

April 18, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Offices of Research

FROM: E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of Higher Education

RE: 1. Out-of-State Consultants' Reports and Funding Recommendations for Proposals Submitted under the Board of Regents Support Fund Programs, FY 2005-06

2. **MAY 10, 2006 DEADLINE** for Campus Responses to Funding Stipulations Contained in Enclosed Reports

Enclosed are fourteen reports from out-of-state consultants which recommend funding for proposals submitted in FY 2005-06 under Board of Regents Support Fund programs. The Board is expected to act on these recommendations, as well as on campus requests for matching funds to endow professorships, at its meeting of April 26, 2006.

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

ENDOWED CHAIRS PROGRAM:

Report 1

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

Report 2 Industrial Ties Research Subprogram

Report 3 Research Competitiveness Subprogram

Report 4 Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars

ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

Report 5 Undergraduate Enhancement Program

Report 6 Traditional Enhancement Program: Multidisciplinary

Report 7 Traditional Enhancement Program: Biological Sciences

Report 8 Traditional Enhancement Program: Computer and Information Sciences

Report 9 Traditional Enhancement Program: Engineering B

Report 10 Traditional Enhancement Program: Humanities

Report 11 Traditional Enhancement Program: Social Sciences

Report 12 K-16 Partnerships for School Reform (K-16 PSR)

Report 13 Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions

GRADUATE FELLOWS:

Report 14

These fourteen reports are now available on the Internet at <http://www.laregents.org>

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Relative to the Endowed Chairs report, assuming that \$3.2 million is available to the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program in the FY 2005-06 Plan and Budget will mean: (a) \$800,000 is available to fund the holdover \$2 million restricted bequest proposal from Tulane University deemed "satisfactory" by consultants in FY 2004-05; and (b) \$2 million is available to fund the proposals ranked one through five (i.e., Proposals 009EC, 001EC, 003EC, 004EC, and 005EC). The proposal ranked sixth is for a \$2 M chair and cannot be funded this fiscal year unless supplemental money is attained from the Legislature.

The precise amount of money available for Support Fund programs will not be known until the Board is certain whether additional monies from the State General Fund will be available for the Board's use this year to fund additional endowed chair and endowed professorship requests.* The total maximum amounts of FY 2005-06 money recommended and available for expenditure for the first year of new projects in each of the following reports are as follows:

1.	Endowed Chairs	\$2,800,000
2.	Industrial Ties Research Subprogram	\$ 362,000
3.	Research Competitiveness Subprogram	\$1,281,866
4.	Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars Subprogram	\$ 500,000
5.	Undergraduate Enhancement	\$1,525,862
6.	Traditional Enhancement, Multidisciplinary	\$ 917,998
7.	Traditional Enhancement, Biological Sciences	\$1,299,909
8.	Traditional Enhancement, Computer/Information Sciences	\$ 905,688
9.	Traditional Enhancement, Engineering B	\$2,320,167
10.	Traditional Enhancement, Humanities	\$ 538,958
11.	Traditional Enhancement, Social Sciences	\$1,214,603
12.	K-16 Partnerships for School Reform (K-16 PSR)	\$2,899,280**
13.	Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions	\$ 884,835
14.	Graduate Fellows	\$ 949,000

Campuses with projects recommended for funding should note that, in some instances, reviewers recommended modifications in the budgetary level and/or institutional matching commitment. **All institutions with proposals recommended for funding must inform the Sponsored Programs Section in writing no later than 4:30 P.M., Wednesday, May 10, 2006, if any of the following conditions apply:**

1. Difficulties are foreseen in adjusting to the 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.

*The Legislature has provided a special appropriation for this purpose during 7 of the past 9 fiscal years.

**This amount is recommended for expenditure from FY 2005-06 through FY 2007-08.

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 work;
3. The same or a very similar project has already been funded or will be funded in the near future from another source; and/or
4. Problems exist, or funding stipulations have been recommended, that cannot be resolved within the next few weeks, and which, therefore, might preclude the Board's being able to award the Support Fund money by June 30, 2006, or at all. Typical 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 an 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 levels stipulated by the consultants; and (b) the commitments made by applicant(s) and the institution, as set forth in the original proposal(s), will be met. These responses are also due in writing no later than May 10, 2006.

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 (i.e., until May 10) to submit your responses.

ALL RESPONSES MUST BE MAILED, FAXED, or E-MAILED TO:

Mr. John Wallin
Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Administration
Louisiana Board of Regents
P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-3677
FAX: (225) 342-3371
e-mail: jwallin@laregents.org

Perusal of these reports also results in the following observations, some of which are unique to the particular circumstances of this fiscal year:

1. No Priority II projects will be funded this year from any of the Research and Development Subprograms (Reports 2 through 4). We do believe, however, that money will be available to fund the top twenty-eight (28) RCS Priority I projects, each of the six (6) ITRS Priority I projects, and the top twelve (12) ATLAS Priority I projects at the levels recommended by consultants. A total of 34 projects were highly recommended in the RCS Program. Those ranked from #29-34 are likely to be funded (in rank order) only if a higher-ranked applicant(s) declines an award. Similarly, (21) ATLAS proposals were highly recommended, but those ranked from #13-21 are likely to be funded (in rank order) only if a higher-ranked applicant(s) declines an award.
2. We anticipate that money will be available to fund all Priority I Traditional and Undergraduate Enhancement proposals at the levels recommended by consultants. We do not anticipate that funds will be available for any Priority II Traditional, Undergraduate, Two-Year, or K-16 PSR Enhancement projects.

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The effective date of contracts for funded projects will be June 1, 2006. Applicants whose projects are funded will be informed as quickly as possible after April 26 of the items required for their contracts.

If you have any questions about this memorandum or the attached consultants' reports, please feel free to call Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, or Mr. Wallin at (225) 342-4253.

JW/vd

Enclosures

cc: System and Campus Heads (memorandum only)
(Conrpt.06 C:VD)