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AGENDA
RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 20, 2023
11:30 a.m.

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor
Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Endowment Waiver Requests
 - A. Appointment of Endowed Chairholders without National Search: Xavier University of Louisiana and Louisiana Tech University
 - B. Limited Waiver of Endowed Chairs/Endowed Professorships Expendable Funds Cap: LSUHSC-New Orleans
- IV. Division of Endowed Chair into Endowed Professorships: University of New Orleans
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjournment

Committee Members: Stephanie A. Finley, Chair; Phillip R. May, Jr., Vice Chair; David J. Aubrey; T. Jay Seale III; Gary N. Solomon, Jr.
Staff: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

AGENDA ITEM III.A.

Waiver Request Appointment of Endowed Chairholders without National Search: Xavier University of Louisiana and Louisiana Tech University

Background Information

Since 2015 the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars policy has included a provision to waive the requirement that BoRSF-matched Endowed Chairs be filled as the result of a national search to allow an internal appointment to be made:

Though the eminence, quality, and appropriateness of candidates for endowed chairs are best gauged through a rigorous national search, faculty already employed by the campus may be appointed to an endowed chair without a national search, provided approval of the Board of Regents and the non-State donor is granted. Such appointments should occur only infrequently and may be proposed only when the internal candidate meets relevant standards of appointment established by BoR and detailed in the approved proposal.

During the September 2023 meeting the Board discussed the frequency with which this waiver is requested and possible negative consequences to the program and the state's investment. Staff indicated that this issue would be considered during fall 2023, along with other recommended policy revisions resulting of the external assessment of endowment programs conducted by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

Staff Summary

Xavier University of Louisiana has requested to appoint Dr. Anderson Sunda-Meya to the Xavier University/State of Louisiana Endowed Chair in Science, a \$1,000,000 Chair matched by the BoRSF in 2007-08, without a national search. Dr. Sunda-Meya was appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in July 2022, and previously held numerous administrative positions at Xavier. He is a highly accomplished scientist, educator, and administrator, securing significant federal funding and serving in prominent national service roles. His CV has been reviewed and deemed to be consistent with provisions in the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars program policy for filling a Chair without conducting a national search. The non-state funds were contributed by Xavier University, so donor approval is not necessary.

Louisiana Tech University requests to appoint Dr. Collin Wick, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Science, to the Daniel D. and Linda D. Reneau Eminent Scholar Chair in Biomedical Engineering, a \$1,000,000 Chair matched in FY 2016-17. Dr. Wick was selected following a national search that did not yield an external appointment and was subsequently opened to internal applicants. Dr. Wick is an accomplished and highly active scholar with significant publications, external funding, and national recognition. His CV was deemed to be consistent with provisions in the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars program policy for filling a Chair without conducting a national search.

While both appointments are appropriate per current policy and recommended for approval, staff recommends, following approval of these requests, that the Board approve a moratorium on consideration of such waivers until

updated policy recommendations are brought in spring 2024. With the exception of the two referenced above, no requests for waiver are awaiting Board approval, so this action will not affect current submissions and will provide time to discuss a new approach with affected campuses and systems.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends approval of the request from Xavier University of Louisiana to appoint Dr. Anderson Sunda-Meya to the Xavier University/State of Louisiana Endowed Chair in Science and from Louisiana Tech to appoint Dr. Collin Wick to the Daniel D. and Linda D. Reneau Eminent Scholar Chair in Biomedical Engineering. As stipulated in Board policy, copies of the Letters of Appointment to these appointees must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of this approval.

Senior Staff further recommends a moratorium on consideration of requests made under this policy provision, effective immediately, until staff recommendations for related policy revisions are considered by the Board in spring 2024.

AGENDA ITEM III.B.

Limited Waiver of Endowed Chairs/Professorships Expendable Funds Cap: LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans

Background Information

Program policies for BoRSF Endowed Chairs and Endowed Professorships require that campus recipients “ensure that faculty holders expend available funds regularly and retain minimal amounts in expendable accounts; a spendable balance not to exceed 25% of the total market value of the endowment account may be retained for expenditure in a future year except in special circumstances (e.g., accrual of sufficient funds for a major equipment purchase or, as in recent years, excessive accrual of expendable earnings) as approved by BoR.” This requirement, adopted as a revision to the program policies in November 2016, is intended to align spending practices with the purpose of BoRSF-matched faculty endowments: to provide a steady, permanent source of supplementary funding to support the faculty holder’s professional academic and/or scholarly work.

Staff Summary

LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans has requested a temporary waiver of the cap on spendable balance for a total of thirty-nine (39) BoRSF-matched faculty endowments (Endowed Chairs and Endowed Professorships). The waivers are requested to ensure impactful spending after a build-up of expendable dollars in these accounts due to travel and other restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The waiver of this policy provision will be effective only for FY 2023-24, with the understanding that all slots will be fully in compliance with the cap on expendable balances by June 30, 2024.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends approval of LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans’s request to waive the cap on expendable balances in faculty endowment funds for the thirty-nine (39) endowments specified in its letter of request. The waiver will expire on June 30, 2024, at which time all endowments shall be in compliance with the affected policy provision.

AGENDA ITEM IV.

Division of Endowed Chair into Endowed Professorships: University of New Orleans

Background Information

In August 2011, the Board of Regents approved guidelines for the division of Endowed Chairs funds to establish Endowed Professorships, setting the minimum corpus level of professorships so created at \$250,000. Since this determination, several campuses have divided BoRSF-matched Chairs to establish Professorships at this level or higher.

Staff Summary

The Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Chair in Engineering is a \$1 million endowed chair held by the University of New Orleans, matched by the BoRSF in FY 1993-94. The Chair will soon be vacated by its current holder, and UNO requests approval to divide the Matthey Chair into four Endowed Professorships, each with a corpus value of \$250,000. The four slots will be named as follows:

- Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Professor in Engineering I
- Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Professor in Engineering II
- Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Professor of Practice I in Engineering
- Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Professor of Practice II in Engineering

UNO has certified that the original donors could not be located despite a good-faith effort, so donor approval is not required. UL System approval was granted at its August 24, 2023 meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consistent with the August 2011 policy, the Senior Staff recommends approval of the division of the Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Chair in Engineering into four (4) endowed professorships, each with a \$250,000 corpus, as follows: (1) Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Chair in Engineering I; (2) Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Chair in Engineering II; (3) Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Professor of Practice I in Engineering; and (4) Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Professor of Practice II in Engineering.