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April 7, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Offices of Research

FROM: John Wallin
Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Administration

RE: 1. Out-of-State Consultants' Reports and Funding
Recommendations for Proposals Submitted under the Board of
Regents Support Fund Programs, FY 2008-09

2. **MAY 1, 2009 DEADLINE** for Campus Responses to Funding
Stipulations Contained in Consultants' Reports

The fourteen (14) reports from out-of-state consultants which recommend funding for proposals submitted in FY 2008-09 under the Board of Regents Support Fund programs are now posted on the website for the Office of Sponsored Programs at laregents.org. 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 23, 2009.

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

Report 9 Traditional Enhancement Program: Engineering B

Report 10 Traditional Enhancement Program: Humanities

Report 11 Traditional Enhancement Program: Social Sciences

Report 12 Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions

GRADUATE FELLOWS:

Report 13 Traditional and Graduate Fellowships for Teachers Program

Report 14 BoR/SREB Graduate Fellowships to Promote Diversity Program

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

Relative to the Endowed Chairs report, \$3.2 million is available to the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program in the FY 2008-09 Plan and Budget. This will enable funding for proposals ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 in the competitive program, and the one restricted bequest proposal.

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 2008-09 money recommended and/or available for expenditure for the first year of new projects in each of the following reports are as follows:

*The Legislature has provided a special appropriation for this purpose during 10 of the past 12 fiscal years.

1.	Endowed Chairs	\$3,200,000
2.	Industrial Ties Research Subprogram	\$ 558,800
3.	Research Competitiveness Subprogram	\$1,615,873*
4.	Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars Subprogram	\$ 897,000*
5.	Undergraduate Enhancement	\$1,620,000
6.	Traditional Enhancement, Multidisciplinary	\$ 949,237
7.	Traditional Enhancement, Biological Sciences	\$1,102,522
8.	Traditional Enhancement, Computer/Information Sciences	\$ 676,450
9.	Traditional Enhancement, Engineering B	\$1,740,189
10.	Traditional Enhancement, Humanities	\$ 588,967
11.	Traditional Enhancement, Social Sciences	\$ 805,000
12.	Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions	\$1,080,000
13.	Traditional and Graduate Fellowships for Teachers Program	\$ 900,000
14.	BoR/SREB Graduate Fellowships to Promote Diversity Program	\$ 250,000

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., Friday, May 1, 2009, 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.

*These totals include all Priority I proposals recommended by consultants, even though the amounts exceed the funds anticipated to be available for expenditure in these programs.

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, 2009, 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 1, 2009.

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 1) to submit your responses.

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

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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). It is anticipated that money will be available to fund the top twenty-two (22) RCS Priority I proposals, each of the eight (8) ITRS Priority I proposals, and the top ten (10) ATLAS Priority I proposals at the levels recommended by consultants. A total of thirty-six (36) proposals were highly recommended in the RCS. Those ranked from #23-36 are likely to be funded (in rank order) only if a higher-ranked applicant(s) declines an award. A total of nine (9) proposals were highly recommended in the ITRS, but the ninth-ranked proposal is designated as an “alternate,” and recommended for funding only if a higher-ranked applicant(s) declines an award. Similarly, twenty (20) ATLAS proposals were highly recommended, but those ranked from #11-20 are likely to be funded (in rank order) only if a higher-ranked applicant(s) declines an award.
2. It is anticipated that money will be available to fund **all Priority I Enhancement proposals** (Traditional, Undergraduate, and Two-Year) at the levels recommended by consultants. Specifically, this would mean that the Traditional Enhancement proposals that will actually be funded are as follows: Multidisciplinary proposals ranked 1-16, including both which tied for 16th; Biological Sciences proposals ranked 1-17; Computer/Information Sciences proposals ranked 1-9; Engineering B proposals ranked 1-14; Humanities proposals ranked 1-14; and Social Sciences proposals ranked 1-9. Similarly, money is anticipated to be available to fund the proposals ranked 1-20 in the Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions and those ranked 1-39 in the Undergraduate Enhancement Program.

The effective date of contracts for funded projects will be June 1, 2009. Applicants whose projects are funded will be informed as quickly as possible after April 23 of the items required for their contracts.

If you have any questions about this memorandum or the consultants’ reports, please feel free to e-mail me at john.wallin@la.gov or call me at (225) 342-4253, ext. 671.

JW/vd

cc: System and Campus Heads