Report of the Review Panel for the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program

FY 2013-14 Requests for Board of Regents Support Fund Matching Funds Submitted to the Louisiana Board of Regents

March 3-4, 2014

A. The three-member Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars review panel received and reviewed the following documents prior to meeting with representatives of the institutions submitting proposals:

i. The current Board of Regents Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Policy (revised September 2013);
ii. Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals to the Competitive and Restricted Bequests Endowed Chairs Programs for fiscal year (FY) 2013-14; and
iii. Eight (8) proposals for chairs (seven in the Competitive Program and one in the Restricted Bequests Program) submitted under the FY 2013-14 Guidelines.

B. On March 3, 2014, the panel conducted a series of interviews with representatives of each participating institution during assigned times to discuss its submitted proposal(s). Any additional printed materials provided by campus representatives relative to submitted proposals were also received at that time and approved for consideration. Representing the institutions were: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY - ALEXANDRIA – Dr. Dan Howard, Chancellor; Dr. Barbara Hatfield, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. Haywood Joiner, Interim Chair, Department of Business Administration; and Dr. Kent Lachney, Accounting Professor; LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY – Dr. Les Guice, President; and Dr. Terry McConathy, Executive Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School; TULANE UNIVERSITY – Dr. Nicholas Altiero, Dean, School of Science and Engineering; Dr. Carole Haber, Dean, School of Liberal Arts; and Ms. Luann Dozier, Vice President for Development, Constituency Programs; TULANE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER – Dr. L. Lee Hamm, III, M.D., FACP, Senior Vice President and Dean, School of Medicine; and Dr. Patrick T. O’Neill, M.D., Interim Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE – Dr. James Henderson, Provost; Dr. Mark Zappi, Dean, College of Engineering; Dr. Joby John, Dean, B. I. Moody III College of Business Administration; and Mr. Robert McKinney, Director, Academic Planning and Faculty Development; and UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS – Dr. John Williams, Dean, College of Business Administration; Dr. Walter Lane, Chair, Department of Economics and Finance; and Dr. Tarun Mukherjee, Moffett Chair in Financial Economics.

C. Following the interview sessions, the panel rated and ranked the seven (7) proposals submitted in the Competitive Program and assessed the one (1) proposal submitted in the Restricted Bequests Program. Reviewers based assessments on: (1) the written proposals; (2) information provided in the interviews with the institutional representatives; and (3) any additional printed materials or presentations provided by campus representatives. Prospective chairs were rated according to evaluation criteria defined in the RFP, including:
(1) potential of the proposed chair to contribute to economic development - 36 points maximum; (2) contribution of the proposed chair to academic enhancement - 52 points maximum; (3) appropriateness, feasibility and likelihood of success of the proposed plan to recruit women and minority scholars in those fields at this institution in which there has been historical underrepresentation - 6 points maximum; and (4) appropriateness of the proposed chair to the mission of the campus/unit - 6 points maximum. The burden of proof was on the submitting institution to demonstrate the manner and extent to which the proposal satisfactorily addressed these criteria.

D. Attachment A contains the rank-order prioritization of the seven (7) proposed endowed chairs submitted in the Competitive Program and the assessment score for the one (1) proposal submitted in the Restricted Bequests Program resulting from the rating of each proposal according to evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. Attachment B contains a brief evaluation of each of the eight (8) chairs proposed in FY 2013-14.

E. 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 review panel commends the September 2013 revision of the BoRSF Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program Policy distributed with the Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals.

(2) To become competitive nationally for the most eminent research and instructional faculty, policies of the Board of Regents should encourage combined matches through private sources/State appropriations/Support Fund for chairs at considerably higher levels – $3 million to $7 million – particularly in select STEM areas related to the State’s priorities for economic development. The panel commends the Board of Regents for including in its current policies provisions and encouragement for campuses to establish chairs with a more sizable corpus through both new matching and consolidation of existing matched slots. Guidelines which encourage establishment of higher-value Endowed Chairs, either through consolidation or new matches, are wholly consistent with the original long-term purposes for the use of these funds to promote the national standing and effectiveness of institutions of higher education in Louisiana. The outcome will be an enhanced ability to recruit and retain exceptional scholars who are critical to the positive reputation and economic influences of the academy in the region.

(3) Revised reporting requirements with specific emphasis on annual reports to donors will yield further transparency and attractiveness for future potential donors to the Endowed Chairs Program.

(4) The review panel strongly recommends that matched Endowed Chairs not be allowed to be split into smaller entities. Such faculty endowments with lesser funding would not be consistent with the funding request of the original competitive proposal which
had the approval of the donor/submitting institution and which subsequently earned the review panel’s recommendations for positive action by the Board of Regents.

(5) The citizens of Louisiana and donors to the Endowed Chairs Program, in the opinion of the panel members, may be assured that the Program is effectively coordinating public and private resources to improve the quality of higher education and its role in advancing the economic and cultural life of the State. Importantly, the overall merit of proposals continues to dictate funding decisions for the Endowed Chairs Program. At a time when both local and national administrators in higher education may tend to yield to a desire to resolve immediate budget difficulties at the cost of the long-term future of these very entities, it is important to preserve these high-level faculty endowments, which are the hallmark of an ascendant higher education system.

(6) The panel again notes that the process of rating proposals is greatly enhanced by the interviews with institutional representatives, particularly institutional and academic department and unit leaders. Understanding their perspectives and plans is vital to gauging the overall context for and likely long-term impact of proposed chairs with regard to expected productivity, alignment with institutional academic, research and development objectives, and anticipated outreach to regional leaders of business and industry and local and regional communities. There could be an expanded role for the panel, if requested by the submitting institution or a potential donor, in providing advice and feedback relative to the consolidation of two or more extant chairs.

(7) Panel members reviewed current vacancy rates for previously awarded endowed chairs at institutions submitting new proposals. The recruitment of new eminent scholars may be influenced by reports of and rationales for existing vacancies among eminent scholar positions on campuses. It is imperative that institutions make greater efforts to fill those positions through aggressive searches conducted within two years of the receipt of Board of Regents matching funds or of the departure of an existing chairholder. Consideration might be given to revision of program policy to make future chair matches contingent upon an institutional commitment to transfer on an annual basis the full amount of the salary line pledged for the proposed Endowed Chair to the endowment corpus if the Chair is vacant for longer than three years.

(8) The panel noted that, in contrast to past reviews, the current resubmissions or variations of unfunded proposals from prior years’ competitions better presented pertinent information and, where appropriate, revised a proposed chair’s focus to enhance the clarity of the proposal in addressing economic development and academic enhancement criteria. The panel recommends that the request for proposals be revised to include additional guidance and instructions for proposal development. By outlining a common proposal structure and elements, program guidelines will help applicants to provide information essential to proper assessment of the purpose, structure, impact and implementation plans for prospective chairs and give more focus to discussions in applicant interviews.
(9) The panel again reinforces a key recommendation from the 2009 comprehensive review of the Endowed Chairs Program that Board of Regents staff, working with all stakeholders, establish an active website with managed content for a variety of audiences, including chairholders, administrators, the Board, legislators, and the public. Subsequent to and evolving from the successful implementation of this website, the Board should sponsor development of a statewide Society of Eminent Scholars to promote synergies among chairholders, encourage chairholder participation in statewide strategic planning, and publicize individual and programmatic successes. In addition, universities with sizable numbers of chairs should be encouraged to form internal advisory groups and engage chairholders as much as possible in institutional planning and assessment. The Board could also encourage the Society of Eminent Scholars, once operational, to provide advice, as appropriate, related to statewide and national research and development opportunities and possibilities for interdisciplinary, inter-institutional and private-sector collaboration.

(10) The review panel suggests that consideration could be given to establishing mechanisms to document the positive influence of current Eminent Scholars across all institutions. One possibility would be to compare the annual research funding received by a chairholder to that obtained, on average, by all other full professors from the chairholder's home department. Additional consideration could be given to methods of surveying chairholders across all institutions about opportunities for economic development or major enhancements of nationally competitive programs in Louisiana.

F. The careful coordination of the review process provided by the Board’s Sponsored Programs staff is acknowledged and appreciated. Further, the review panel commends the Board of Regents for its insistence on the independence of the external review process. It is important also to thank representatives of the institutions submitting proposals, who were genuinely open and responsive during the interview sessions with the panel.
### BoRSF Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program – Proposals Submitted FY 2013-14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Proposal Number</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Title of Chair</th>
<th>BoRSF Match Requested</th>
<th>Economic Development (36 points)</th>
<th>Academic Enhancement (52 points)</th>
<th>Recruitment Plan (6 points)</th>
<th>Appropriateness to Campus Role, Scope, &amp; Mission (6 points)</th>
<th>Total Points (100 points)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>005EC-14</td>
<td>University of Louisiana at Lafayette</td>
<td>Alex &amp; Loretta Durand Theriot, Jr./BoRSF Chair in Hydrology &amp; Coastal Engineering</td>
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<td>36</td>
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<td>Lucius D. McGehee Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship</td>
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**RESTRICTED BEQUEST PROGRAM**

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<th>Economic Development (36 points)</th>
<th>Academic Enhancement (52 points)</th>
<th>Recruitment Plan (6 points)</th>
<th>Appropriateness to Campus Role, Scope, &amp; Mission (6 points)</th>
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<td>Satisfactory</td>
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<td>Tulane University Health Sciences Center</td>
<td>Venancio Antonio Wander Garcia, IV, M.D. Chair II</td>
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ATTACHMENT B
The University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL Lafayette) is seeking $400,000 in matching funds to establish the Theriot Chair in Hydrology and Coastal Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering. The desired expertise of the proposed chairholder is focused on research related to dynamics of and connections between hydrologic processes, climate progenitors, and ecosystems response. Emphasis will be placed on the development of hydrologic modeling and forecasting tools, observational settings and informatics systems, and the development of translational technologies to support engineering and ecological ecosystem management. These priorities are driven by Louisiana’s needs and challenges as it embarks on concerted efforts in flood protection, coastal restoration, alterations to hydrologic regimes, and management of water resources and hazards; they are also aligned with UL Lafayette’s mission of growing research and development capacities in hydrologic and coastal engineering and water management, one of seven key areas identified by the State as drivers of economic development.

The chairholder will create new research and education opportunities in hydrologic and coastal disciplines for undergraduate and graduate students and develop informational products and training programs to help build the workforce for coastal-related jobs and professions. He/she will also contribute to academic enhancement and institutional growth as well as engage in hydrologic and water science interdisciplinary research collaborations that could lead to translational technologies in support of local industries and engineering practices. Discussion during the interview indicated a new collaboration with the Water Institute of the Gulf (TWIG), as well as increasing collaborative efforts on the campus.

The campus anticipates the chairholder will be hired at the full professor level with tenure, although highly qualified candidates at the associate professor level may be considered, and housed within the Department of Civil Engineering. The chairholder will be required to focus on research, teaching, and professional service. The department expects the position to provide leadership within the technical areas of hydrology, water resources, and coastal engineering and mentor young faculty through collaborative research, scholarly activities and professional service. The chairholder will also play a key role in the department and on the campus as a leader in the areas of hydrologic sciences and engineering, water management, coastal restoration, and ecosystem modeling and monitoring. A competitive hiring and start-up package will be developed to include an equipment purchase package in the $150,000 range, support for one Ph.D. student, travel funds, and a tenured nine-month appointment. As required by Board of Regents policy, the chairholder will be evaluated every three years. It is noted that the engineering programs at UL Lafayette have generally been successful in filling previously approved Endowed Chairs positions.

The panel recommends funding for this excellent and well-written proposal.
Tulane University requests matching funds of $400,000 to establish the Marshall-Heape Chair in Geology in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, part of the School of Science and Engineering. This is an initial proposal; Tulane ultimately plans to establish the Chair at the $2,000,000 level. The intention is to submit a request in a later funding cycle for $400,000 to match a second $600,000 non-State contribution and to combine the second Chair with the one currently under review.

The proposed intent and objectives for the Marshall-Heape Chair are to expand the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences into the area of Geophysics, an essential area in geosciences, in order to integrate current academic and research expertise presently within the department and the School of Science and Engineering. Most of the earth science academic and research activity at Tulane is in three areas: energy, environment, and hazards. There is an extremely well-developed research base present which will provide a major catalyst for this new Chair and the expected development of a strong emphasis in geophysics. Since the inception in 2006 of the School of Science and Engineering, its faculty have successfully competed for $140,000,000 in research funding from federal agencies as well as industrial and private research entities. The significance and quality of the research effort as measured by patents is outstanding; in 2012, 21 patent disclosures were filed and 15 new patents were issued. To date, ten licenses have been negotiated, generating several start-up companies.

The recruitment of an eminent scholar will be enhanced by the presence of more than 20 endowed chairs and professors in the school and six research groups within the department. The addition of expertise in geophysics will provide the necessary element to align these research groups into an integrated, collaborative force in geosciences. As described in the proposal, the recruited scholar will have a primary objective to develop curricular and research areas in geophysics in order to provide the “whole” of geosciences as related to the three areas outlined above: energy, environment, and hazards. A well-developed research base is currently available within the department, which will provide significant possibilities for collaboration, including Dr. Strab in sedimentation, Dr. Blum in river and coastal studies, Dr. Allison in land-creating sediment in the Mississippi shelf, and Dr. Tornqvist in coastal wetlands. All of these areas will greatly benefit from the added expertise in geophysics.

The economic and academic impacts resulting from the Marshall-Heape Chair are well integrated into the defined goals and expectations of the chairholder: curriculum development for undergraduate and graduate students in geophysics, laboratory and research opportunities, collaboration and integration of geophysics within existing research groups, and transfer of geophysics data and expertise into critical private and commercial enterprises in the Gulf South.

This is a well-written proposal, clearly defining not only the goals and expectations for the current $1,000,000 Chair but also some of the expectations for the intended $2,000,000 Chair. The recruiting procedure is detailed and appropriate. The review panel strongly recommends that the $400,000 in matching funds be granted.
Louisiana Tech University has resubmitted a request for $400,000 in matching funds to complete the Lucius D. McGehee Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship in the College of Business. The focus of the chairholder’s activities will be on research agendas of the Department of Management and across the college, in addition to teaching entrepreneurship courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels. It is expected that the McGehee Chair will significantly enhance the ability of the college to attract and retain high-quality faculty in the area of entrepreneurship as well as recruit both undergraduate and graduate students, ultimately yielding significant benefits for the visibility and prestige of the college. Economic development in the region and the State will be further enhanced by the Center for Entrepreneurship and Information Technology (CEnIT), a partnership between the College of Business and the College of Engineering and Science. The McGehee Chair will enhance the operations of the center by providing guidance and mentoring to students and faculty involved in CEnIT activities.

During the interview with the review panel, it was revealed that the degree program in entrepreneurship has been changed from a combined program with management to a separate concentration. The intent of this change is to allow added depth of focus while retaining a broad view of all business degrees. The new degree structure will also allow greater interaction with other disciplines such as engineering and enhance economic development in the region. This restructuring appears to be positive for the proposed McGehee Chair.

The McGehee Chair will help to promote economic development by supporting ongoing entrepreneurship efforts and fostering additional linkages with the business community through participation in the region’s Business Outlook Summit. Moreover, the College of Business collaborates with the University of Louisiana at Monroe in delivering regional economic forecasts, an activity which will involve the chairholder. Discussions during the interview session stressed the importance of moving towards more interdisciplinary collaboration, not only within engineering and business, but also with other campus disciplines.

Louisiana Tech plans to conduct an aggressive national search to identify the chairholder, and provide dedicated salary support at an appropriate level. The McGehee Chair will be a strong addition to the campus’s entrepreneurship focus and the panel strongly recommends funding. It is noted that the engineering programs at Louisiana Tech University have been highly successful in filling previously matched Endowed Chairs.
Tulane University is requesting $800,000 in matching funds to establish the $2,000,000 Michael A. Corasaniti and Valerie A. Zondorak Chair in International Politics in the Department of Political Science within the School of Liberal Arts. This is the initial request, with an ultimate goal of increasing the Chair’s corpus to the $3,000,000 level; it is anticipated that a request will be forthcoming in a future funding cycle for the additional $1,000,000.

The eminent scholar recruited to hold this Chair will have expertise in the broad area of international conflict and crisis. The School of Liberal Arts revised its strategic plan in 2013 to focus on an interdisciplinary, thematic approach for future development in academic scholarship, transformative research, and creative inquiry in arts, humanities and social sciences. The Corasaniti-Zondorak Chair fits well within this objective. The chairholder is expected to develop a primary focus in the Crises and Innovations thematic area related to international conflict resulting from political, social, ethnic and natural disasters. Although this is a very broad scholarly arena, there is a strong academic and research base within the School of Liberal Arts and Department of Political Science which will provide significant collaboration and resources to assist the chairholder in achieving his/her expected objectives. An impressive cluster of multidisciplinary centers is available to the scholar that will directly facilitate the interdisciplinary, thematic focus on international conflict and crisis. In addition to these centers, many department faculty have well-developed areas of expertise for collaborative interaction including Dr. Silva in state-society relations, Dr. Gasiorowski in U.S.-Iranian relations, Dr. Taras in ethnic conflict, and Dr. Dimitrov in communist regimes.

The academic and economic impacts anticipated from the Chair are well integrated into the overall goals and objectives. The department recently reinstituted Political Science’s doctoral program and it is expected that the chairholder will serve as a major resource to graduate students for curriculum and research opportunities in international conflict. In terms of the Chair’s potential for broader influence, Louisiana and New Orleans in particular are major gateways to international trade, and having such expertise in international conflict and crisis can help the region as well as the nation to mitigate trade conflicts resulting from global confrontations.

The School of Liberal Arts will provide an annual research fund of $10,000 to the scholar for the first three years and $5,000 annually for the duration of his/her tenure. A salary at the full professor level will also be provided from School of Liberal Arts resources. The search process is well defined and will be chaired by an endowed chairholder. The review panel recommends matching funds for the Corasaniti-Zondorak Chair.
RANKED 5: Scott O. Brame/CLECO Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship (#001EC-14)

Louisiana State University at Alexandria (LSUA) is requesting $400,000 in matching funds to establish the Scott O. Brame/CLECO Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship, to be housed in the Department of Business Administration.

With the support and consent of the donors, the department has modified the previous proposal to establish the Chair in finance and now intends to shift the Chair to support a concentration in entrepreneurship added to the current Business Administration degree. The primary goal for the proposed Chair is the enhancement of the central Louisiana region by establishing a stronger educational program in entrepreneurship and business that will contribute to an expansion of regional and State economies. In addition to a series of academic responsibilities specified in the proposal, the chairholder would be expected to engage heavily with the business community, promote entrepreneurial resources available to start-up businesses, develop appropriate research and publication initiatives, and mentor faculty colleagues and students on opportunities for business education. The program has developed appropriate quantitative criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed Chair.

Discussion with institutional representatives during the interview indicated that both the central administration and program leadership have a clear vision with respect to the appropriateness of the Chair to LSUA’s mission and a definition and role for entrepreneurship that is consistent with the institution and the Central Louisiana region.

The proposal specifies that a national search will identify individuals qualified to hold tenure at the rank of full professor, and the panel urges LSUA to consider candidates with less traditional academic backgrounds but strong entrepreneurship experience. LSUA is committed to providing full support for a faculty salary line. The salary level identified still appears somewhat low to attract the highly desirable qualities sought for the Brame/CLECO Chair, though it is in line with average salaries in the discipline. It is noted that the institution has been successful in filling all of its previously awarded Endowed Chairs. The panel recommends funding for the Scott O. Brame/CLECO Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship.
The University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL Lafayette) is requesting a $400,000 BoRSF match to establish the E. G. “T-Boy” & Martha Hebert Chair in Marketing in the B. I. Moody III College of Business Administration. The Chair is intended to support one or more of five areas identified in the proposal – energy management, innovation and entrepreneurship, health care leadership, accounting, and/or professional sales and marketing – by creating research and education opportunities consistent with Louisiana’s economic development priorities. The chairholder will be expected to maintain a record of high-quality research and scholarship as well as provide leadership in the professional and scholarly development of college faculty. In addition, the holder of the Hebert Chair will be expected to teach at graduate and undergraduate levels and participate in professional development programs. The chairholder will also assist in continuing and expanding the university’s relationship with the business community, serving as a liaison for university outreach programs.

During the interview with the panel it was stated that a major stimulus for the Chair proposal derived from changes in the AACSB accreditation criteria regarding faculty activity. The panel finds this neither highly relevant to arguments for funding the new Chair nor consistent with the overall vision expected of a proposal for a new eminent scholar; accreditation needs should be addressed principally at the institutional level, to ensure consistent and continued support for required program components. In addition, the proposal, with five areas identified for possible targeting, appears to lack focus with respect to the scholarly and educational contributions expected from the Hebert Chair.

The holder of the proposed Chair would have a primary faculty appointment funded by the university in the College of Business Administration. Funds derived from the endowment would be used to increase the academic-year salary to a competitive level and to support travel, equipment, and student assistants. There is an appropriate plan for recruiting an eminent scholar, with an added focus on women and minorities.

It is noted that the B. I. Moody III College of Business Administration currently has multiple vacant Endowed Chairs matched through this program. The panel recommends that some consideration be given to both the function of existing Chairs in the College and the relationship of the proposed Hebert Chair to previously matched endowments. The College has an excellent opportunity to build a comprehensive and cohesive approach to development of senior faculty through strategic hiring for the Endowed Chairs, both currently available and prospective.

The panel recommends funding for the E. G. “T-Boy” & Martha Hebert/BoRSF Chair in Marketing if sufficient monies are available.
The University of New Orleans is requesting a $400,000 match to establish the Whitney Bank Chair in Banking in the Department of Economics and Finance within the College of Business Administration. The scholar recruited to hold the Whitney Chair will develop new academic and research infrastructure with a primary focus on local and regional commercial banking practices in New Orleans and Louisiana. Following September 11, 2001 and the recent Global Financial Crisis, the banking industry has changed dramatically in response to shifting economic environments and new banking regulations.

Local and regional banks provide a major portion of financing for private and commercial development within their regions. With the implementation of multiple federal banking regulatory policies including the Reigle-Neal Interstate Bank and Branching Efficiency Act, the Financial Services Modernization Act, and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the banking environment has significantly changed over the last decade. The Whitney Bank Chair will play a major role in identifying the effects of these regulatory changes and developing adaptive models to address new requirements, with a particular focus on local and regional economies.

The fluidity of the banking environment makes it essential that curricula and research opportunities for students and faculty in the Department of Economics and Finance adapt regularly to address current circumstances. The presence of an eminent scholar with a primary focus on the economic and regulatory impact on banking infrastructure will assure UNO that its students are prepared for the marketplace and that its programs are having significant impacts on the local and regional economy.

This proposal defines the expectations and focus for the recruited scholar; however, there is only minimal discussion of the academic and collaborative environment in which the scholar will work. During the panel’s discussion with institutional representatives, significant information was provided that helped to clarify this situation. For instance, the college has a substantial student base in the MBA program in finance, one of the largest Ph.D. programs in the country in financial economics, and a strong program in accounting. The department established a Financial and Management Advisory Board consisting of members from the banking community, a substantial asset for the proposed Chair. A detailed discussion of how these current activities relate to the Whitney Bank Chair should be provided in a future submission, should matching funds not be available this year. Descriptions of existing individual faculty expertise and academic/research experience should also be expanded. All of these inclusions will strengthen the proposal and add to its competitiveness by defining the specific academic and research focuses, as well as banking community involvement, within the college and department, and identifying how these elements help to provide a productive and collaborative environment for the recruited scholar.

The panel recommends funding for the Whitney Bank Chair in Banking if sufficient monies are available.
Tulane University Health Sciences Center (TUHSC) is requesting an $800,000 match for the Venancio Antonio Wander Garcia, IV, M.D. Chair II in the Department of Psychiatry. TUHSC received an $800,000 Endowed Chairs match in 2012 to establish the Chair and plans with this second matching request to combine these endowments to bring the Chair to the $4,000,000 level. Ultimately it is TUHSC’s intention to request a third match to raise the total corpus value of the Garcia Chair to $5,000,000.

This proposal outlines in detail the additional goals, expectations and outcomes for the planned $5,000,000 Garcia Chair in Psychiatry. The primary focus is in Psychiatric Genetics, a part of the larger area of behavior neurogenetics. The eminent scholar recruited to fill this Chair will provide the expertise and leadership to develop a state-of-the-art academic, research and clinical focus on the biological bases of mood/behavior disorders.

Establishing a Center of Excellence in Psychiatric Genetics will advance the ability of TUHSC to capture a leading role in the identification and understanding of not only the biological bases of but also genetic involvement in human behavior and the genetic/biological bases for the disease process. As in many areas of medicine, past attention has been limited to the effects of the disease, with little ability to determine its cause. Although the effects can be treated, unless the cause can be treated, the disease process, in many instances, will continue and treatment becomes, at best, a temporary solution. Bringing the focus to the cause of mood/behavioral disorders by investigating possible genetic associations will not only enhance treatment processes but also produce the knowledge needed to reduce or eliminate the cause of the disease processes, thus reducing the necessity for treatment. In addition, if genetic determinations can be made on an individual level, specific individualized treatment procedures could be developed. This will enable physicians to target treatment to the cause rather than the effect.

TUHSC’s Department of Psychiatry and School of Medicine have already established well-defined centers and programs which will contribute directly to the ability of the chairholder to successfully establish the expected Center of Excellence in Psychiatric Genetics. Among the many research groups listed in the proposal, the most direct links will likely be with the Center for Gene Therapy, Hayward Genetics Center, Human Genetics Program, Dr. Jinying Zhao’s National Institute of Mental Health study of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), and studies ongoing by Drs. Dury, Scheeringa, Sautter and Cretu. There is a very rich and advanced existing framework within which the Garcia Chair can work to develop new and collaborative programs in Psychiatric Genetics. Among the expectations for the Center of Excellence in Psychiatric Genetics will be interaction and collaboration across multiple institutions to develop and establish a national resource for primary tissue and data sources. This cyberinfrastructure will coordinate aggregation of software, hardware, technology, staff expertise and primary tissue cultures to assist Tulane and other research centers working on current and future developments in the genetics of mental disorders.

Academic and economic impacts for this Chair are well defined and integrated into the identified goals and objectives. Since the chairholder will also assume the position of Department Chair,
he/she will be in a position to implement new academic, research and clinical programs to accomplish the expected impacts.

This is a very thorough, well-written proposal rich with detail related to expectations, enhancements and outcomes. The process for the recruitment of the chairholder is well stated and appropriate. The panel strongly recommends funding for this excellent Chair.