUIRED BEFORE FUNDING IS ASSURED FOR ANY OF THE PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED IN THE FOLLOWING REPORTS.**

#### **ENDOWED CHAIRS PROGRAM:**

Report 1

#### **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:**

- Report 2 Industrial Ties Research Subprogram (ITRS)  
Report 3 Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS)  
Report 4 Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars Subprogram (ATLAS)

#### **ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:**

- Report 5 Undergraduate Enhancement Program  
Report 6 Traditional Enhancement Program: Multidisciplinary  
Report 7 Traditional Enhancement Program: Business  
Report 8 Traditional Enhancement Program: Chemistry  
Report 9 Traditional Enhancement Program: Education  
Report 10 Traditional Enhancement Program: Mathematics  
Report 11 Traditional Enhancement Program: Physics and Astronomy  
Report 12 Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions

**GRADUATE FELLOWS:**

- Report 13      Traditional Graduate Fellows and Graduate Fellowships for Teachers Programs  
Report 14      BoR/SREB Graduate Fellowships to Promote Diversity Program

**In March 2011 the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) issued an opinion projecting the amount of money available in FY 2010-11 for higher education's portion of the Support Fund to be \$25.85 million. This projection affirms previous REC guidance indicating a BoRSF income shortfall for FY 2010-11, and represents a significant reduction from the REC projection of \$33 million used to derive the approved FY 2010-11 BoRSF Plan and Budget. This income level could have severe ramifications for campuses for at least this fiscal year and the next two. The staff believes that the Board will choose to honor all existing contracts, which will result in limitations on funds available for first-year activities in new FY 2010-11 contracts, which will begin on June 1, 2011. Sponsored Programs' response to this circumstance is reflected in the explanations and estimates that follow.**

**Estimates that follow are contingent on an allocation from the Board of Regents Support Fund's Unrestricted Reserve Fund, which is requested to mitigate somewhat the impact of this significant reduction in revenue. Such an allocation must be approved by the Board at its April 2011 meeting. If the allocation is not approved, the estimates contained herein are subject to revision.**

Relative to the Endowed Chairs report (Report 1), \$3.2 million is available to the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program in the FY 2010-11 Plan and Budget. The staff believes that the Board will not reduce the amount of money from the Support Fund available to this program. Accordingly, there will be sufficient funding for five (5) proposals ranked 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 in the competitive program, and one (1) restricted bequest proposal from Louisiana Tech University.\*

The precise amount of money available for other Support Fund programs is not yet known, but the total maximum amounts of FY 2010-11 monies recommended and/or expected to be available for expenditure for the first year of new projects, including an allocation from the BoRSF's Unrestricted Reserve Fund, are projected to enable funding of most proposals rated Priority I in competitive BoRSF programs. Rank orders recommended for funding in each of the following reports are:

REPORT	FIRST-YEAR FUNDING RECOMMENDED	RANKS RECOMMENDED
Endowed Chairs	\$3,200,000	1-2, 4-6 and Restricted Bequest (LA Tech)
Industrial Ties Research	\$ 566,000	1-8
Research Competitiveness	\$1,240,439	1-30
Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars	\$ 445,427	1-10

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\* Limits on the total amount of funding available to private institutions and per public campus, established in the program policy, cause some highly ranked Endowed Chairs proposals to be rendered ineligible to receive funding during the current fiscal year.

REPORT	FIRST-YEAR FUNDING RECOMMENDED	RANKS RECOMMENDED
Undergraduate Enhancement	\$1,605,727	1-25
Traditional Enhancement: Multidisciplinary	\$ 664,319	1-7
Traditional Enhancement: Business	\$ 333,900	1-7
Traditional Enhancement: Chemistry	\$1,240,250	1-8
Traditional Enhancement: Education	\$ 792,738	1-9
Traditional Enhancement: Mathematics	\$ 303,065	1-4
Traditional Enhancement: Physics and Astronomy	\$ 589,211	1-5
Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions	\$1,072,017	1-17
Traditional Graduate Fellows	\$ 829,000	1-17
Graduate Fellowships for Teachers	\$ 63,000	1-2
BoR/SREB Graduate Fellowships to Promote Diversity	\$ 250,000	1-3

**No Priority II projects will be funded this year from any Research and Development or Enhancement subprogram (Reports 2-12).**

### **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES**

All institutions with proposals recommended for funding must inform the Sponsored Programs Section in writing no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, May 2**, if any of the following conditions apply:

- Difficulties are foreseen in adjusting to any recommended modifications in funding levels, institutional matching requirements, or other stipulations set forth in these reports;  
  
**NOTE:** If budgets have been reduced with no indication of the manner in which the reduction should/must be accomplished, the principal investigator/project director will be allowed to reduce the budget as he/she deems most appropriate to accomplish the objectives set forth in the proposal as originally submitted.
- There has been a change in the employment status of any individual listed as a lead principal investigator, or of any other individual named in the application who is critical to the successful completion of the proposal as originally submitted.
- The same or a very similar project has already been funded or will be funded in the near future from another source; and/or
- Problems exist or funding stipulations have been recommended that cannot be resolved within the next few weeks, and which, therefore, might preclude the Board's being able to award Support Fund money by June 30, 2011, or at all. Problems of this type include but are not limited to: (a) the institution's inability to fulfill a promised institutional matching commitment as set forth in the proposal; or (b) the Support Fund award being contingent

upon the applicant's success in securing additional funding from, for example, a Federal agency or industry.

**Institutions with proposals recommended for funding for which none of the preceding conditions apply must ALSO provide written assurance that (a) no problems will exist if the proposal(s) recommended are funded in the manner and at the budgetary levels stipulated by the consultants; and (b) the commitments made by the applicant(s) and the institution, as set forth in the original proposal(s) and/or required in consultants' stipulations, will be met. These responses are also due in writing no later than May 2, 2011.**

**We strongly prefer that your office coordinate and submit all responses from your institution.**  
This enables us to give you the maximum amount of time available to gather and submit your responses and ensures consistency in information transmitted.

All responses must be emailed to Ms. Carrie Robison, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Administration ([carrie.robison@la.gov](mailto:carrie.robison@la.gov)). If you require other arrangements to submit your response, contact Ms. Robison via email or at (225) 342-4253 x671.

The effective date of contracts for funded projects will be June 1, 2011. Applicants whose projects are funded will be informed as quickly as possible after April 28 of the items required for their contracts.

If you have any questions about this memorandum or the consultants' reports, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

CC: System and Campus Heads