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BOARD OF REGENTS

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AGENDA

SPONSORED PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

11:05 a.m.

The Claiborne Building
Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Announcement of Recent Federal STEM Research and Educational Award: National Science Foundation Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Grant
- IV. Conversion of Matched Endowed Chairs to Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships: Louisiana Tech University
- V. Nominations to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Committee
 - A. Louisiana Department of Economic Development
 - B. University of New Orleans
 - C. Industry Representative
- VI. Nomination to the Board of Regents Master Plan Research Advisory Committee (MPRAC): University of Louisiana at Monroe
- VII. Nomination to the BoRSF Planning Committee: Department of Natural Resources
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Adjournment

Committee Members: Joseph Wiley, Chair; William Fenstermaker, Vice Chair; Raymond Brandt; Marty Chabert; Patrick Harrington; Edward Markle; Gray Stream

AGENDA ITEM III

**Announcement of Recent Federal STEM Research and Educational Award:
National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Grant
Dr. Michael Khonsari, Board of Regents, Project Director**

Staff Summary

Over the years the Regents have placed priority on using Support Fund dollars held in reserve to match major STEM proposals to Federal agencies, based on the following criteria: (1) lesser amounts of Support Fund dollars must leverage significantly greater amounts of Federal dollars; (2) the initiative, if implemented, must be statewide and/or multistate, significantly expanding the frontiers of research and education in Louisiana; and (3) Support Fund dollars are expended only if the proposal succeeds in the national competition.

Since the national competitions are so intense, most proposals do not succeed, and Support Fund dollars are often not expended. The recent proposal being highlighted – to NSF – is a fortunate and significant exception.

The Board of Regents was recently notified by NSF that a consortium of Louisiana universities has been awarded a five-year, \$20 million Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-1 award from the NSF's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). The grant, matched with \$4 million from the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) will establish the Consortium for Innovation in Manufacturing and Materials (CIMM), a research collaboration among five of Louisiana's public universities – Louisiana State University (LSU), Louisiana Tech University, Grambling State University, Southern University in Baton Rouge, and the University of New Orleans – launching the next level of research and development for the materials and advanced manufacturing industries.

Dr. Michael Khonsari has served as EPSCoR Project Director and Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Research since 2003. He has just completed directing the \$20 million 2009-14 EPSCoR (LaSIGMA) award funded by NSF, which included a match of \$10 million from the Support Fund. Dr. Khonsari will update the Sponsored Programs Committee on the scope, leveraging, and impact of the now expiring and newly awarded EPSCoR programs.

Senior Staff Recommendation

No action required.

AGENDA ITEM IV

Conversion of Matched Endowed Chairs to Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships: Louisiana Tech University

Background Information

At its meeting of September 25, 2014, the Board of Regents inaugurated the Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships subprogram. The approved policy permits campuses to convert previously matched Endowed Chairs and Professorships to Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships on a non-competitive, non-punitive basis.

Staff Summary

Louisiana Tech University requests that the Board approve conversion of two previously matched Endowed Chairs, listed below, to Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships:

- Virginia S. Thompson Endowed Chair in Finance (corpus value: \$1,000,000)
- Elva J. Mann Eminent Scholar Chair in Human Ecology (corpus value: \$1,126,965.43)

The executor of the estate through which the Thompson Chair was established has approved the conversion to Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships; the trust through which the Mann Chair was established has been extinguished by operation of law and funds were not restricted upon donation, so donor approval of this conversion is not required.

Louisiana Tech plans to take these conversions for consideration by the University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors at its October 22, 2015 meeting; with permission of the UL System, Louisiana Tech has requested Board of Regents consideration prior to Board of Supervisors approval to ensure the conversions are complete as soon as possible.

Senior Staff Recommendation

Consistent with the subprogram policy and contingent upon endorsement of the UL Board of Supervisors, the Senior Staff recommends approval of the conversion of the two Endowed Chairs listed above to Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships, as follows:

- **Virginia S. Thompson Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships #1-10, each with a corpus value of \$100,000; and**
- **Elva J. Mann Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships #1-10, each with a corpus value of \$102,450, and Elva J. Mann Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarship #11 with a corpus value of \$102,465.43.**

AGENDA ITEM V

Nominations to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Committee

- A. Louisiana Department of Economic Development**
- B. University of New Orleans**
- C. Industry Representative**

Background Information

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Committee provides advice and guidance to the EPSCoR Project Director and the Board of Regents related to management of statewide EPSCoR projects, federal EPSCoR opportunities, and related research initiatives. Voting members of the EPSCoR Committee include one member from each institution which meets a minimum \$4 million threshold of Federal research and development expenditures as measured by NSF data, as well as the Regents' Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, business and industry representatives, and the Governor's economic development representative. It is essential that this Committee have full representation to help guide the new five-year \$20 million EPSCoR program.

Staff Summary

A. Louisiana Department of Economic Development

Mr. Steven Grissom, Secretary of Louisiana Economic Development (LED), has nominated Ms. Susana Schowen, Workforce Initiatives Manager for Louisiana FastStart, as LED's member on the EPSCoR Committee.

B. University of New Orleans

Dr. Peter Fos, President of the University of New Orleans, has nominated Dr. Emir Macari, Interim Director of Research and Economic Development, as UNO's member on the EPSCoR Committee.

C. Industry Representative

Mr. Quentin Messer, President and Chief Executive Officer of the New Orleans Business Alliance, upon request by Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, has agreed to serve as an industry representative on the EPSCoR Committee.

Senior Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends approval of the following nominations to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Committee:

- **Ms. Susana Schowen, Workforce Initiatives Manager for Louisiana FastStart, as LED's representative;**

- **Dr. Emir Macari, Interim Director of Research and Economic Development, as UNO's representative; and**
- **Mr. Quentin Messer, President and Chief Executive Officer of the New Orleans Business Alliance, as an industry representative.**

AGENDA ITEM VI

Nomination to the Board of Regents Master Plan Research Advisory Committee (MPRAC): University of Louisiana at Monroe

Background Information

The Board of Regents Master Plan Research Advisory Committee (MPRAC) provides advice and guidance to the Board of Regents relative to fulfillment of the goal of the 2011 Master Plan related to research and technology transfer. Membership of MPRAC consists of one representative of each four-year system and each campus with a significant research program.

Staff Summary

Dr. Eric Pani, Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, has nominated Dr. Leonard Clark, Director of Graduate Studies, as UL Monroe's representative on the Master Plan Research Advisory Committee (MPRAC). Dr. Clark replaces Dr. William McCown.

Senior Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends approval of the nomination of Dr. Leonard Clark, Director of Graduate Studies, as UL Monroe's representative on the Master Plan Research Advisory Committee.

AGENDA ITEM VII

Nomination to the BoRSF Planning Committee: Department of Natural Resources

Background Information

The Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) Planning Committee provides advice and guidance to the Board of Regents and the Sponsored Programs Section relative to the management and operation of the BoRSF, as well as other matters pertaining to Sponsored Programs. The Planning Committee is comprised of two members from each public and independent higher education system, as well as representatives from State agencies with interests in science, culture, and economic development.

Staff Summary

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has nominated Ms. Beverly Hodges, Undersecretary, to serve as its representative on the BoRSF Planning Committee.

Senior Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends approval of the nomination of Ms. Beverly Hodges, Undersecretary, as the Department of Natural Resources' representative on the BoRSF Planning Committee.