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April 19, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Directors, Offices of Research

FROM: John Wallin  
Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Administration

RE: 1. Out-of-State Consultants' Reports and Funding  
Recommendations for Proposals Submitted under the Board of  
Regents Support Fund Programs, FY 2009-10  
2. **MAY 3, 2010 DEADLINE** for Campus Responses to Funding  
Stipulations Contained in Consultants' Reports

The fourteen (14) reports from out-of-state consultants which recommend funding for proposals submitted in FY 2009-10 under the Board of Regents Support Fund programs are now posted on the website for the Office of Sponsored Programs at [laregents.org](http://laregents.org). The Board is expected to act on these recommendations, as well as on campus requests for matching funds to endow professorships, at its meeting of April 22, 2010.

<b>IMPORTANT NOTE: ACTION BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS IS REQUIRED BEFORE FUNDING IS ASSURED FOR ANY OF THE PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED IN THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:</b>
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**ENDOWED CHAIRS PROGRAM:**

Report 1

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:**

Report 2 Industrial Ties Research Subprogram

Report 3 Research Competitiveness Subprogram

Report 4 Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars

**ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:**

Report 5 Undergraduate Enhancement Program

Report 6 Traditional Enhancement Program: Multidisciplinary

Report 7 Traditional Enhancement Program: Agricultural Sciences

Report 8 Traditional Enhancement Program: Arts

Report 9 Traditional Enhancement Program: Earth/Environmental Sciences

Report 10 Traditional Enhancement Program: Engineering A

Report 11 Traditional Enhancement Program: Health and Medical Sciences

Report 12 Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions

**GRADUATE FELLOWS:**

Report 13 Traditional and Graduate Fellowships for Teachers Program

Report 14 BoR/SREB Graduate Fellowships to Promote Diversity Program

These fourteen reports are now available on our website at <http://www.laregents.org>

**NOTE:** In December of 2009 the Revenue Estimating Committee (REC) issued an opinion lowering the amount of money projected to be available for higher education's portion of the Support Fund from the \$32.12 million upon which the FY 2009-10 budget was based to \$22.5 million. This opinion was reaffirmed on April 14, 2010. If substantially correct, this estimate will have extremely 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 means that funds for first-year activities in new FY 2009-10 contracts (which will begin on June 1, 2010) will be limited. Further, since the REC initial estimates for FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12 are not appreciably more optimistic, the number of FY 2009-10 multi-year awards (in R&D and the Graduate Fellows subprograms) must be significantly reduced from what have become customary levels. This situation will be reflected in most of the explanations/estimates which follow.

Relative to the Endowed Chairs report, \$3.2 million is available to the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program in the FY 2009-10 Plan and Budget. The staff believes that the Board will not reduce the amount of money from the Support Fund available for this Program.

Accordingly, there will be sufficient funding for proposals ranked 1, 4, 9,10, and 11 in the competitive program, and two restricted bequest proposals, one from Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge and one 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 2009-10 money recommended and/or expected to be available for expenditure for the first year of new projects in each of the following reports are as follows:

1.	Endowed Chairs	\$3,200,000
2.	Industrial Ties Research	\$ 307,944
3.	Research Competitiveness	\$ 649,121
4.	Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars	\$ 368,352
5.	Undergraduate Enhancement	\$ 970,876
6.	Traditional Enhancement, Multidisciplinary	\$ 706,109
7.	Traditional Enhancement, Agricultural Sciences	\$ 175,706
8.	Traditional Enhancement, Arts	\$ 418,245
9.	Traditional Enhancement, Earth/Environmental Sciences	\$ 191,646
10.	Traditional Enhancement, Engineering A	\$ 826,339
11.	Traditional Enhancement, Health and Medical Sciences	\$ 873,340
12.	Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions	\$ 557,336
13A.	Traditional Graduate Fellows Program	\$ 558,000
13B.	Graduate Fellowships for Teachers Program	\$ 113,000
14.	BoR/SREB Graduate Fellowships to Promote Diversity Program	\$ 200,000

**NOTE:** Legislation passed in 2005 gives the Governor's Office the authority to take up to five (5) per cent of the amount actually appropriated to the Support Fund in a given fiscal year. For this year that amount is \$1.8 million (of the \$36 million actually appropriated during the Legislative session in the summer of 2009). The staff has been informed that the Governor will not exercise that authority. The estimates above are based on that assumption. It is possible that in April and/or May investment proceeds in excess of amounts estimated might be returned to the Support Fund. The most optimistic amount probable in that category would be about \$2 million. The Board would have to decide the distributive procedure in that event.

Campuses with projects recommended for funding should note that, in some instances, reviewers recommended modifications in the budgetary level and/or institutional matching commitment. **All institutions with proposals recommended for funding must inform the Sponsored Programs Section in writing no later than 4:30 P.M., Monday, May 3, 2010, if any of the following conditions apply:**

1. Difficulties are foreseen in adjusting to the 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.

2. 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 proposed work;
3. The same or a very similar project has already been funded or will be funded in the near future from another source; and/or
4. 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 the Support Fund money by June 30, 2010, or at all. Typical 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 an 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 applicant(s) and the institution, as set forth in the original proposal(s), will be met. These responses are also due in writing no later than May 3, 2010.**

**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 (i.e., until May 3) to submit your responses.

**ALL RESPONSES MUST BE MAILED, FAXED, or E-MAILED TO:**

**Mr. John Wallin**  
**Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Administration**  
**Louisiana Board of Regents**  
**P. O. Box 3677**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-3677**  
**FAX: 225-342-3371 or email: [john.wallin@la.gov](mailto:john.wallin@la.gov)**

Perusal of these reports also results in the following observations, some of which are unique to the particular circumstances of this fiscal year:

1. No Priority II projects will be funded this year from any of the **Research and Development Subprograms** (Reports 2 through 4). It is anticipated that money will be available to fund the top-ranked fifteen (15) RCS Priority I proposals, the top-ranked four (4) ITRS Priority I proposals, and the top-ranked ten (10) ATLAS Priority I proposals at the levels recommended by consultants.
2. With respect to the Enhancement Program, it is anticipated that money will be available to fund proposals as follows: Multidisciplinary proposals ranked 1 through 7; Agricultural Sciences proposals ranked 1 through 5; Arts proposals ranked 1 through 8; Earth/Environmental Sciences proposals ranked 1 through 4; Engineering A proposals ranked 1 through 9; and Health and Medical Sciences proposals ranked 1 through 11. Similarly, money is anticipated to be available to fund the proposals ranked 1 through 5 (including ties for fifth) in the Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions and those ranked 1 through 15 (including ties for fifteenth) in the Undergraduate Enhancement Program.

The effective date of contracts for funded projects will be June 1, 2010. Applicants whose projects are funded will be informed as quickly as possible after April 22 of the items required for their contracts.

If you have any questions about this memorandum or the consultants' reports, please feel free to e-mail me at [john.wallin@la.gov](mailto:john.wallin@la.gov) or call me at (225) 342-4253, ext. 671.

JW/vd

cc: System and Campus Heads





