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April 1, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: Directors, Offices of Research

From: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

RE: 1. Out-of-State Consultants' Reports and Funding Recommendations for Proposals Submitted under Board of Regents Support Fund Competitive Programs, FY 2015-16
2. **APRIL 25, 2016 DEADLINE** for Campus Responses to Funding Stipulations Contained in Consultants' Reports



FY 2015-16 BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The fifteen (15) reports from out-of-state consultants which recommend funding for proposals submitted in FY 2015-16 under Board of Regents Support Fund competitive programs are now posted on the website of the Board of Regents Sponsored Programs Section, <https://web.laregents.org>. The Board is expected to act on these recommendations, as well as campus requests for matching funds to endow non-competitive professorships and first-generation undergraduate scholarships, at its April 27, 2016 meeting.

Two new competitive endowment matching subprograms – Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships and Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships – received fewer requests for match than funding budgeted and competitive reviews were not conducted. All proposals submitted in these subprograms will be recommended for funding in April 2016.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ACTION BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS IS REQUIRED BEFORE FUNDING IS ASSURED FOR ANY OF THE PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED

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)
- Report 5 Pilot Funding for New Research Component (Pfund)
- Report 6 Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative (PoC/P)

ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

- Report 7 Undergraduate Enhancement Subprogram
- Report 8 Traditional Enhancement Subprogram: Multidisciplinary
- Report 9 Traditional Enhancement Subprogram: Agricultural Sciences
- Report 10 Traditional Enhancement Subprogram: Arts
- Report 11 Traditional Enhancement Subprogram: Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Report 12 Traditional Enhancement Subprogram: Engineering A
- Report 13 Traditional Enhancement Subprogram: Health & Medical Sciences

GRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM:

- Report 14 Traditional Graduate Fellows Subprogram
- Report 15 BoR/SREB Graduate Fellowships to Promote Diversity Subprogram

The most recent estimate issued by the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) in January 2016 projected the amount of money available in FY 2015-16 for higher education's portion of the Support Fund to be \$24.85 million. This projection is significantly lower than previous REC guidance and projections used to derive the approved FY 2015-16 BoRSF Plan and Budget of \$26.5 million. As a result, substantial reductions in anticipated first-year funds must be taken, as reflected in the explanations and estimates that follow. If revenue projections are further reduced, the recommendations contained herein are subject to revision.

Though the precise amount of money available for Support Fund programs is not yet known, due to shortfalls in revenue estimates the total amount of FY 2015-16 monies expected to be available for expenditure for the first year of new R&D and Enhancement projects has been reduced by 14%. This reduction will enable funding of only some proposals rated Priority I across these programs and subprograms. While it is possible that a small number of unfunded Priority I proposals may receive support if additional monies become available, it is not likely that any proposals ranked Priority II will be funded this year. Rank orders recommended for funding in each of the following reports are:

| REPORT | FIRST-YEAR FUNDING RECOMMENDED | RANKS RECOMMENDED |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Endowed Chairs | \$3,200,000 | 1-5 |
| Industrial Ties Research (ITRS) | \$ 533,074 | 1-8 |
| Research Competitiveness (RCS) | \$1,161,186 | 1-24 |
| Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) | \$ 384,284 | 1-9 |
| Pilot Funding for New Research (Pfund) | \$ 330,400 | 1-17 |
| Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping (PoC/P) | \$ 291,814 | 1-8 |
| Undergraduate Enhancement | \$1,352,428 | 1-21 |
| Traditional Enhancement: Multidisciplinary | \$ 689,874 | 1-8 |
| Traditional Enhancement: Agricultural Sciences | \$ 203,341 | 1-2 |
| Traditional Enhancement: Arts | \$ 595,784 | 1-6 |
| Traditional Enhancement: Earth & Environmental Sciences | \$ 427,436 | 1-5 |
| Traditional Enhancement: Engineering A | \$ 521,168 | 1-6 |

| | | |
|--|------------|------|
| Traditional Enhancement: Health & Medical Sciences | \$ 736,981 | 1-8 |
| Traditional Graduate Fellows | \$ 835,000 | 1-20 |
| BoR/SREB Fellowships to Promote Diversity | \$ 250,000 | 1-4 |

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, April 25**, if any or all of the following conditions apply:

1. 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.

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 project as originally submitted.
3. The same or a very similar project has already been funded or will be funded in the near future from another source.
4. Problems exist or funding stipulations have been recommended that cannot be resolved within the next few weeks, which, therefore, might preclude the Board's being able to award Support Fund money by June 30, 2016, 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 level(s) 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 April 25, 2016.

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, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs (carrie.robison@la.gov). If you require other arrangements to submit your response, contact Ms. Robison via email or at (225) 342-4253 x669.

As soon as possible following Board approval at the April meeting, contracts for approved projects will be transmitted through each campus's institutional LOGAN account. Applicants whose projects are funded will be informed as quickly as possible after Board approval is granted of the items required for their contracts. Instructions and due dates for contract completion and submission will be published with the contracts in LOGAN.

The effective date of contracts for funded projects will be June 1, 2016, with the exception of Graduate Fellows projects. As indicated in program requests for proposals, contracts for Traditional Graduate Fellows projects approved for funding in FY 2015-16 will have an effective date of August 1, 2017, and BoR/SREB projects an effective date of August 1, 2016.

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