

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

**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT
FUND FISCAL YEAR 2021-22**

March 2022

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**Report of the Review Panel for the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program
FY 2021-22 Competition for Board of Regents Support Fund Matching Funds**

March 7, 2022

The three-member Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program external review panel received and reviewed the following documents:

- a. The current Board of Regents Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program Policy (revised June 2020);
- b. Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals to the Competitive and Restricted Bequests Endowed Chairs Subprograms for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22; and
- c. Thirteen (13) proposals for Chairs submitted in the Competitive Subprogram under the FY 2021-22 Guidelines.

On March 7, 2022, the panel met by videoconference to discuss, rate, and rank the thirteen (13) proposals submitted in the Competitive Subprogram and develop funding recommendations. Based on the submitted proposals, prospective chairs were rated according to evaluation criteria defined in the RFP, including: (1) alignment with role, scope, mission, and strategic priorities (30 points); (2) contribution to academic training in priority areas (25 points); (3) potential to contribute to economic development in Louisiana (20 points); (4) long-term campus investment & appropriateness of the chair (15 points); and (5) appropriateness of available resources (10 points).

The burden of proof was on each submitting institution to demonstrate the manner and extent to which the proposal satisfactorily addressed these criteria.

Attachment A contains the rank-order prioritization of the thirteen (13) 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 2021-22.

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 Program:

1. The panel members strongly affirm that the Endowed Chairs Program continues to effectively coordinate public and non-State resources for the purpose of improving the quality of higher education and its role in advancing Louisiana's economy, society, and culture. The overall merit of proposals continues to dictate funding decisions for the Endowed Chairs Program, which is important as monies available for matching are limited. The 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 help attract high-caliber scholars who are the hallmark of a superior higher education system.

2. The panel reminds applicants that for Endowed Chairs to be truly transformational in priority academic areas the campus must provide sufficient resources separate from the endowment to support not just recruitment, but also retention of superior scholars. It is crucial to include a salary line sufficient to draw a senior, tenured faculty member with an outstanding record of scholarly/educational/professional accomplishments, as well as ensure access to appropriate facilities, colleagues, and resources to pursue professional work at the level of quality and impact that led to the chairholder's selection.

The careful coordination of the review process provided by the Board's Research and Sponsored Initiatives staff is acknowledged and appreciated. Further, the panel commends the Regents for their insistence on the independence of the external review process.

ATTACHMENT A

BoRSF Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program
 Proposal Scoring and Funding Recommendations, FY 2021-22

Rank	Proposal #	Chair Title	Institution Name	BoRSF Match Requested	Alignment with Role, Scope, Mission, & Strategic Priorities (30 points)	Contribution to Academics/Training in Priority Areas (25 points)	Potential to Contribute to Economic Development in LA (20 points)	Long-term Campus Investment & Appropriateness of Chair (15 points)	Appropriateness of Available Resources (10 points)	Total Score (100 points)	BoRSF Match Recommended
1	007EC-22	Charlotte Beyer Hubbell Chair in River-Coastal Science and Engineering	Tulane	\$400,000	29	24	18	14	10	95	\$400,000
2	005EC-22	Marjory B. Ourso Distinguished Chair of Accounting Systems #2	LSU A&M	\$400,000	28	23	18	13	10	92	\$400,000
3	008EC-22	Lawrence E. Lerner Presidential Chair in Aging	TUHSC	\$1,200,000	27	23	18	14	9	91	\$400,000
4	001EC-22	American Sugar Cane League Chair in Sugarcane Production	LSU AgCenter	\$400,000	27	23	18	13	9	90	\$400,000
5	003EC-22	Dr. Charles M. Smith Endowed Chair in Medical Physics #2	LSU A&M	\$400,000	27	22	17	14	9	89	\$400,000
6	009EC-22	Oliver and Carroll Dabezies Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology	TUHSC	\$800,000	27	23	16	13	8	87	
7	006EC-22	Daniel W. Nuss MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery	LSUHSC-NO	\$400,000	27	23	16	12	8	86	
8	004EC-22	Dr. Shirley C. Tucker Chair in Lichenology	LSU A&M	\$800,000	26	22	16	14	7	85	
9	011EC-22	Valery Ruby and Georgie Coco Educational Innovation, Research, and Policy/BORSF Endowed Chair	UL Lafayette	\$400,000	25	23	15	13	8	84	
10	013EC-22	ULM Endowed Chair in Agribusiness	UL Monroe	\$400,000	25	22	16	12	8	83	
11	002EC-22	Ava and Cordell Haymon Chair in Music Therapy	LSU A&M	\$800,000	24	20	16	12	8	80	
12	010EC-22	Kathleen B. Blanco Public Policy Center/BORSF Endowed Chair	UL Lafayette	\$400,000	25	20	15	11	8	79	
13	012EC-22	Kim Sledge Chair in Risk Management & Insurance	UL Monroe	\$400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	

ATTACHMENT B

Ranked #1: Charlotte Beyer Hubbell Chair in River-Coastal Science and Engineering – Tulane University (007EC-22)

In the 2021 competitive cycle, the panel of outside experts recommended partial match of \$400,000 for the Hubbell Chair and suggested that Tulane submit a proposal in a future funding cycle for the remaining \$400,000 of the initial request. Tulane submitted this request for the second installment of \$400,000, augmenting donor support of \$1.2 million, to establish the \$2 million Charlotte Beyer Hubbell Chair in River-Coastal Science and Engineering. The establishment of this Chair provides Tulane University with a distinct opportunity to solve complex transdisciplinary problems in the interconnected realms of river basins, deltas, and the coastal ocean. The Hubbell Chair would play an integral role as a departmental, school, and regional resource. The chairholder's research would add to a dynamic, expanding department, fostering both academic and economic expansion at local, state, and regional levels. The holder of the Hubbell Chair will become part of a dynamic Department of River-Coastal Science and Engineering (RCSE) faculty team, teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, playing a key role in launching the department's degree programs, and assisting in the development of water-related research initiatives across Tulane's schools and departments.

Tulane will award the Chair to a prominent senior researcher and educator with proven success in working on complex interdisciplinary river-coastal issues and with interest and experience in advocacy. The chairholder's career will demonstrate adherence to the highest professional standards, which include attainment of national and/or international distinction for having made unique and significant impacts in the field through outstanding research, creative scholarly achievement, teaching, and service. Once recruited, the chairholder would also help to attract the highest-quality junior faculty members through planned searches over the next several years, draw the best graduate and undergraduate students to the department's emerging degree programs, and enable RCSE to establish a unique and well-funded research portfolio with a nationwide profile.

Tulane's commitment to the program in space, faculty and equipment, as well as the novelty and regional significance of the program, make this Chair, certain to be fully integrated into a high-priority effort, a worthwhile investment. The focus area of the Chair is also exceedingly important relative to ongoing efforts to blunt the effects of global climate change, on which the holder's research accomplishments could have profound impacts. The panel strongly recommends funding the second match installment request of \$400,000.

Ranked #2: Marjory B. Ourso Distinguished Chair of Accounting Systems #2 – Louisiana State University and A & M College (005EC-22)

The Marjory B. Ourso Distinguished Chair in Accounting Systems is a \$2,000,000 endowed chair in the E. J. Ourso College of Business at Louisiana State University, established from \$1,200,000 in donations from Mr. E. J. Ourso and his wife, Marjory B. Ourso. An eminent scholar in the field of accounting will hold the Ourso Chair in Accounting Systems. As a field of study, Accounting focuses on how best to organize a system of transactions to communicate business information to decision makers, including how transactions are measured, organized, reported, audited, and reviewed. Thus the purposes of the Chair are to: (1) enhance undergraduate, graduate, and professional accounting education in all areas of accounting studies, including financial accounting, cost accounting, accounting information systems, auditing, and taxation; (2) position the Department of Accounting and the E. J. Ourso College of Business as leaders in accounting education; (3) promote research in areas of importance in the academic discipline of accounting; (4) stimulate and expedite the development of the impact of accounting change on the corporate environment; (5) provide outstanding service to Louisiana and to the accounting profession worldwide; and (6) for each chairholder, maintain a personal program of outstanding scholarship that models excellence for other accounting faculty members.

The Ourso Distinguished Chair will have a significant, positive impact on the academic development of LSU's Department of Accounting and its students. The chairholder will provide leadership and guidance in areas of academic programs, specifically helping to develop:

- State-of-the-art educational programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels (LSU's PhD program in accounting is the only such public program in the State of Louisiana);
- Processes to ensure professional growth and renewal of senior faculty, instituting mechanisms for effective recruitment and mentoring of junior faculty;
- Excellence in research and service to the profession; and
- Academic standards for the Department of Accounting, the E. J. Ourso College of Business, and the University.

This proposal represents the second matching increment for the Ourso Distinguished Chair, after Regents granted the first \$400,000 increment in 2021. The panel agrees that completing the request will greatly benefit the E. J. Ourso College of Business, LSU, the State of Louisiana, and the entire Southern region.

The panel strongly recommends funding for the second installment of \$400,000.

Ranked #3: Lawrence E. Lerner Presidential Chair in Aging – Tulane University Health Sciences Center (008EC-22)

Tulane University Health Sciences Center is requesting \$1,200,000 from the BoRSF to match \$1,800,000 in secured support from Richard M. Lerner for the establishment of the \$3,000,000 Lawrence E. Lerner Presidential Chair in Aging. The Lerner Presidential Chair will be awarded to a preeminent scholar and senior investigator in the field of aging studies, with deep experience in establishing and cultivating collaborative, multidisciplinary teams around focused areas of academic, research, and service potential. The chairholder's primary role and responsibilities will include both research and education. The holder will conduct and catalyze scholarly research pertaining to the growing and critical field of the study of aging; amplify faculty expertise at Tulane's uptown and downtown campuses, harnessing intellectual strengths throughout the University to generate powerful new ways to address the complications of aging; provide senior academic leadership across the breadth of Tulane's schools, departments, and centers related to the area of aging studies; and develop curricula and teach at graduate, and possibly undergraduate, levels. The Lerner Presidential Chair will work closely with Tulane's Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and will establish formal affiliations with the Tulane Center for Aging and the Tulane Brain Institute, to advance the interdisciplinary study of aging at Tulane.

The Center for Aging is directed by Dr. S. Michal Jazwinski, holder of the John W. Deming, MD Regents Chair in Aging, an investigator with several million dollars in research funding, a professor of medicine and biochemistry, and a national expert on the genetics of aging. Via the Center for Aging, Tulane offers an interdisciplinary PhD Program in Aging Studies, comprised of graduate students and faculty from the Schools of Science and Engineering, Medicine, Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Liberal Arts, Social Work, Business, Law, and Architecture. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for successful careers in existing and emerging fields related to aging. Core courses include a two-semester Introductory Seminar on Aging, Topics in Aging Research, a biomedical course, a psychosocial course, and two semesters of research methods. Students also take specialized elective courses, while performing research, beginning in the first year of the program. All coursework is completed in two years, allowing the students to concentrate full-time on research beginning in their third year.

The Center for Aging is home to a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Aging and Regenerative Medicine, which has been remarkably successful in securing competitive supplemental funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Recently it received two supplements, which went to both junior and senior faculty members at the Tulane National Primate Research Center, to study Alzheimer's Disease. It is anticipated that the Lerner Presidential Chair will play a key role in the continued success of the Center for Aging, which has gained significant ground over the past 13 years, with more progress to be made. As a leader in the field of gerontology, the holder of the Lerner Presidential Chair will work in tandem with the Center for Aging to foster and support the development of research programs across a broad spectrum of disciplines that will provide solutions to the problems associated with aging at the levels of the individual, the community, and the population. It is hoped that by advancing new and innovative initiatives with special emphasis on multidisciplinary efforts, the Lerner Presidential Chair will attract national and international experts to Tulane, and the Center for Aging will become one of the preeminent centers for aging research in the country. While these are laudatory goals, it seems that Tulane has already recognized that aging is a complex multidisciplinary endeavor. Though there is little doubt that the Center for Aging would benefit from an additional outstanding faculty member, the application demonstrates that the interdisciplinary nature of the Aging Center is already well established. It, therefore, seems that recruiting someone whose primary justification is promoting interaction within the elements of

the Center is not necessary. It is likely, however, that the holder of the Presidential Chair could help expand the Aging Center and create an environment that augments the regional economy.

The recruitment process has been well thought out and the institution appears highly committed to the position. The proposal's account of support for the position is, however, ambiguous; it appears there is \$3,000,000 in hand and \$2,000,000 more to come from the donor and \$1,800,000 from other sources, along with a request of \$1,200,000 from the state and the required tenured full professor salary line. It is not specified how much of these funds will be under the purview of the Lerner Presidential Chair or what purpose(s) these very substantial monies are intended to serve. Additional clarity would be helpful.

The panel recommends funding the first installment of the \$400,000 match and encourages Tulane Health Sciences Center to seek additional matching in future funding cycles. Future proposals should address the questions and concerns noted above.

Ranked #4: American Sugar Cane League Chair in Sugarcane Production – LSU Agricultural Center (001EC-22)

The American Sugar Cane League has committed \$600,000, to be matched with \$400,000 from the BoRSF, to establish its Endowed Chair in Sugar Cane Production at the LSU Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter) in support of agricultural research programs developing new technologies associated with sugarcane production. The proposal makes a convincing case for the importance of sugarcane production to Louisiana. Endowment proceeds would be used as salary supplement for the chairholder and to support sugarcane research and instruction activities. The expected role of the chairholder, however, is discussed only in general terms in the proposal, and its extent is not entirely clear. The position could be placed in several of the academic departments or research stations within the AgCenter and its role could be focused or broad.

In a general way, the mission of the LSU AgCenter is to strengthen the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of Louisiana agriculture, with a particular emphasis on sugarcane production. Discipline areas for the chairholder's potential research include crop breeding, economics, entomology, and plant pathology. The expected qualifications of the candidates for the Chair position are broad, including a PhD in a discipline closely related to sugarcane production and a substantial record of achievement. The chairholder must also have an internationally recognized record of scholarly achievement in one or more of the teaching, research, and extension (service) missions of the LSU AgCenter, which qualifies the chairholder for the rank of Full Professor in the LSU System. Additionally, the chairholder must have demonstrated expertise in the following areas:

- Ability to conduct basic and applied research and have research published in refereed journals;
- Effective communication of research results to client decision makers;
- Demonstrated excellence in teaching;
- Successful supervision of graduate students; and
- A history of obtaining extramural funding to support research and/or extension programs.

The recipient of the Chair will be officially appointed by the LSU AgCenter Vice President, on the advice of an advisory committee of faculty members who will recommend qualified recipients and seek advisory opinions from the donor prior to the final selection of the chairholder.

This is a persuasive proposal, well developed from the previous submission, and the Chair has the potential to provide important outcomes for Louisiana, where sugarcane accounts for approximately \$2.3 billion annually in direct economic value. The panel recommends funding the request of \$400,000.

Ranked #5: Dr. Charles M. Smith Endowed Chair in Medical Physics #2 – Louisiana State University and A&M College (003EC-22)

This proposal requests \$400,000 in BoRSF matching to double the corpus of the existing Charles M. Smith Endowed Chair in Medical Physics, with \$600,000 in non-state match provided in two equivalent sums by LSU and the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center (MBPCC). The Smith Chair was matched in 2007 with \$300,000 donated by Dr. Smith and \$300,000 by MBPCC. The proposal indicates that the existing Smith Chair is exemplary and that an investment to grow its corpus is likely to reap additional benefits.

The initial Smith Chair has contributed to the successful recruitment of two eminent scholars. In 2006, Dr. Kenneth Hogstrom, one of the world's leading experts on radiation therapy with electron beams, was recruited from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (UTMDACC), serving as Program Director until his retirement in 2011. He was succeeded in the Chair by Dr. Wayne D. Newhauser, one of the world's experts on radiation therapy with proton beams, also recruited from UTMDACC.

The Smith Chair provides financial support to expand and improve Medical Physics' research and education activities. Recent examples of support include seed funding for new research directions, which led to federal grants, stipends for research assistants, and the additions of a PhD program, accredited in 2012, and a post-doctoral certificate program, accredited in 2016. By every measure, LSU's Medical Physics program has increased in scope, size, and national reputation. The occupant of the Smith Chair will continue to contribute to economic development by preparing students for careers in technical fields that are important for economic growth in Louisiana and the nation; by carrying out research and consulting, which will benefit and support industries, government agencies, and other entities involved in human health; and by securing extramural funding, which will directly enhance technology-related employment in the state. This proposal was developed in consultation with leadership of the Medical Physics program, the LSU Department of Physics & Astronomy, the LSU College of Science, University administration, and the LSU Foundation, to ensure that the proposed uses align closely with the donors' intents as well as the mission and needs of the program and are in accordance with the policies of the Board of Regents. The proposal was also coordinated with an ongoing and concerted development effort by MBPCC, the private-sector partner in medical physics education, to ensure that LSU's proposed activities are synergistic but not duplicative of similar initiatives originating there.

The proposal states that expendable funds from the second increment will be used at the chairholder's discretion in a manner that is consistent with the donors' intents and in accordance with uses previously approved by the Board of Regents. It is stated that the occupant of the Smith Chair will continue to contribute to economic development by preparing students for careers in important and beneficial technical fields.

This resubmission is an improvement on the previous proposal, making clear that expansion of the Chair will assist in both retention of the current occupant and recruitment of new scholars in the future. This strong proposal will have a positive impact on the Medical Physics program and Louisiana. The panel recommends that the requested match of \$400,000 be provided.

Ranked #6: Oliver and Carroll Dabezies Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology – Tulane University Health Sciences Center (009EC-22)

Tulane University Health Sciences Center (TUHSC) requests \$800,000 from the Board of Regents Support Fund to match \$1,200,000 in secured support from Elizabeth Dabezies Goodyear and her husband, Charles W. Goodyear, for the establishment of the \$2,000,000 Oliver and Carroll Dabezies Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. The chairholder's primary responsibilities include both research and education, serving as the head of Tulane's Department of Ophthalmology and enhancing Tulane School of Medicine's academic, clinical, and research strengths. The chairholder will also produce economic returns for Louisiana by attracting external funds to this critically important department to address a pressing public health need, and by growing the pool of medical talent with ties to Louisiana. TUHSC has already completed a national search to identify the chairholder, awarding the Dabezies Chair to a renowned clinician and researcher, David Hinkle, MD, whose career clearly demonstrates adherence to the highest professional standards, and who has achieved excellent outcomes in medicine and education.

Tulane's Department of Ophthalmology is dedicated to excellence in training and clinical care, to advancing research to discover and develop new, more effective treatments for ocular diseases, and to providing pro bono services to those in need of care. The Department offers a full range of ophthalmic services, including treatment of cornea and external disease, strabismus, eye infections, glaucoma, and vitreo-retinal diseases; pediatric ophthalmology; premium cataract surgery; contact lenses, including scleral lenses; refractive surgery; and comprehensive ophthalmology. The Department has a track record of undertaking promising research studies, particularly in the areas of corneal transplantation and novel treatments for glaucoma.

The Dabezies Chair will build upon the Department's current strengths. A previous proposal mentioned goals of launching the Department into the top quartile of ophthalmology departments in NIH funding and establishing three new endowed chairs by 2030, but these are no longer mentioned in the current application. However, in service to TUHSC's commitment to training and clinical care, the Dabezies Chair will function as a Department-wide resource, maintaining robust teaching and clinical responsibilities.

Dr. Hinkle, the only retina specialist in southern Louisiana, has already had an impact on retinal and uveitis care. He will provide clinical care at the Tulane Ophthalmology Eye Care Clinic, located at Tulane Medical Center, as well as the VA Gulf Coast Health Care System in Biloxi, Mississippi; the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System in New Orleans; University Medical Center; and the Alexandria VA Medical Center and Rapides Regional Medical Center, both in Alexandria, Louisiana. In service of the Department's commitment to research, the chairholder will spearhead the expansion of faculty participation in clinical trials, with the goal of TUHSC becoming a participating site in active retina and uveitis clinical trials, in which Dr. Hinkle is currently involved. Dr. Hinkle will quickly seek to leverage existing research resources and grow research synergies among clinical and basic science faculty members, promoting further linkages between Tulane's uptown and downtown campuses. Early in his tenure, Dr. Hinkle is striving to seed new research in the Department, immediately pursuing challenge grants available for new chairs via Research to Prevent Blindness, which supports the work of talented vision scientists engaged in a diverse range of ocular-disease-oriented research. TUHSC anticipates that the Dabezies Chair will attract high-caliber faculty in the future; in the near term, the chairholder will focus on faculty recruitment, targeting areas of greatest need within the Department.

TUHSC has provided substantial institutional support to the Chair, having hired a full complement of faculty members, training fellows and residents, and expanded its research capabilities. There are plans for

extensive interaction among the Departments of Medicine, Otolaryngology and Pediatrics. In addition, TUHSC has committed base salary for a full professor and has pledged to allocate up to \$1,500,000 to provide additional resources to the chairholder, including start-up costs, equipment, research and lab needs. Up to 30% of donor funding may be used for salary support; the balance, but no less than 70%, shall be used at the discretion of the chairholder to support work in clinical practice, research, professional development, and/or service. Earnings will not be used for general or departmental support, which is disallowed by BoRSF policies. Additional funding from clinical activities assists in securing a competitive hiring package in line with national standards.

This is an excellent application that could be strengthened by addressing the following concerns: 1) The current CV of Dr. Hinkel suggests that he is an accomplished and respected clinician with a strong history of clinical trials. He lists his effort as 60% clinical and 40% administrative, which suggests that he might need support in promoting laboratory-based research in the Department; 2) A full discussion of the Department's research resources and planned institutional commitments to and functions of the three additional faculty that the Department plans to pursue was not included, but could be persuasive. Available dollars are not sufficient to recommend match in this cycle.

Ranked #7: Daniel W. Nuss MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery – LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans (006EC-22)

The Daniel W. Nuss, MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery honors a physician who has helped transform the field of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery by working to foster and promote a unique interdisciplinary surgical subspecialty, now known as Skull Base Surgery. For more than 31 years, Dr. Nuss has been a member of the faculty of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (hereafter referred to as Otolaryngology) in the LSU School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, and for 26 of those years, he has served as Professor and Chairman. During that time, Dr. Nuss has built a highly prestigious Skull Base Surgery program that has elevated the standard of clinical Otolaryngology care in Louisiana, and the body of work generated by this program has earned him a nationally and internationally distinguished reputation in the field, while at the same time bringing widespread recognition to LSUHSC-NO as a center for such work.

The LSU Department of Otolaryngology requests that the Louisiana Board of Regents award \$400,000 in matching funds to complete the Daniel W. Nuss, MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery. The Chair will carry out an equally proportioned combination of research and clinical education, in the context of a robust clinical practice. The purpose of this Endowed Chair is to build upon the contributions of Dr. Nuss and his colleagues by recruiting and retaining an eminent faculty member with outstanding scholarly and clinical accomplishments who will provide leadership to continue enhancement of the Skull Base Surgery specialty, the Department of Otolaryngology, the School of Medicine, LSUHSC-NO and the quality of care provided to patients within Louisiana. The nature of this faculty appointment is to preserve and expand the scope and breadth of the Department's established clinical and research programs in Skull Base Surgery, to raise Skull Base Surgery awareness through education, to coordinate Skull Base Surgery clinical outreach efforts, and to enhance the medical community's fundamental understanding of Skull Base Disorders.

The strategic priority of the Chair is to use the new resources produced through the endowment to accomplish the following:

- Introduce Skull Base learning materials into the pre-clinical medical school curriculum in ways that do not necessarily consume classroom time but still allow students to acquire the information. Approaches might include self-directed learning modules combining basic science and clinical summaries with case-based learning. Making such learning materials accessible through online and smartphone-based or app-based technologies is one way of reaching medical students without encroaching on scarce curriculum time.
- Expand opportunities for interested students to elect brief, focused clinical rotations at the Year One and Year Two levels in medical school, to work with Skull Base specialists.
- Develop liaisons with Residency Program Directors in the primary care fields (Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Family Practice) to give primary care residents the tools to recognize the signs and symptoms of Skull Base diseases, and to perform the necessary diagnostic studies that facilitate earlier detection and expedited referral of at-risk patients.
- Support and expand the Department's continuing education programs for practicing physicians in primary care as well as target specialties including ENT and Neurosurgery.
- Create and curate a database of Skull Base diseases, from which more can be learned regarding etiologies and risk factors. A research associate or nurse coordinator position could be a likely extension of this effort.
- Direct more of the Department's research efforts towards less-common Skull Base disorders, especially aggressive and rare orphan diseases. Coordination with basic scientists and epidemiologists, perhaps by

creation of regular Skull Base disease research conferences, is one method of fostering this work; interfacing with national and international organizations in related fields (ENT, Neurosurgery, Pathology, Genetics, etc.) would be a natural extension of this pursuit as well.

Otolaryngology/Skull Base Surgery is without doubt an outstanding program, with broad-based-research, extensive and lucrative clinical activities, and an excellent national reputation. The faculty have done an excellent job integrating elements of Otolaryngology into the medical curriculum. One of the real strengths of the Chair is the proposed responsibility to expand the integration of Otolaryngology even further into the medical curriculum as well as to primary care physician training, since approximately 25% of adult, and 50% of pediatric primary care involves the head and neck. While ongoing research is substantial, a sense of the competitive research funding present in the Department would have been helpful. Finally, and most importantly, the proposed responsibilities for the Chair align more with expectations of a Department Chair than a faculty holder expected to continue all the programs initiated by Dr. Nuss. Available dollars are not sufficient to recommend match in this cycle.

Ranked #8: Dr. Shirley C. Tucker Chair in Lichenology – Louisiana State University and A&M College (004EC-22)

Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU) is requesting \$800,000 in matching funds to create a \$2,000,000 Endowed Chair within the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science. The purpose of the Endowed Chair is to pursue cutting-edge research, affiliated with the Shirley C. Tucker Herbarium at LSU, expand the curated lichen collection, and provide education/training and contribute to workforce development for next-generation scientists working in biodiversity with a specific focus on lichens.

Dr. Tucker is a retired faculty member who previously donated \$1.2 million to create perpetual support for the LSU Herbarium and establish a \$2,000,000 Endowed Chair, matched by the BoRSF in 2017, for an eminent scholar working in plant systematics research. A renowned lichenologist and leading authority on floral development in legumes and other groups of flowering plants, Dr. Tucker was one of the first women to receive LSU's highest faculty rank of Boyd Professor. She is also credited with building LSU's herbarium lichen collection, which contains 44,000 specimens, one of the largest such collections in the Southeast. Her vision is to make LSU Biological Sciences an unparalleled regional and national leader in botanic systematics. Founded in 1869, the LSU Herbarium is the oldest collection of preserved plant specimens in the Gulf South and one of the two largest collections of plants in Louisiana. It would significantly benefit curation of the LSU Herbarium to have an expert in lichenology to provide help in accurately identifying specimens, growing the collection via fieldwork, and providing advice to the LSU Herbarium leadership on how best to maintain specimens in perpetuity.

The role of the Chair is to provide scholarly leadership in lichenology, as was done by Dr. Tucker herself. The incumbent will establish a research enterprise, a teaching program encompassing formal coursework and individual mentorship of undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students in this discipline and a public service program in the Department of Biological Sciences that is on par with the very best national and international programs.

Despite its clear value to the Herbarium, it is not clear how new Chair would contribute significantly to the economic development of Louisiana. In addition, the proposal should address how other aspects of the Department's work, including the use of high-performance computing tools and systematic programs, would augment the Endowed Chair.

Ranked #9: Valery Ruby and Georgie Coco Educational Innovation, Research, and Policy/BORSF Endowed Chair - University of Louisiana at Lafayette (011EC-22)

The College of Education at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL Lafayette) is developing a laboratory school with a mission of advancing K-12 educational equity, innovation, and opportunity for all of Louisiana. While the work involves establishing a physical school to model and showcase best practice and provide immersive experiences for future teachers, the broader vision is to use the work and research done in the laboratory school to inform public policy and practice. The purpose of the Coco Chair is to support research that can drive change in state and national K-12 education policy in order to positively impact Louisiana education and the K-12 teacher workforce. UL Lafayette is one of the largest producers of teachers for Louisiana classrooms; however, the number of education majors has dropped significantly over the past 15 years, and data show that approximately 44% of new teachers entering into classrooms will leave the profession within their first five years of service. Teacher shortages and teacher attrition cost the state millions of dollars and cost Louisiana students rich educational experiences. There is a clear need to address policy issues that are contributing to teacher shortages experienced nationally, regionally and locally.

The vision of the Learning Lab is to create and sustain a culture of curiosity, creativity, and courage that encourages development of knowledge and skills for innovating a better world. Rather than a one-size fits all approach, the program seeks to empower teachers to apply best practices of teaching from around the globe and to use inquiry embedded in practice to continuously improve their craft.

The mission of the UL Lafayette Learning Lab sits seamlessly within the overall campus mission, which states, “The University of Louisiana at Lafayette offers an exceptional education informed by diverse worldviews grounded in tradition, heritage, and culture. We develop leaders and innovators who advance knowledge, cultivate aesthetic sensibility, and improve the human condition”. The university's strategic plan to intentionally pursue increased distinction within the areas of faculty, students, research, and governance asks faculty to create stimulating learning environments for students, informed by the latest innovations and knowledge of best practice. The Coco Chair as described will enable significant expansion of research and development to gain insights into the factors contributing to the teacher shortage and develop knowledge that can be shared with Louisiana policy makers and the broader education research community.

While the panel finds the goals and objectives of the Coco Chair to be appropriate for the holder’s roles specified in the proposal, it was not clear how linkages between the Chair and the Learning Lab will enhance “research that can drive change in state and national K-12 education policy in order to have a positive impact on Louisiana education and the K-12 teacher workforce”. A more detailed discussion of the relationship between the Chair and the Lab would help to support the value of the investment.

Ranked #10: ULM Endowed Chair in Agribusiness – University of Louisiana at Monroe (013EC-22)

The University of Louisiana at Monroe is requesting \$400,000 in matching funds to create a \$1,000,000 Endowed Chair in Agribusiness within the College of Business and Social Sciences School of Management. The purpose of the ULM Chair will be to attract and retain a faculty member who will focus efforts on teaching and community engagement, with teaching being the primary focus.

The Agribusiness program at UL Monroe has a curriculum that supports career opportunities in production, commercial processing, and marketing of food, fiber, and oil-based agricultural products. 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. The proposal states that the recruitment and retention of a prominent faculty member in agricultural business would enhance the visibility and prestige of UL Monroe's Agribusiness program, 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.

UL Monroe plans to identify the chairholder through a national search and provide a nine-month base salary of at least \$160,000 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. The primary goals and objectives of the chairholder will include excellence in teaching of agribusiness students and leading extramurally funded applied research involving students, faculty, and other colleagues.

The proposal raises several questions. First, how many students are enrolled in the program year over year and what is the regional job market for graduates, in terms of number and type of positions? The program's website notes as a benefit its small faculty/student ratio, though it appears to have only two faculty. This raises a second question: whether the addition of a third faculty member, even one who is senior in the field, well compensated, and experienced, is the best method to grow and sustain this regional program. The absence of other agricultural programs at UL Monroe may be one of the most limiting factors in attracting and retaining someone of prominence in agribusiness and the proposal should set forth a strategy for overcoming this obstacle.

Ranked #11: Ava and Cordell Haymon Chair in Music Therapy – Louisiana State University and A&M College (002EC-22)

The Ava and Cordell Haymon Chair in Music Therapy is intended to support a new comprehensive, degree-granting undergraduate program in Music Therapy at LSU, which has grown out of its substantial existing program in music in the College of Music and Dramatic Arts. The degree program would prepare undergraduate students to become clinical music therapists and researchers in music therapy. The chairholder, the central figure in program development and implementation, would primarily serve in an educational role, with a secondary role in research in service to the education focus. In addition to the confirmation of support from the Emerge Center, the School of Music has presented enthusiastic letters of support from Baton Rouge General Medical Center and Magnolia Brook, a local assisted living community.

This proposal is interesting for its focus on music therapy and proposes to support creation of a unique program, though it is notable that Loyola University New Orleans currently offers a baccalaureate in Music Therapy. Recent scholarship provides insight into enrollment trends and degree attainment in music therapy. Data from the Council of Arts Accrediting Associations' Higher Education Arts Data Services (HEADS) were examined for the years 2000 to 2017. Additionally, data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) were used to document trends in bachelor's degree program enrollment and completion at all four-year degree-granting postsecondary institutions. Results indicated that enrollment in music therapy programs grew at a faster annual rate (3.6%) than enrollment at all four-year degree-granting postsecondary institutions (2.3%), while the annual growth rate for enrollment for all other music majors at NASM-accredited schools was relatively stagnant (0.4%). Thus, it is likely that there will be sufficient demand to support the new program.

The holder of the Haymon Chair, having previously demonstrated exceptional teaching, research, and clinical skills in an academic setting, would function as the catalyst for program establishment and growth, a process that will have two substantial components: curriculum development and relationship-building. For the latter, the chairholder would serve as a collaborative leader among the 48 full-time faculty members in the School of Music as well as work to establish respectful collaborative relationships with community partners for program-required clinical training, including practicums and internships. In addition, the holder would act as an advocate for music therapy and LSU in local, state, and regional contexts, as well as a leader nationally and internationally in music therapy research and professional service.

The planned music therapy program has the potential to be outstanding, is clearly needed, and could have significant educational and community impact. While this request still seems premature, the status of the program has improved substantially since the last submission. A Letter of Intent to Develop a New Academic Program has been submitted and approved by the Board of Regents. An eight-semester music therapy curriculum has been drafted. A national search for the chairholder is in process. When the chairholder is hired for the start of fall 2022, much of the work of program development and approval should be complete. The proposed start date of fall 2023 now appears realistic. It is still, however, surprising that there is not a more defined interaction with a College of Medicine, a regional hospital, and/or a rehabilitation facility. In terms of the chairholder, institutional commitments seem appropriate and the willingness to pledge a second tenure-track position is positive. It seems very likely that other needs to support this new program will be more substantial than estimated.

Ranked #12: Kathleen B. Blanco Public Policy Center/BORSF Endowed Chair – University of Louisiana at Lafayette (010EC-22)

The Kathleen B. Blanco Public Policy Center/BORSF Endowed Chair will be assigned to the Director of the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center (Blanco Center) to enhance this new Center's research and impact. As the first public policy research center at a public university in Louisiana, the Blanco Center has a unique opportunity to use research to advance evidence-based policy. Moreover, by engaging students in the research process, the Blanco Center will give students at UL Lafayette across a range of policy-related fields hands-on experience to help develop the workforce that Louisiana needs to make tangible progress in specified priority areas. Funds from the Chair would enable the Blanco Center to expand and sustain Center-led research, place greater emphasis on research dissemination, and supply expanded opportunities for students to gain policy research experience.

The Chair aligns directly with the Blanco Center's scope, mission, and strategic priorities and would support research and programming directly focused on helping Louisiana. The Chair would help UL Lafayette meet its institutional role, scope and mission by supporting key strategic priorities related to research, economic development, and engaging community, regional, and state partners as well as enable the Blanco Center to develop a broader set of Center-led research projects on the topics of educational attainment, criminal justice, health care, and environmental challenges, developing new insights for Louisiana policy makers as well as making contributions to the broader academic literature in these areas.

While the panel finds considerable merit in the Chair, the structure of the faculty position, described as a nine-month slot, seems misaligned with that of research center director, who is typically required to work a full twelve months. Given the number and extent of duties to be carried out by the Chair/Director, it is almost impossible that the position will be manageable over nine months. A future proposal should clarify how the employment/salary timeline aligned with the duties proposed for the position.

Ranked #13: Kim Sledge Chair in Risk Management & Insurance – University of Louisiana at Monroe (012EC-22)

The panel was not able to review the proposal for the Kim Sledge Chair in Risk Management & Insurance. While the cover letter and supporting documents were related to the Sledge Chair, the proposal document submitted was a duplicate of the ULM Agribusiness proposal.