

Board of Regents Support Fund Restructuring
Adopted 11/2/16

Support Fund as a Whole

- Ensure Louisiana’s unique Support Fund – the only such state-supported program in the country – deploys its extremely limited and dwindling resources strategically to accomplish constitutionally mandated goals of building excellence in higher education and contributing to Louisiana’s economic development.
- Applications for funding and funded projects must explicitly reflect the submitting campus’s role, scope, mission, and strategic priorities as defined in campus-based strategic and/or master planning.
- All awards except Endowed Professorships determined on a competitive basis with external review
- Align with BoR Centers of Excellence criteria: to be eligible, a program/unit/activity must demonstrate existing or potential:
 - strong performance record and alignment with the strategic goals of the campus
 - focus in one or more areas of research, education, and/or training relevant to the State
 - appropriate range of academic, training and/or research opportunities in the area(s) of focus
 - engagement with the economic, social, and/or cultural life of the community/region
- New structure to be phased in beginning in FY 2017-18 and assessment of its continued viability and need for additional refocusing considered based on program impact, Regents’ priorities, and potential for persistent, long-term declines in Support Fund income received
- All existing obligations – multi-year contracts, federal matching, etc. – will be honored as the new structure is implemented
- Phase-out plan to be provided to match endowment requests received/underway when previous subprograms terminate and/or policies/match requirements change (\$7.2M in unfunded requests as of April 2016)

Proposed Structure

I. Enhancement for Academic, Research, and Agricultural Departments and Units¹

A. Enhancement for Excellence

- Focus on infrastructure (broadly defined) in priority areas: equipment, supplies, curriculum redesign, development of new areas of focus, etc.
- Emphasis on need for supplemental funding and benefits of BoRSF investment to students, faculty, and the community or region (economic and/or social)
- Model on current Traditional Enhancement and previous P-KSFI subprograms and operate as three components: primarily research, primarily education, and primarily workforce development – offering both small short-term grants (e.g., for an equipment purchase or specific activity) and larger and longer-term awards (3-5 years), all on a departmental/unit/center basis.
- Build into Enhancement activities undergraduate and graduate student support – research experiences for undergrads, graduate research or professional development support, supplements to recruit/retain high-performing, URM, and/or high-need students, etc. Overlap of activities in a single project – research, education, workforce – permitted and encouraged as part of a holistic approach to enhancing an academic unit.
- Encourage multi-campus, multi-level (i.e., research university-regional university-community college) partnerships for high-priority areas (e.g., LONI Institute project through P-KSFI) to

¹ “Departments and Units” is not intended to restrict eligibility to discipline-based departments. Instead, the phrase broadly refers to all formally constituted academic, research or agricultural organizational units on the campus, including centers, multidisciplinary research groups, etc. Informal or ad hoc partnerships or collaborative groups are not included, though multiple formally constituted units could collaborate on a single proposal.

support major activities including cluster hires, shared or core facility equipment purchases/access, cross-campus student opportunities, etc.

- Require projects to include appropriate sustainability plans to maintain activities after BoRSF funding ends; note that BoRSF monies are not intended by the Constitution or Regents policy to sustain activities permanently or over the long term.

B. Federal Matching

- Retain matching for EPSCoR projects under BoR management.
- Matching for major non-BoR campus-based consortial proposals to federal competitions: limited annual funding, to be combined with cash commitments from participating campuses. Expenditures only for LA higher education activities and campuses per constitutional restrictions. Given need to respond to federal solicitation deadlines, funds awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, pending submission and external review of a proposal to verify quality and impact.

C. Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships

- Continue scholarship matching in high-demand workforce areas and monitor demand and impact.
- Based on program impact on two-year campuses, consider broadening opportunity to non-two-year campuses while retaining workforce focus.
- Eliminate First-Generation Scholarships – insufficient for meaningful impact on access and not aligned with the Support Fund’s constitutionally defined mission. Retain opportunities for departments/units to request funds for support of first-generation students within Enhancement projects.

II. Targeted R&D

- Restrict Industrial Ties Research Subprogram (ITRS) to MPRAC/BoR research focus areas adopted in 2015: Advanced Manufacturing and Materials; Life Sciences and Bioengineering; Digital Media and Enterprise Software; Coastal and Water Management; and Clean Technology and Energy. MPRAC will revisit focus areas on a regular basis, and ITRS eligibility will reflect any revisions to selected areas adopted by MPRAC and the BoR.
- Retain RCS as funding for basic research in foundational STEM areas leading to competitiveness for federal funding.
- Increase funding for ITRS to support economic development activities:
 - Two activities: industrial partnerships and proof-of-concept/prototyping
 - Up to three years of funding
 - Tiered industrial matching – cash match at a minimum level required for large companies (500+ employees); smaller, in-kind matches allowed for in-State and smaller companies; incentives for participation of start-ups, particularly those initiated by faculty, and partnerships with SBIR/STTR applicants with significant chances of receiving federal funds, and potentially tie BoRSF funding caps to match amounts (1:1 BoRSF request with non-state industrial partner, higher increments of BoRSF request with in-state and start-up companies)
- Retain ATLAS as a small research/creative opportunity for arts, humanities, and social sciences faculty – including faculty partnerships with regional arts organizations (galleries, performing arts organizations, etc.), with emphasis on near-term completion and impact.
- Require all RCS and ITRS projects and strongly encourage ATLAS projects to include student (undergrad and/or graduate) and/or post-doctoral fellow participation in research activities; where appropriate, strongly encourage partnerships with other institutions/institutional types.

III. Faculty Endowment

- 60% private-40% BoRSF match and tier minimum Endowed Chair levels by campus type: research, regional, CC/TCC while providing opportunities for campuses to seek higher endowment levels when appropriate to the subject area/function of the endowment.
- Four types of Endowed Chair based on campus definition of the chair's expected role: primarily scholarly, primarily teaching, primarily workforce, and combination (equal split scholarship, teaching, and/or workforce). All chairs are expected to include a mix of these functions – the different types are to provide guidance to campuses in framing expectations, purposes, and objectives for the chair and chairholder.
- Chair matching in areas explicitly linked with campus role/scope/mission and strategic priorities.
- Require all campuses to justify endowment investment by planned use (i.e., demonstrate how the endowment proceeds plus pledged campus contribution of salary and other resources is sufficient to attract and retain a superior scholar in the focus area). Endowment levels should be treated as minimum – any campus may propose higher endowment levels with justification.
- Higher corpus levels strongly encouraged for STEM and Business disciplines, which typically require greater investments in faculty and facilities.
- Given permanence of endowments, scoring to include assessment of value of long-term investment in subject area and plans for adjustment as subject area/chair focus evolves.
- Revise Endowed Professorships:
 - Retain non-competitive award, but align eligibility with campus role, scope, mission, and strategic priorities.
 - Reduce BoRSF match to 20% (i.e., \$80,000 minimum non-State contribution matched with \$20,000 BoRSF) for all campuses with more than 15 matching slots awarded; campuses with fewer than 15 slots (currently 15 campuses) retain 60%/40% matching until they receive 15 matches.
 - Guarantee two slots per eligible campus per year, with any funds remaining after guarantees are met to be distributed through a system to be determined.
 - If a department/administrative unit/campus has a number of faculty endowments (both BoRSF-matched and not) equal to or greater than the number of FTE faculty members, it becomes ineligible for additional matches.
 - Require for each new submission for match a brief statement that defines the need for the professorship, its intended purpose, selection criteria for the holder, etc.

IV. Graduate Student Recruitment

- Retain endowed graduate scholarships and monitor demand and outcomes (student performance & post-graduation placement, contributions to major initiatives/priorities, etc.) to ensure such permanent investments provide strong benefits to the State.
- As part of the Departmental Enhancement initiative, retain SREB membership opportunities and introduce stipend supplements for campuses to promote and sustain strong and diverse graduate populations, and contribute to the research capacity of campuses and departments.
- Eliminate stand-alone fellowship programs, which keep many strong students on the sidelines of research and teaching opportunities; instead incorporate significant graduate student support and participation in Enhancement and R&D projects (research assistantships, professional development opportunities, pedagogical support, fellowships and fellowship supplements in support of project goals, etc.).