REPORT TO THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS

REVIEW OF PROPOSED ENDOWED CHAIRS FOR EMINENT SCHOLARS

BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2014-15

MARCH 9-10, 2015

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

FY 2014-15 Competition for Board of Regents Support Fund Matching Funds
Submitted to the Louisiana Board of Regents

March 9-10, 2015

A. The three-member Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Subprogram external 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 Subprograms for fiscal year (FY) 2014-15; and

B. On March 9, 2015, 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. G. Daniel Howard, Chancellor; Dr. Barbara Hatfield, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. Nathan Ponder, Interim Department Chair, Department of Arts, English, and Humanities; and Dr. Eamon Halpin, Director, Student Support; LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE – Dr. Stuart Bell, Executive Vice President and Provost; Dr. Jane Cassidy, Vice Provost for Human Resources and Facilities Management; Mr. Ryan Landry, Assistant to the Senior Vice Provost; Dr. Cynthia Peterson, Dean, College of Science; Dr. Carol Wicks, Chair, Department of Geology and Geophysics; Dr. Stacia Haynie, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Troy Blanchard, Associate Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Renee Edwards, Chair, Department of Communication Studies; Ms. Ann Whitmer, Assistant Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Richard White, Dean, E. J. Ourso College of Business; Dr. Robert Newman, Chair, Department of Economics; Dr. Thomas Phillips, Chair, Department of Accounting; LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER – NEW ORLEANS – Dr. Joseph Moerschbaecher, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean, School of Graduate Studies; Ms. Jessica King-Bernard, Executive Vice President of Development; and Ms. Denise Flock-Williams, Development Director, LSU Health Foundation; TULANE UNIVERSITY – Dr. Michael Bernstein, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Dr. Nicholas Altierio, Dean, School of Science and Engineering; Dr. Carole Haber, Dean, School of Liberal Arts; Ms. Luann Dozier, Vice President for Development; and Ms. Denise Breaux, Director of Special Projects, Office of Constituency Programs; and UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS – Dr. John Williams, Dean of the College of Business Administration; and Dr. Walter “Dub” Lane, Chair of the Department of Economics and Finance.
C. Following the interview sessions, the panel rated and ranked the nine (9) proposals submitted in the Competitive Subprogram. Reviewers based assessments on: (1) the written proposals; (2) information provided in the interviews with the institutional representatives; and (3) the additional printed and presented materials 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 the 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 each 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 nine (9) proposed endowed chairs submitted in the Competitive Subprogram resulting from the rating of each proposal according to evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. A tenth proposal (009EC-15), from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, was incomplete upon submission and withdrawn from the competition. Attachment B contains a brief evaluation of each of the nine (9) chairs proposed in FY 2014-15.

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 Subprogram:

(1) Once again the citizens of Louisiana and donors to the Endowed Chairs Subprogram, in the opinion of the external review panel members, are to be assured that the Subprogram is effectively coordinating public and non-State resources to improve the quality of higher education and its role in advancing the economy and the cultural life of the State. Importantly, the overall merit of proposals continues to dictate funding decisions for the Endowed Chairs Subprogram. At a time when both local and national administrators in higher education may tend to yield to the resolution of short-term or immediate budget difficulties at the cost of the long-term future of their institutions, every effort should be made to provide additional resources to fund, in rank order according to merit, as many of this year’s excellent proposals for permanent endowments in support of eminent scholars, who are the hallmark of an ascendant higher education system.

(2) The review panel again commends the September 2013 revision of the BoRSF Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Subprogram Policy distributed with the Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals. In particular, the revised guidelines which encourage the consolidation of two or more extant chairs and/or the enhancement of the permanent endowment for existing chairs 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. The revised reporting requirements called for in the policy, with the specific emphasis on annual reports to donors, will yield further transparency and attractiveness for future potential donors to the Eminent Scholars Subprogram. It should be noted that the external review panel strongly recommends that neither approved BoRSF Endowed Chairs nor submitted proposals for such a chair be permitted to be split into smaller entities. Such chairs with lesser funding would not be consistent with the intent of the competitive proposal which had the approval of the donor, institution, and management board submitting the proposal and which subsequently earned the external review panel’s recommendation and positive action by the Board of Regents.

(3) The panel again advises that the consideration of the merits and ranking of proposed endowed chairs is greatly enhanced by the panel’s 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 in business, industry, and community development.

(4) 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 vacant positions with aggressive searches conducted within two years of the receipt of Board of Regents matching funds or within two years of the departure of an existing chairholder.

(5) The panel again reinforces a key recommendation from earlier comprehensive reviews of the Endowed Chairs Subprogram 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. Also 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.

(6) The panel of external reviewers also suggests that consideration could be given to designating funds for documenting the positive influence of current Eminent
Scholars across all institutions. One example would be to compare the records of the annual competitive research and development funding secured by current chairholders to that obtained on average by all full professors from the same departments. Additional consideration could be given to methods of surveying all chairholders across all institutions regarding future economic opportunities in the region and/or possible consequences for the enhancements of the reputation of nationally competitive programs of higher education in the State of 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 Regents for their 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 Subprogram
### Proposals Submitted FY 2014-15

### Competitive Subprogram

<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 Role, Scope, and Mission (6 points)</th>
<th>Total Points (100 Points)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>008EC-15</td>
<td>Tulane University</td>
<td>Michael A. Corasaniti and Valerie A. Zondorak Chair in International Politics</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>002EC-15</td>
<td>LSU and A&amp;M College</td>
<td>Billy and Ann Harrison Endowed Chair #2 in Geology and Geophysics</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>001EC-15</td>
<td>LSU Alexandria</td>
<td>Howard and Eloise Mulder Endowed Chair in the Arts at LSU at Alexandria</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>003EC-15</td>
<td>LSU and A&amp;M College</td>
<td>Edwin K. Hunter Chair in the Traditions of Rhetoric and Argument in Communication Studies</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>007EC-15</td>
<td>Tulane University</td>
<td>Marshall-Heape Endowed Chair in Geology</td>
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<td>004EC-15</td>
<td>LSU and A&amp;M College</td>
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<td>006EC-15</td>
<td>LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans</td>
<td>Charles V. Sanders, M.D. Endowed Chair of Medicine</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>010EC-15</td>
<td>University of New Orleans</td>
<td>Whitney Bank Chair in Banking</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>005EC-15</td>
<td>LSU and A&amp;M College</td>
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<td>$800,000</td>
<td>27</td>
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ATTACHMENT B
Tulane University is requesting $800,000 in matching funds to establish the Michael A. Corasaniti and Valerie A. Zondorak Chair in International Politics in the Department of Political Science within the School of Liberal Arts. This requested BoRSF funding will be combined with $1.5 million in existing non-State support to provide a total of $2,300,000 for the Chair.

Tulane’s Department of Political Science has 18 full-time faculty members, three professors of practice, two visiting professors, and six adjunct professors. The department’s academic focus prepares students for a direct entry into employment, management, journalism, advocacy work and allied programs in law, business, public health and public administration. Tulane was recognized as a Fulbright U.S. Student Top Producer for 2013-14.

The objective for the recruitment of the Corasaniti-Zondorak Chair is to attract a preeminent scholar with expertise in the broad area of international conflict and crisis. The School of Liberal Arts revised its strategic plan in 2013 to emphasize an interdisciplinary 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 focus. The prospective chairholder will provide additional expertise to develop a primary emphasis on the crisis and innovations thematic area of international conflict resulting from political, social, ethnic and natural disaster. There currently exists a strong academic and research base within the School and Department of Political Science which will provide significant collaboration and resources to the Corasaniti-Zondorak Chair. An impressive cluster of active multidisciplinary and international centers and programs will directly facilitate the interdisciplinary, thematic focus on international conflict and crisis. In addition to the centers, several department faculty have well-developed areas of expertise likely to lead to collaborative interactions, 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 department recently redesigned the PhD program, and it is expected this Chair will provide a major resource for graduate students in terms of both curriculum and research opportunities in international conflict, partner with faculty from other disciplines to develop multidisciplinary programs, and enhance teaching and research across related disciplines. Louisiana is a major gateway to international trade. Having this expertise in international conflict and crisis can help not only Louisiana but also the U.S. in its ability to mitigate trade conflicts resulting from global confrontations. The establishment of the Corasaniti-Zondorak Chair will stimulate economic and business development in the New Orleans area, help public safety, health, and environmental protection officials mitigate and prevent risks in the region, and provide expertise to State and local governments in the evaluation of the impact of international events on local interests.
This is a well-written proposal with clearly defined goals and objectives. 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 the tenure of the Endowed Chair, as well as salary at the full professor level. The search procedure is well defined and will be chaired by a BoRSF chairholder. The panel strongly recommends that matching funds be provided.
RANKED 2: Billy and Ann Harrison Endowed Chair #2 in Geology and Geophysics (#002EC-15)

Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU-BR) is requesting $400,000 in matching funds for the Billy and Ann Harrison Chair #2 in Geology and Geophysics, to be housed in the Department of Geology and Geophysics in the College of Science. BoRSF funds, matched with a $600,000 gift from the Harrison family, will be used to double the value of the existing $1,000,000 Harrison Chair created with BoRSF match in 2005.

The panel understands that LSU-BR plans to appoint the current holder of the Harrison Chair, Dr. Samuel Bentley, to the double Chair. Dr. Bentley has an exceptionally strong record of scientific and scholarly accomplishments in coastal studies and delta restoration, and a national and international reputation as a scholar; on campus, he has been a leader of LSU’s efforts in this area, serving as the director of the Coastal Studies Institute. Geologic research and training continues to be critical to the economy of Louisiana in areas related to oil and gas resources, coastal erosion, and water quality and quantity. Dr. Bentley has significant and sustained peer-reviewed extramural support for his research, balanced by a demonstrated record of teaching excellence and the mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral associates who go on to launch prominent careers in academics, industry, and government. He is clearly a primary component of LSU-BR’s success in this area of research and teaching.

The educational and research programs within the Department of Geology and Geophysics have had a significant economic impact on Louisiana and the nation. Understanding the interplay of geologic, hydrologic, and biologic processes affecting the Louisiana coast and Mississippi delta is critical to maintaining marine fisheries and protecting energy infrastructure. Additional support for the Harrison Chair will be instrumental in retaining a preeminent scholar and will increase the ability of the chairholder to continue to make significant contributions to the region.

This is a strong proposal and highly recommended for funding.
RANKED 3: Howard and Eloise Mulder Endowed Chair in the Arts at LSU at Alexandria (#001EC-15)

Louisiana State University at Alexandria (LSUA) is requesting $400,000 in matching funds to establish the Howard and Eloise Mulder Endowed Chair in the Arts, to be located in the Department of Arts, English, and Humanities. The central purpose of the proposed Mulder Chair is to combine teaching/educational and research/scholarly foci in the arts, and particularly theater arts, in which the teaching/educational focus is preeminent.

The proposal well documents the long tradition of arts education and extracurricular arts opportunities at LSUA for students across the institution. Highly respected major degree programs in visual and performing arts, as well as arts management, and popular coursework for all students fulfilling the institution’s general education requirements have been central to the positive reputation of the institution, its community engagement, and fulfillment of its mission as a liberal arts institution.

The recruitment of a scholar with a significant reputation to provide further leadership in this area for LSUA and the region will be greatly influenced by both existing institutional and community traditions and newly enhanced facilities. Mulder Hall, named for the donors who have contributed the non-State match for this Chair, is a $10,000,000 facility which should be highly attractive in recruiting a chairholder to spearhead new initiatives to improve programs in arts education and practice while growing long-established connections with the community and regional private sector. The expectation is that the Mulder Chair will lead in forging engagement with art agencies and commercial arts enterprises at regional, State, and national levels. The proposal clearly states the expectation that the chairholder will help secure additional donations and grant funds for LSUA’s arts programs.

The proposal well states the requirements and expected results of a national search along with the standards of appointment for the Mulder Chair. Particular emphasis was placed on the ongoing performance expectations for this future faculty leader at LSUA. The well-written proposal clearly outlines the anticipated contributions to academic enhancement and the potential for the chairholder to contribute to regional and statewide economic development.

The external review panel noted that LSUA currently has no Endowed Chair vacancies and that the institution has committed to the Mulder Chair a new faculty line with benefits appropriate for a full professor. The panel strongly recommends funding for the Howard and Eloise Mulder Endowed Chair in the Arts at LSUA.
RANKED 4: Edwin K. Hunter Chair in the Traditions of Rhetoric and Argument in Communication Studies (#003EC-15)

Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU-BR) is requesting $800,000 in matching funds to be combined with $1,200,000 received from an anonymous donor to create the Edwin K. Hunter Chair in the Traditions of Rhetoric and Argument in Communication Studies. This will be the first Endowed Chair in the Department of Communication Studies, located in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Nationally, LSU-BR’s Department of Communication Studies is highly regarded and has educated many eminent faculty in the field who are now employed by some of the leading U.S. colleges and universities. Currently the department enrolls 237 undergraduate majors and 34 doctoral students.

Edwin K. Hunter is a noted lawyer and business entrepreneur in the region who was on the LSU debate team and active in student government fifty years ago. He is also a graduate of the LSU Law School. He was involved in the original movement to create LSU’s well-regarded Free Speech Alley, which continues to influence rhetoric and debate at the institution. He was named “Alumnus of the Year” in 2013. It is anticipated that the Edwin K. Hunter Chair will greatly enhance a new initiative to offer a joint/dual degree program engaging the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the LSU Law Center.

The proposal specifies that the Hunter Chair is in the Type One Chair category, which combines research/scholarly and teaching/educational foci, in which research/scholarly focus is preeminent. The chairholder will provide scholarly leadership in the department and mentorship for junior faculty. This chairholder will also play a central role in preparing undergraduate majors in at least 20 degree programs across the LSU campus, such as accounting and industrial engineering, further developing communication skills students need to make significant contributions in business and industry.

The proposal well describes the national search process to be used in filling the Hunter Chair, including efforts to attract appropriate candidates from historically underrepresented groups. There is an institutional commitment to provide a full professor salary and benefits competitive with those expected for a nationally recognized eminent scholar.

The external review panel strongly recommends providing the matching funds sought from the Louisiana Board of Regents for the proposed Edwin K. Hunter Chair in the Traditions of Rhetoric and Argument in Communication Studies.
RANKED 5: Marshall-Heape Endowed Chair in Geology (#007EC-15)

Tulane University requests matching funds of $400,000 to expand the Marshall-Heape Chair in Geology for the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences in the School of Science and Engineering. The Marshall-Heape Chair was funded in 2014, and this second request will expand the corpus of the Chair to $2,300,000.

The previous proposal was updated and expanded to specify the additional expectations and objectives associated with moving from a $1,000,000 endowment to the requested $2,300,000 Chair. The goals, expectations and objectives from the initial 2014 proposal are incorporated in the current proposal, along with extensive discussion of future expectations and activities, particularly related to economic impact.

The intent of the Marshall-Heape Chair is to promote academic, environmental and economic well-being through teaching, research, outreach and economic development focused on the geological sciences. This will expand the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences into the area of geophysics, an essential and growing field, in order to integrate academic and research expertise presently within the department and the School of Science and Engineering. Academic and research foci are in three primary areas: energy, environment, and hazards.

The well-developed and current research base will provide a major catalyst for the expanded Chair. Since its inception in 2006, School of Science and Engineering faculty have successfully competed for approximately $160 million from federal agencies, industry, and other research funders. 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. In each year during 2013 and 2014, there were 22 patent disclosures, 17 new patent filings and four licenses executed. To date, 14 licenses have been negotiated resulting in several start-up companies.

The economic impact to Louisiana and the region from the proposed expanded Marshall-Heape Chair is well stated, contributing to issues vital to Louisiana, including mineral, energy and water development, coastal and delta management, subsidence and sea level change, coastal restoration, management and implementation of the BP claims settlement, and geothermal power and engineering development.

The work of the eminent scholar recruited will be enhanced by more than 20 endowed chairs and professors in the School of Science and Engineering and six research groups within the department. The addition of expertise in geophysics will provide a mechanism to align these research groups into an integrated, collaborative force in geosciences. As described, the chairholder will have as a primary objective development of curricular and research areas in
geophysics to provide the “whole” of geosciences in the context of the three priority areas: energy, environment and hazard.

This is a well-written proposal, clearly defining the current Marshall-Heape Chair and the value added by expanding the Chair to the $2,300,000 level. An anonymous gift of $1,000,000 and a $500,000 gift from Freeport-McMoRan directed to the School of Science and Engineering can be used to further support the Marshall-Heape Chair, primarily with programming support and graduate student funding. In addition, the School of Science and Engineering has committed $100,000 in discretionary funding to help with recruitment of the chairholder. This review panel strongly recommends provision of the requested matching funds.
RANKED 6: Freeport-McMoRan Endowed Chair in Economics #2 (#004EC-15)

Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU-BR) is requesting $400,000 in matching funds for the Freeport-McMoRan Endowed Chair in Economics #2 in the E. J. Ourso College of Business. These monies will supplement a previous endowment from Freeport-McMoRan, matched by the BoRSF in 1996. Freeport-McMoRan noted in providing the additional donation that the chairholder had accomplished the goals of the initial Chair and achieved a scale of operations that required additional funding. The Freeport-McMoRan Endowed Chair #2 would be initially awarded to the current holder of the Freeport-McMoRan Endowed Chair #1; subsequently LSU-BR plans to award the two slots as a single $2,000,000 Chair.

The three goals of the original Freeport-McMoRan Chair were to enhance undergraduate, graduate, and professional education in the State’s flagship university; to promote economics research of importance to Louisiana’s economy; and to stimulate development and diversification of the Louisiana economy and the global competitiveness of Louisiana industry. The current chairholder, Dr. Dek Terrell, has used the Chair primarily to provide seed money to fund a larger research organization. He has had over 100 externally funded projects totaling more than $10,000,000 while serving as the Director of the Division of Economic Development, created in 1996 by the first Freeport-McMoRan Chair. He has expanded the size and scope of the activities of the division, which currently funds a full-time staff of six economists as well as supporting graduate and undergraduate students.

This is a strong proposal from a highly successful and growing program that could have been improved by more clearly indicating the value-added contribution that would result from the provision of additional funds. The panel recommends funding for the Freeport-McMoRan Chair in Economics #2 if sufficient monies are available.
RANKED 7: Charles V. Sanders, M.D. Endowed Chair of Medicine (#006EC-15)

The Department of Medicine of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans is requesting $400,000 from the BoRSF for the Charles V. Sanders, M.D. Endowed Chair of Medicine, to match $600,000 donated by the many friends, colleagues and students of Dr. Sanders. The holder of the Sanders Chair will also serve as the Chair of the Department of Medicine; Dr. Sanders is the current department chair, a position he has held for 25 years.

The focus of the Sanders Chair will be on medical education with a primary emphasis on patient physical examination and diagnosis. With the rapid development of technology applicable to medical care, comprehensive patient examination by the physician has given way to the more convenient, but also more costly and less interactive technology-based diagnostic tests and treatments. Several recent studies have indicated that a well-administered physical examination by a trained and knowledgeable physician can, in many instances, provide a more detailed basis for the consideration of many disease processes leading to a practical and more holistic approach to the treatment of the disease and patient. The LSUHSC-NO Department of Medicine has developed the “Back to Bedside” visiting professor program, which brings in nationally recognized medical educators to emphasize the importance of teaching and the physical examination. Since its inception, four out-of-state medical educators who are national experts in patient diagnosis and examination have participated in the program. This Chair will be part of an enhanced academic environment and provide resident faculty who will emphasize this patient-based approach and attract the very best medical students and resident physicians.

The Department of Medicine is the largest and most diversified department in the School of Medicine. There are 104 full- and part-time faculty distributed within thirteen sections of internal medicine subspecialties. It has the largest resident physician program in the School and a joint resident program with the Department of Pediatrics. Research activity is extensive and diverse, including: the Bogalusa Heart Study, the longest and most detailed study of a biracial population of children in the world; an NIH-funded Center in Alcohol Research, which has received $35,000,000 in funding; an extensive section in infectious disease; and the Comprehensive Pulmonary Hypertension Center, anticipated to become a regional referral center for patients with pulmonary hypertension.

The expertise and revenue of the Sanders Chair will be strategically aligned with the Edgar Hall Endowed Chair in Medicine, which Dr. Sanders currently holds. The eminent scholar recruited for the Sanders Chair will serve as chair of the department, while Dr. Sanders will continue in the Hall Chair. Ultimately, the chairholder will participate in the recruitment of a new eminent scholar for the Hall Chair, with both focused on medical education.
The added expertise from the holder of the Sanders Chair is expected to provide economic benefits by improving clinical care and training, which will save money by reducing unnecessary medical tests and procedures. The proposal did not discuss how this teaching concept will be integrated into student education within the School of Medicine, though during the interview session LSUHSC-New Orleans participants indicated that it would become part of the SymTec Center, a multidiscipline simulation teaching laboratory utilized by most of the School’s patient care programs. This is a major and very positive objective. A detailed discussion of the SymTec Center would significantly enhance the proposal.

The search procedure is well defined and includes an existing BoRSF chairholder and a basic science faculty member. The School of Medicine has committed a fully funded faculty position at a level necessary to attract a national scholar who will also serve as department chair. The review panel recommends funding for the Sanders Chair if sufficient monies are available.
The University of New Orleans (UNO) is requesting a $400,000 BoRSF match to establish the Whitney Bank Chair in the Department of Economics and Finance within the College of Business Administration. This resubmission from the 2014 cycle has been significantly updated with additional information as requested by the review panel. The eminent scholar recruited to hold the Whitney Bank Chair will develop new academic and research infrastructure with a primary focus on local and regional commercial banking practices in New Orleans and Louisiana.

Whitney Bank is in the process of locating offices in the UNO Research Park, across the street from the College of Business. This will provide the opportunity for the holder of the Whitney Bank Chair as well as other faculty to develop direct collaborative relationships with Whitney Bank. Faculty work with the banking community has increased substantially over the last year through the efforts of Dr. Hassan and Dr. Lane, who have ongoing research grants funded by Gulf Coast Bank. Dr. Hassan has contracted with Jefferson Financial to analyze its loan portfolio for opportunities to improve loan productivity and will deliver a keynote address on “Community Banking in the U.S.A.” at the AMIFC in New Orleans in April 2015. These activities demonstrate ongoing and future collaboration between UNO’s College of Business and the banking community.

The establishment of the Whitney Bank Chair will also provide increased economic impact through additional expertise related to ongoing changes in the banking environment. 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 shifted over the past several years and continues to evolve. The Whitney Bank Chair will play a major role in identifying the effects of these regulatory changes and developing adaptive models for meeting new requirements with a focus on local and regional economies.

The banking environment is in constant flux and it is essential that the curriculum and research opportunities for students and faculty in the Department of Economics and Finance adapt to address this shifting environment. The presence of an eminent scholar with a primary focus on the economic and regulatory impact on banking infrastructure will assure that UNO’s faculty and students are prepared for the contemporary marketplace.

The proposal is well written, and the additional discussions resulting from the previous review are valuable. UNO has committed a faculty line for the recruited eminent scholar and will add the income from this endowment to existing funds to provide a salary for the Endowed Chair. Recruitment will include a national search, though the structure and process of the search committee were not specified. The review panel recommends funding for the Whitney Bank Chair if sufficient monies are available.
RANKED 9: Marjorie B. Ourso Distinguished Chair of Accounting Systems (#005EC-15)

Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU-BR) is requesting $800,000 in matching funds for the Marjorie B. Ourso Distinguished Chair of Accounting Systems in the E. J. Ourso College of Business. The $1,200,000 donation for the Chair is part of a donation from E. J. Ourso and his wife, Marjorie B. Ourso, of $15,000,000 to the College of Business.

As a field of study, accounting focuses on the organization of systems to communicate business information to decision makers, including how systems are organized, reported, audited and reviewed. The purpose of the Marjorie B. Ourso Chair is to enhance undergraduate, graduate, and professional education in all areas of accounting, including financial accounting, cost accounting, information systems, auditing, and taxation. There is an added emphasis on furnishing leadership for younger faculty. The chairholder will also promote research in areas of importance to the discipline, maintain a program of outstanding scholarship, and provide service to the accounting profession. The proposal states that the eminent scholar also would have a significant positive impact on economic development in Louisiana by providing intellectual resources, creating a knowledge base, maintaining personal and departmental visibility, and acting as a leader for younger faculty. The idea of preparing future faculty for other Louisiana institutions, raised during the interview, is commendable and its inclusion and development would have strengthened the written proposal.

The College of Business would perform a national search for candidates qualified for the rank of a tenured full professor, and is committed to providing appropriate salary support. The proposal, generally enhanced from previous submissions, is meritorious and recommended for funding if sufficient monies are available. In general the proposal lacks the specificity to compete strongly with other proposals for very limited available funds.