

**REPORT TO THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS  
REVIEW OF PROPOSED ENDOWED CHAIRS  
FOR EMINENT SCHOLARS**

**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND  
FISCAL YEAR 2016-17**

**March 9-10, 2017**

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**Report of the Review Panel for the  
Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Subprogram**

**FY 2016-17 Competition for Board of Regents Support Fund Matching Funds  
Submitted to the Louisiana Board of Regents**

**March 9-10, 2017**

- A. The three-member Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Subprogram external review panel received and reviewed the following documents prior to meeting with representatives of the institutions submitting proposals:
- i. The current Board of Regents Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Policy (revised November 2016);
  - ii. Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals to the Competitive and Restricted Bequests Endowed Chairs Subprograms for fiscal year (FY) 2016-17; and
  - iii. Nine (9) proposals for chairs submitted in the Competitive Subprogram under the FY 2016-17 Guidelines.
- B. On March 9, 2017, the panel conducted a series of interviews with representatives of each participating institution during assigned times to discuss its submitted proposal(s). Any additional printed materials provided by campus representatives relative to submitted proposals were also received at that time and approved for consideration. Representing the institutions were: **LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE** – Dr. Richard Koubek, Executive Vice President and Provost; Mr. Ryan Landry, Assistant to the Senior Vice Provost; Mr. Jerry Ceppos, Dean, Manship School of Mass Communication; and Dr. Cynthia Peterson, Dean, College of Science; **LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER – NEW ORLEANS** – Dr. Joseph Moerschbaecher III, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean, School of Graduate Studies; Ms. Denise Flock-Williams, Interim President, LSU Health Sciences Center Foundation; Dr. Augusto Ochoa, Director, Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center; and Dr. Robert Zura, Chair, Department of Orthopaedics; **LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER – SHREVEPORT** – Dr. Jane Eggerstedt, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; and Mr. Kevin Flood, President, LSU Health Sciences Foundation; **LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY – SHREVEPORT** – Dr. Larry Clark, Chancellor; **TULANE UNIVERSITY** – Dr. Robin Forman, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Dr. Carole Haber, Dean, Tulane School of Liberal Arts; Dr. Mary Clark, Associate Professor, Political Science; Ms. Luann Dozier, Vice President for Development, Constituency Programs; and Ms. Denise Breaux, Senior Director for Special Projects, Constituency Programs; and **UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE** – Dr. Eric Pani, Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Ron Berry, Dean, College of Business and Social Sciences.
- C. Following the interview sessions, the panel rated and ranked the nine (9) proposals submitted in the Competitive Subprogram. Reviewers based assessments on: (1) the written proposals; (2) information provided in the interviews with the institutional representatives; and (3) any additional printed and/or presented materials provided by campus representatives. Prospective chairs were rated according to evaluation criteria defined in the RFP, including: (1) potential of the proposed chair to contribute to economic development – 36 points maximum; (2) contribution of the

proposed chair to academic enhancement – 52 points maximum; (3) appropriateness, feasibility and likelihood of success of the proposed plan to recruit women and minority scholars in those fields at the institution in which there has been historical underrepresentation – 6 points maximum; and (4) appropriateness of the proposed chair to the mission of the campus/unit – 6 points maximum. The burden of proof was on each submitting institution to demonstrate the manner and extent to which the proposal satisfactorily addressed these criteria.

- D. **Attachment A** contains the rank-order prioritization of the nine (9) proposed endowed chairs submitted in the Competitive Subprogram resulting from the rating of each proposal according to evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. **Attachment B** contains a summary evaluation of each chair proposed in FY 2016-17.
- E. Following are comments about the proposal submission and review process and suggestions for maximizing the impact of the Board of Regents Support Fund Endowed Chairs Subprogram:
- (1) The external review panel members again strongly affirm for the citizens of Louisiana and for potential donors to the Endowed Chairs Subprogram that the Subprogram continues to effectively coordinate public and non-State resources for the purpose of improving the quality of higher education and its role in advancing the economy and cultural life for the people of the State. The key observation is that the overall merit of proposals continues to dictate funding decisions for the Endowed Chairs Subprogram. The review panel urges that every effort be made to provide additional resources to fund, in rank order according to merit, as many of this year's excellent proposals as possible to attract scholars who are the hallmark of an ascendant higher education system.
  - (2) Panel members reviewed current vacancies and vacancy rates for previously awarded endowed chairs at institutions submitting new proposals. The recruitment of new eminent scholars may be influenced by reports of and rationales for existing vacancies among eminent scholar positions on campuses. It is imperative that institutions make greater efforts to fill those positions with aggressive searches conducted within two years of the receipt of Board of Regents matching funds, or within two years of the departure of an existing chairholder. Also of importance in retaining the attractiveness and high renown of these position are maintaining the requirement of the national search and minimizing the appointment of internal candidates. It is further recommended that the central administration of each institution review unfilled or vacant Endowed Chair positions, taking into account the commitment of the relevant academic unit's administrators for locating, attracting, and retaining eminent scholars able to increase the R&D funding level and academic standing of the unit. Specific emphasis should be on commitment to these objectives despite budget difficulties resulting from the State's disinvestment in public campuses.

- (3) The panel again advises that the consideration of the merits and ranking of proposed endowed chairs is greatly enhanced by the panel's interviews with institutional representatives, particularly institutional and academic department and unit leaders. Understanding their overall perspectives and plans is vital to gauging the overall context for and likely long-term impact of proposed chairs with regard to expected productivity, alignment with and support for institutional academic, research and development objectives and anticipated outreach to regional leaders in business, industry, and community development as appropriate.
  - (4) The review panel commends recent revisions to Subprogram policies, which encourage the consolidation of two or more extant chairs and/or the enhancement of the permanent endowment for existing chairs which are consistent with the original long-term purposes for the use of these funds to promote the national standing and effectiveness of institutions of higher education in Louisiana. The outcome will be an enhanced ability to recruit and retain exceptional scholars who are critical to the positive reputation and economic influences of the academy in the region. The revised reporting requirements called for in the policy, with dual emphases on reporting to donors and appropriate academic personnel, will yield further transparency and attractiveness of these endowments. Additional revisions, approved in 2016, related to vacancies, donor interaction, information-sharing, and expenditure of endowment-generated revenues will further assist in ensuring that the matched chairs promote both educational quality and economic development, as intended by the subprogram's funding source.
  - (5) The panel again reinforces a key recommendation from earlier comprehensive reviews of the Endowed Chairs Subprogram that Board of Regents staff work with all stakeholders to establish an active website with managed content for a variety of audiences, including chairholders, administrators, the Board, legislators, and the public. Subsequent to and evolving from the successful implementation of this website, the Board should sponsor further development of a statewide Society of Eminent Scholars to promote synergies among chairholders, encourage chairholder participation in statewide strategic planning, and publicize individual and programmatic successes. Universities with sizable numbers of chairs should be encouraged to form internal advisory panels and engage chairholders as much as possible in institutional planning and assessment. The Board could also encourage the Society of Eminent Scholars, once operational, to provide advice, as appropriate, related to statewide and national research and development opportunities.
- F. The careful coordination of the review process provided by the Board's Sponsored Programs staff is acknowledged and appreciated. Further, the review panel commends the Regents for their insistence on the independence of the external review process. It is important also to thank representatives of the institutions submitting proposals, who were genuinely open and responsive during the interview sessions with the panel.

## **ATTACHMENT A**

**BoRSF Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Subprogram  
Proposals Submitted FY 2016-17**

**Competitive Subprogram Scoring**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Proposal Number</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Title of Chair</b>	<b>BoRSF Match Requested</b>	<b>Economic Development (36 points)</b>	<b>Academic Enhancement (52 points)</b>	<b>Recruitment Plan (6 points)</b>	<b>Appropriateness to Role, Scope, and Mission (6 points)</b>	<b>Total Points (100 Points)</b>
1	002EC-17	LSU and A&M College	Shirley C. Tucker Chair in Biological Sciences	\$800,000	36	51	6	6	<b>99</b>
2	001EC-17	LSU and A&M College	Douglas L. Manship, Sr.-Dori J. Maynard Chair in Race, Media & Cultural Literacy	\$1,200,000	34	52	6	6	<b>98</b>
3	007EC-17	Tulane University	Scott and Marjorie Cowen Chair in Latin American Social Sciences II	\$800,000	34	50	6	6	<b>96</b>
4	003EC-17	LSUHSC-NO	Cancer Crusaders Chair in Advanced Cancer Therapy Research	\$400,000	34	48	6	6	<b>94</b>
5	004EC-17	LSUHSC-NO	David Drez, Jr., M.D. Chair	\$400,000	34	47	6	6	<b>93</b>
6	008EC-17	UL Monroe	B. W. Biedenharn Chair in Business	\$400,000	32	46	6	6	<b>90</b>
7	009EC-17	UL Monroe	ULM Endowed Chair in Agriculture	\$400,000	30	46	6	6	<b>88</b>
8	006EC-17	LSU-Shreveport	Miriam M. Sklar Endowed Chair in Math and Physics	\$400,000	28	40	6	6	<b>80</b>
9	005EC-17	LSUHSC-S	The Medical Center Clinics Endowed Chair in Graduate Medical Education	\$800,000	30	26	0	6	<b>62</b>

## **ATTACHMENT B**

## **RANKED 1: Shirley C. Tucker Chair in Biological Sciences (#002EC-17)**

LSU and A&M College's Department of Biological Sciences is requesting \$800,000 to complete the Shirley C. Tucker Chair. Dr. Tucker was a long-standing faculty member at LSU A&M and her scholarship in plant systematics related to floral development in legumes and other flowering plants is widely recognized and influential. She is credited with building the LSU's herbarium's lichen collection which contains 44,000 specimens, the largest collection in the Southeast. Dr. Tucker maintained continuous funding from the National Science Foundation from 1957 thru 2000, a most impressive accomplishment. Among many reflections of her eminence, she was president of the Botanical Society of America and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, as well as a member of the Linnean Society, an honor reserved for very few scientists. As a result of these and many other achievements, Dr. Tucker was the first woman to receive the highest faculty honor – the title of Boyd Professor – at LSU A&M. Dr. Tucker retired in 1995 and was inducted into the LSU College of Science Hall of Distinction.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Shirley C. Tucker Herbarium was held on October, 15, 2015. Dr. Tucker donated \$2 million dollars to the Herbarium and plant systematics program in the Department of Biological Sciences. Her endowment created four Superior Graduate Student Scholarships and perpetual support for the Herbarium, as well as dedicating \$1,200,000 for the establishment of the Tucker Chair.

The primary focus of the scholar recruited for the Tucker Chair will be teaching and research in the areas of systematic botany, natural biodiversity and scientific inquiry. The benefits humans derive from a diverse ecosystem include oxygen production, water purification, solar energy conversion and climate moderation, and the development of "biologicals" for pharmaceutical and medical use. The academic and economic benefits from the expansion and development of this area will be far-reaching across multiple disciplines: agriculture, medicine, fishing, forestry, conservation and eco-tourism and outdoor recreation. The Tucker Chair will enhance the academic and research training of graduates in plant systematics, who will be prepared for careers in federal and state governments, pharmaceutical companies, museums, environmental consulting groups and regulatory agencies. Economic benefits include enhanced research in plant systematics, research as well as consulting in agriculture and environmental conservation and, most important, in wetlands and coastal waters, the nation's most fragile and valuable resources for fishing and recreation and a \$1 billion industry in Louisiana.

The Tucker Chair will interact with a nucleus of Biological Sciences faculty whose research relies heavily on computational tools. In addition, the Chair will interact with and support major units of LSU A&M including the Department of Renewable Natural Resources, Plant Physiology and the Office of Research and Economic Development. A number of LSU A&M programs rely on and benefit from the Herbarium; the Tucker Chair is expected to enhance research and systematic collections to facilitate these interactions with Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, Plant Pathology and Landscape Architecture.

The holder of the Tucker Chair is expected to provide continued leadership in systematic botany as applied to the areas and programs outlined above, as well as enhance teaching through development of formal coursework and individual mentorship of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students. The Chair will provide the stimulus in developing, improving and using botanical collections as a means to understanding the phylogenetic relationships among plant groups and the use of that information for a better understanding of evolution, ecology, and patterns of biodiversity as factors in regional biotas and



biological communities. The recruitment of an eminent scholar to a vigorous leadership role to not only pull all existing resources together but also expand this interaction is critical for the Department and LSU A&M to move to a higher prominence in plant systematics and relate these areas to the resources so vital to the campus, State and region.

This is a well-written proposal that outlines in detail the goals and objectives for the Shirley C. Tucker Chair in the Department of Biological Sciences. The academic and economic benefits are well delineated, as is the search procedure for recruiting the scholar. A salary line for a full professor will be provided and the scholar will benefit directly from the income derived from the endowment. The panel recommends an award of \$800,000 to establish the Tucker Chair.

**RANKED 2: Douglas L. Manship, Sr.-Dori J. Maynard Chair in Race, Media & Cultural Literacy (#001EC-17)**

Louisiana State University and A&M College is requesting \$1,200,000 in matching funds to establish the \$3,000,000 Douglas L. Manship, Sr.-Dori J. Maynard Chair in Race, Media & Cultural Literacy within the Manship School of Mass Communication. This Chair is meant to serve the full range of American news and information consumers in an increasingly diverse public. The chair is named for Douglas L. Manship, Sr., who for more than fifty years in journalistic management and leadership in Louisiana was known as a forceful and articulate advocate of American press freedom, as well as for Dori J. Maynard, who as president of the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, located in Oakland, California, was dedicated to helping the nation's news media accurately and fairly portray all segments of society. Dori Maynard's father was the first African American to own and operate a mainstream newspaper and her family is legendary in journalism communities across the United States.

The Manship School is an ideal location for the focal area of the Manship-Maynard Chair: diversity and the media. Accredited by the American Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the Manship School has been described in a major institutional review as "in the ranks of the country's strongest programs within this field." With a central theme of research and teaching focusing on the intersection of media and public affairs, the Manship School offers undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs in media and public affairs and is well known for its social-media laboratory. Now active for more than 100 years, the Manship School has reported directly to the Provost since 1994 and has a \$30 million endowment.

The critical issue of race in the newsroom has been a tacit and explicit focus of the Manship School over the past several years, and the faculty recently voted to require a course in media and diversity for all students. This Chair is described in the proposal as "shining a light on media diversity," which seems appropriate in a State with a 36% minority citizenry. It is noted that the Manship School anticipates that "more than 26% of full-time faculty will be people of color when classes begin in August." The unit received the first Equity and Diversity Award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in 2009. These factors underscore the unique qualities of the Manship School to host the Manship-Maynard Chair, the first such endowed faculty position of its kind.

This is a well-written proposal that clearly stated the appropriateness of the proposed Chair to the mission of the Manship School, as well as LSU A&M's larger strategic priorities. The national search procedures and proposed qualifications for the scholar to hold the Manship-Maynard Chair are well defined. Funding is strongly recommended for \$1,200,000 in BoRSF matching funds.

### **RANKED 3: Scott and Marjorie Cowen Chair in Latin American Social Sciences II (#007EC-17)**

Tulane University, home of the nationally prominent Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies, is requesting \$800,000 to match \$1,200,000 in non-State support for the Scott and Marjorie Cowen Chair in Latin American Social Sciences II. A major priority area for Tulane, the Stone Center has nine existing chairs in Latin American Studies. This Chair, the second of two endowed positions for the Center devoted to social, political, and economic issues and policies in Latin America, will be based in the Department of Political Science. A search is currently underway for the first Chair, to be housed in the Department of Economics. The School of Liberal Arts will seek to fill the new Chair through a national search for a preeminent scholar, researcher, and educator whose work lies in one or more of the major areas of contemporary Latin American political science.

The duties of the chairholder are anticipated to include collaboration with other senior faculty in the Stone Center to generate research, secure grant funding, and develop multidisciplinary programs. Coordination of conferences at Tulane on Latin America and connecting local leaders to the work of international colleagues are also expected to be major activities. Fluency in English and Spanish or Portuguese is required. The position offers a generous start-up package including a highly competitive salary, a tenured academic appointment at the level of full professor, an annual research fund of \$10,000 for the first three years, technology resources and moving expenses; the package should make Tulane competitive for national and international senior scholars. The panel notes that the proposal pledged a salary line at the assistant professor level, which is inconsistent with Board of Regents requirements. In interviews, Tulane representatives indicated that this was incorrect and that the salary would be at or above the level mandated by Regents policy.

The proposal is excellent, and the panel recommends funding of \$800,000 to complete the Scott and Marjorie Cowen Chair in Latin American Social Sciences II on the condition that the clarification regarding base salary is confirmed in writing to the Board.

#### **RANKED 4: Cancer Crusaders Chair in Advanced Cancer Therapy Research (#003EC-17)**

LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans’ Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center (SSSCC) is requesting \$400,000 in matching funds to establish the Cancer Crusaders Chair in Advanced Cancer Therapy Research. This Chair will combine basic, clinical and translational research, scholarly pursuits, and teaching/educational foci, with scholarly research as the pre-eminent objective. This is a resubmission from the 2016 competition and the proposal has been modified to contain additional information highlighting how this Chair will contribute to new recent initiatives from federal funding sources. The new information underscores the exceptional value added for LSUHSC-NO through this Chair.

Cancer Crusaders has provided more than \$4 million to the SSSCC and the Tulane Cancer Center for research directed toward new treatments and potential cures for cancer. This request for establishing the Advanced Cancer Therapy Endowed Chair meets not only the donor’s objective, but also the goal of the SSSCC to develop new and better cancer treatment with a central focus on the elimination of this disease.

Among novel therapies for cancer, two in which SSSCC investigators and clinicians have been active participants are considered most promising: procedures which target cancer cell growth and cancer immunotherapy, which helps the patient’s immune system find and destroy cancer cells. The SSSCC is a nationally designated Center of Excellence in Cancer Research, which provides the opportunity for its investigators and clinicians to participate in national cancer treatment trials. There is a strong need, then, to recruit a national scholar/leader to assist LSUHSC-NO as a participant in national protocols. The recruitment of a nationally recognized cancer scholar will also give the SSSCC additional leverage in the National Cancer Institute’s Blue Ribbon Panel for immunotherapy and combination therapies.

Recruitment of an eminent scholar in cancer therapy and research will have a significant academic impact for the university, the region and the State. Students and faculty will benefit from the scholar’s clinical and research experience and expertise; area physicians will learn from new knowledge provided through continuing education; and new cancer therapies will advance doctors’ and patients’ options for fighting cancer. The potential for economic impact is great considering the opportunity for developing new cancer therapies which will be available to patients regionally and across Louisiana. Of greater value to the region, as these new therapies are developed, patients will be able to stay within their home areas rather than travelling to distant locations. This benefits the whole cancer treatment network: patient, physician, and community.

The SSSCC is approved for National Cancer Institute (NCI) clinical trials, allowing the campus to participate in national clinical protocols. LSUHSC-NO has developed a Clinical Research Center which includes the infrastructure for assisting with the implementation and development of clinical trial protocols. This Chair will enhance the number and level of clinical research trials, which will allow SSSCC to meet requirements for designation as a NCI Cancer Center. The recruitment of a major cancer scholar to fill the Cancer Crusaders Chair is critical to meet this objective.

The proposal is clearly written, with well-defined goals and objectives. The SSSCC pledges \$120,000 annually and the College of Medicine will commit additional funds necessary to establish a tenured faculty position at a level appropriate for the Chair. The scholar will be provided the necessary administrative,

academic and research space within the Cancer Center. The panel strongly recommends provision of the requested \$400,000 in matching funds to complete the Cancer Crusaders Chair.

## **RANKED 5: David Drez, Jr., M.D. Chair (#004EC-17)**

LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans' Department of Orthopaedics requests \$400,000 in matching funds to establish the David Drez, Jr., M.D. Chair in honor of Dr. Drez, who completed his orthopaedic training at Tulane University in the 1970s. Along with a colleague, Dr. Drez established the first sports medicine society in orthopaedics. LSUHSC-NO, early in recognizing the importance of sports medicine, established a relationship with Dr. Drez to develop the Sports Medicine program within Orthopaedic Surgery, resulting in a thirty-year association. Dr. Drez and his colleague, Dr. DeLee, authored the first textbook in orthopaedic sports medicine, now in its third edition and still the most comprehensive orthopaedic sports medicine textbook in use.

It is estimated that 2.6 million children and adolescents are treated in U.S. emergency rooms for sports-related injuries each year. Even more disturbing, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that more than half of all sports injuries in children are preventable. Expanded to include college and professional sports, the number of sports-related injuries is estimated to be 3.8 million annually. To help eliminate these unnecessary injuries, the CDC's HEADS-UP initiative provides information aimed at prevention to athletes, parents, coaches and care providers.

LSUHSC-NO is developing comprehensive training and awareness initiatives incorporating Family Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Neurosurgery, Athletic Training, Kinesiology, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant programs. The goal is to establish a broad, interactive team approach to education and treatment related to sports-related injuries, including medical caregivers along with athletes, parents, coaches and sports organizations. The sports medicine scholar recruited for the Drez Chair will coordinate the mission of the injury prevention program and research being conducted by the programs listed above and through the Musculoskeletal Scientific Research Consortium. The presence of a prominent sports medicine researcher, educator and surgeon will immediately advance LSUHSC-NO to be competitive in the sports medicine marketplace in the State and the region.

One of the greatest likely impacts of the recruited scholar is the expansion of collaborative opportunities available to researchers and faculty. Orthopaedic Surgery – Sports Medicine has established interactive programs, but this will advance the long-term goal to establish a "Sports Science Center" similar to one recently opened at Duke University. The holder of the Drez Chair will be a leader in this effort. The chairholder will also have the opportunity for broader collaboration with other endowed chairs, including four in Orthopaedic Surgery – Sports Medicine. Cross-university partnerships will also be encouraged, particularly with the Department of Kinesiology and Athletic Training at LSU A&M. This emphasis on collaborative work provides a diverse academic, research and clinical environment to support the Chair, department and LSUHSC-NO in reaching their goals.

The economic impact of the Drez Chair will be measured by the increased financial resources generated through research and clinical care provided to those suffering from sports injuries. In addition, development of a "Sports Science Center" will not only enhance the image and profile of LSUHSC-NO but also provide services in critical areas broadly across the State. Academic/educational impact is profound, offering better training and education for the medical students, physicians and the sports public in general. The recruitment of a senior scholar will also serve to build research capacity and external funding.

The search process for the Drez Chair is well defined and goals and expectations for the recruited scholar are well outlined in the proposal. LSUHSC-NO has provided a full professor salary of \$320,000 and the chairholder will have discretion to expend from endowment revenues. The panel recommends the requested matching funds of \$400,000 be awarded to complete the David Drez, Jr., M.D. Chair.

#### **RANKED 6: B. W. Biedenharn Chair in Business (#008EC-17)**

The University of Louisiana at Monroe is requesting \$400,000 in matching funds to establish the B. W. Biedenharn Chair in Business, housed in the College of Business and Social Sciences. The college seeks to recruit and retain a prominent business faculty member who will enhance the reputation, visibility, and prestige of UL Monroe's business programs. The chairholder would focus attention on research, education, and community engagement activities that have a significant impact on the community and the region. Accordingly, the research or scholarly focus of the Chair must be on practical, applied or pedagogical research. It is also anticipated that the chairholder will teach a twelve-hour load (four courses) each year. The university is committed to providing a minimum nine-month base salary of up to \$150,000 for a tenured professor, and support for one full-time graduate assistant per year. It is intended that the primary contribution of the Chair will be to raise the profile and prestige of business programs at UL Monroe.

A national search is planned with a committee consisting primarily of senior business faculty in the college. The successful candidate would be an author of nationally recognized and adopted textbooks or other educational materials, or substantial pedagogical research. Alternatively, the Chair could be filled by an individual with a national reputation for applied research in a business discipline or significant community or industrial engagement. The college provides community support through the Small Business Development Center, the Center for Business and Economic Research, the Small Business Risk Management Institute, and the Northeast Louisiana Business and Community Development Center, and the chairholder could have a major impact in these areas.

The proposal identifies modest metrics, appropriate to the scope of the Chair as proposed, that would be used to evaluate the impacts of the chairholder's activities. Expected scholarly activity is in applied research as described in the proposal, though the quantity and range of work expected of the chairholder, from research to education to service, is extensive; it would be helpful to understand how this level of productivity differs from other faculty in the department and college.

This is a very good proposal and the panel recommends provision of the requested \$400,000 match, should additional funds be available. The panel notes that the proposal would be assured of support if the BoRSF budget levels had not declined so precipitously, leading to a reduction of available matching dollars.



## **RANKED 7: ULM Endowed Chair in Agriculture (#009EC-17)**

The University of Louisiana at Monroe is requesting \$400,000 in matching funds to create the \$1 million Endowed Chair in Agriculture with a focus on agricultural business within the College of Business and Social Sciences. It is stated that the recruitment and retention of a prominent faculty member in agricultural business would enhance the visibility and prestige of the agribusiness program at the university, consistent with the mission of the college, focusing on teaching, research, service, and community engagement, and having a significant impact on students, the community, the region, and the country. The initial goals and objectives of the proposed position would include enhancing extramural funding, publication of research in the area of precision agriculture, collaboration with faculty in other disciplines, and the development of an industrial advisory board to provide guidance and support to the agribusiness program.

The program involves a curriculum that supports career opportunities in the production, commercial processing, and marketing of food, fiber, and oil-based agricultural products. The panel noted that UL Monroe no longer has applied agriculture programs, though campus representatives emphasized that the prevalence of agriculture – both family and commercial farming – in the region made agribusiness training highly sought. Representatives suggested that the Chair will have significant connections to UL Monroe's unmanned aircraft (drone) programs, which focus on precision agricultural applications. It was not clear, however, what kinds of connections would be expected or how the business and aviation emphases would be complementary.

The College of Business and Social Sciences houses centers that provide economic and community development support, including small business development, economic research, and risk management, all of which would be applicable to the agribusiness focus of the Chair. Less clear, however, was the need for an endowed faculty position at the highest level to support the current program, which has 50 undergraduate majors. What added value does an eminent scholar/teacher, supported with supplementary endowed funds, provide to the program as it seeks to grow? What resources are in place to attract a nationally competitive agribusiness expert to Monroe and retain him/her over the long term, particularly in the absence of other agriculture programs? Would a prior focus on aviation/drones be essential, or one or many connections a potential chairholder might have?

The institution will hire the chairholder through a national search and provide a nine-month base salary of at least \$110,000 for a tenured associate or full professor. This salary would be supplemented by \$20,000 annually from endowment earnings. Also provided would be support for a full-time graduate assistant (from the MBA program) and a reduced teaching load of four courses per year. It is recommended that the \$400,000 match be awarded, should additional funds be available. The panel notes that the proposal would be assured of support if the BoRSF budget levels had not declined so precipitously, leading to a reduction of available matching dollars.

## **RANKED 8: Miriam M. Sklar Endowed Chair in Math and Physics (#006EC-17)**

Louisiana State University in Shreveport (LSUS) is seeking \$400,000 in matching funds to establish the Miriam M. Sklar Endowed Chair in Math and Physics, primarily focused on undergraduate teaching, learning and research with outreach in support of K-12 education and transformation of the regional economy. It is expected that the holder of the Sklar Chair would be a superior teacher and researcher, and would provide strong direct leadership and/or innovative work in at least three of five university focal areas: (1) program and curriculum development, especially in collaboration with other academic units, including LSUHSC-Shreveport; (2) support of LSUS students, especially underrepresented minorities and women, to be successful in graduate school or a career, including development of student research activities; (3) support of LaPREP and/or School of Education STEM initiatives, especially in the recruitment and success of minorities and women; (4) commercialization of research, especially in collaboration with other academic units, including LSUHSC-Shreveport; and (5) collaboration in support of industry, especially in Northwest Louisiana, and in key areas of regional strength, including cyber security, data analytics and defense intelligence. It is difficult to judge the real potential for impact of the Chair without knowing which of the focal areas would be selected, particularly as these range from basic faculty activities – e.g., curriculum development – to less typical commercialization or cross-campus research collaboration.

Per the requirements of the Sklar Foundation, the holder of the Chair would, as is the existing Miriam M. Sklar Professorship in Math and Physics, be involved in the teaching of both mathematics and physics. The chairholder might be a member of either the Department of Chemistry & Physics or Department of Mathematics, or both. The academic teaching, research and service environments into which the Chair would be integrated are chiefly in support of undergraduate learning, since LSUS presently has no graduate programs in math or physics. It is critical to recognize, however, the need for high-quality math and physics education to underpin a variety of STEM disciplines and programs, and to prepare LSUS students for workforce opportunities. The chairholder would have the opportunity to teach graduate courses in support of other graduate programs at LSUS, depending on expertise. In addition to the undergraduate focus, the Chair would be expected to provide leadership and expertise in support of the possible development of a graduate degree in mathematics and/or a cross-disciplinary program in big data/analytics.

The chairholder is expected to be a superior teacher and proven research thought leader with a doctorate in mathematics and/or physics. It is expected that the individual would qualify for the rank of Professor at LSUS. The proposal identifies reasonable metrics that would be used to evaluate the effects of the chairholder's activities, and indicates that LSUS has guaranteed a funded line for the necessary faculty position. The proposal is less convincing in showing that the Chair is structured in such a way as to align well with campus needs and achieve well-defined, concrete objectives. Identifying five focal areas, with a requirement to align with at least three, speaks to a lack of certainty about what kinds of candidates might be attracted and what the campus can ultimately accomplish with the Chair in place. Outcomes would be expected to be very different from a chairholder emphasizing research commercialization than one emphasizing mathematics instruction; from a dedicated K-12/undergraduate-level teacher to a faculty member wishing to pursue creation of a graduate program.

This proposal, much improved from a previous submission, could be better positioned for funding by focusing exclusively on the extremely high need for quality mathematics instruction, research, and outreach. Though the dual focus is interesting, it results in a Chair that may be difficult to define, difficult to

fill, and difficult to use to accomplish campus goals and address urgent needs. The panel does not recommend the match be provided at this time, but suggests that LSUS continue to define the role of the prospective Chair on the campus and resubmit a revised proposal in next year's competition.

**RANKED 9: The Medical Center Clinics Endowed Chair in Graduate Medical Education (#005EC-17)**

LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport is requesting \$800,000 to establish The Medical Center Clinics Endowed Chair in Graduate Medical Education. The \$1.2 million in matching funds was received from the Medical Center Clinics, a teaching facility associated with the School of Medicine organized 48 years ago to provide clinical services to patients generated by the faculty physicians and the other disciplines and associates of LSUHSC-S. Since its inception it has provided funding for six BoRSF-matched Endowed Professorships. The purpose of this Chair is to support graduate medical education, particularly residencies.

Graduate medical education programs are designed to prepare physicians for practice within medical specialty areas. Upon graduation from medical school, graduates are granted the M.D. degree. In order to be licensed to practice medicine, however, they are required to enter a graduate medical education program ranging from three to seven years, depending on the specialty area of training. This requirement for all medical school graduates to complete a graduate medical training program and the recent advancement of technology-based medical procedures have created a need for additional training opportunities. The primary focus of the Medical Center Clinics Chair is to assist LSUHSC-S to enhance current training programs and develop additional programs and procedures.

The proposal identifies three chief foci for the Chair: education, research and resident/fellow wellness. The purpose of the Chair as presented in the proposal is to provide much-needed enhancements for residents, including new and upgraded equipment, research opportunities, and support programs for overworked, overstressed students. To target efforts to enhance the graduate medical training, a committee of institutional officials – comprised of the individual in each participating institution who has the authority and responsibility for all of the accredited programs in that facility/institution, as well as the Graduate Medical Program Directors for each of the medical specialty areas – will be established. This committee will solicit and review all proposals received for graduate medical education and forward recommendations to the chairholder for review and selection.

The academic impact is defined as the overall enhancement to the training and education for all graduate medical education residents and fellows. The enhanced programs at LSUHSC-S will attract more and better-qualified applicants, resulting in a higher quality of physician for Louisiana. The economic impact will be realized primarily by these physicians practicing in Louisiana. Based on 2012 data from the American Medical Association, each physician in Louisiana generated \$1.3M in output and was responsible for an average of 9.6 jobs; total support for Louisiana from physicians was \$13.2B and 93,974 jobs. These economic impacts can be even more significant if Louisiana-trained physicians choose to establish their practices in the State.

The proposal provides expectations and objectives for the Chair, but the activities and structure do not seem well aligned with the BoRSF Endowed Chairs subprogram's purpose of recruiting and retaining eminent scholars. On page 2, this statement is made: "In a time of shrinking state support, this gift will allow LSUHSC-S to enhance the educational and research environment by upgrading and expanding the simulation equipment in the Clinical Skills Center". While such purchases are sometimes necessary to develop and continue scholarly activity, in this case the focus is on enhancing the present graduate medical education program rather than supporting an eminent scholar who holds the Chair. The proposal indicates

that no funds from the endowment will be used for salary support of the chairholder, but it also was not clear whether a national search was planned, the qualifications or type of faculty member sought, the function of the Chair within the campus or regional research community, or other considerations important for an eminent scholar. As described, the position appears to be that of an administrator, with the bulk – even the entirety – of the funds going to direct support of the residency programs. While this is admirable and necessary, it is not within the scope of the Endowed Chairs subprogram.

The proposal is not recommended for funding in its current form. Any resubmission of the Chair should be based on the purposes, goals, objectives, and priorities of the Endowed Chairs subprogram as set forth in policy and the annual RFP, including scoring weights. The panel feels it might be possible to structure the Chair in such a way that it addresses these concerns and even is trailblazing in addressing major challenges in residency programs through serious scholarship. These changes may, however, result in a Chair that is less directly able to provide operational support for the residency programs and thus of dramatically different function from that envisioned by the donors and the campus. The campus and donors should then weigh carefully whether the pursuit of State matching is worth a fundamental directional shift.