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April 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Directors, Offices of Research & Sponsored Programs

From: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives

RE: 1. Out-of-State Consultants' Reports and Funding Recommendations for Proposals Submitted under Board of Regents Support Fund Competitive Programs, FY 2019-20
2. **APRIL 20, 2020 DEADLINE** for Campus Responses to Consultants' Recommendations

FY 2019-20 BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Nine reports from out-of-state consultants, submitted across the four programs of the Board of Regents Support Fund, recommend funding for proposals submitted in FY 2019-20 under the competitive programs. These reports are now posted on the website of the Board of Regents Research and Sponsored Initiatives Section, <https://web.laregents.org>. The Board is expected to act on the recommendations, as well as campus requests for matching funds to endow non-competitive professorships and first-generation undergraduate scholarships, at its April 22, 2020 meeting.

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

ENDOWED CHAIRS PROGRAM

Competitive and Restricted Bequests

ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Departmental Enhancement Subprogram
BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative to Promote Student and Faculty Diversity
Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS)
Industrial Ties Research Subprogram (ITRS)
ITRS Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative (PoC/P)
Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS)

RECRUITMENT OF SUPERIOR GRADUATE STUDENTS PROGRAM

Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships

The most recent estimate issued by the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) in April 2019 projected the amount of money available in FY 2019-20 for higher education's portion of the Support Fund to be \$22.65 million, sufficient to allow funding in accordance with the approved BoRSF budget. If revenue projections are reduced, the recommendations contained herein are subject to revision.

The amount available in the FY 2019-20 budget will enable funding of only some proposals rated Priority I across BoRSF competitive programs and subprograms. It is possible that a small number of unfunded Priority I proposals may receive support if additional monies become available or recommended awards with higher ranks are declined; available funds are insufficient to recommend support for any proposals ranked below Priority I. Rank orders for which funds are available in each of the posted reports are:

REPORT	FIRST-YEAR FUNDING RECOMMENDED	RANKS RECOMMENDED
Endowed Chairs	\$1,200,000	1-2
Departmental Enhancement: Comprehensive	\$304,317	1-3
Departmental Enhancement: Targeted	\$2,155,791	1-21
BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative*	\$150,000	1-5
Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships (EWS)	\$600,000	1-26
Research Competitiveness (RCS)	\$1,344,530	1-31
Industrial Ties Research (ITRS)	\$419,868	1-6
ITRS Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping (PoC/P)	\$279,701	1-7
Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS)	\$355,018	1-9
Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships (EGS)	\$680,000	1-10**

* Report and recommendations released in February 2020

** Two projects ranked #10; both are recommended for funding

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES

Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the traditional BoRSF funding timeline must be maintained as much as possible, to enable contracting to be completed and appropriate payments made by the end of the current fiscal year. With that in mind, unless there are specific circumstances requiring additional time, all institutions with proposals recommended for funding must inform the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Section in writing no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, April 20**, 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 that stipulations specified in reports are binding and become a part of the award contract, if the award is accepted. If budgets have been reduced with no indication of the manner in which the reduction should/must be accomplished, the principal investigator is permitted to reduce the budget as he/she deems most appropriate to accomplish the objectives set forth in the proposal as originally submitted and/or as revised by consultant stipulations.

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, 2020, 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 20, 2020.

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 Research and Sponsored Initiatives (carrie.robison@laregents.edu). Please contact me if you require other arrangements to submit your response.

As soon as possible following Board action 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. For campuses anticipating contracts, note that a proclamation by the Governor in response to the COVID-19 disruption has enabled state agencies to accept electronic signatures on contract documents. Campuses may plan accordingly.

The effective date of contracts for funded projects will be June 1, 2020, with the exception of BoR/SREB Doctoral Support projects. **As indicated in program requests for proposals, these contracts will have an effective date of August 1, 2020.**

If you have any questions about this memorandum or the consultants' reports, please feel free to contact me via email (carrie.robison@laregents.edu) or phone (225-219-7169).

cc: System and Campus Heads
Members, Board of Regents