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Agenda

Research and Sponsored Initiatives

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
12:40 PM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Division of Endowed Chair into Endowed Professorships: Louisiana State University and A&M College

IV. Adjustments to Board of Regents Support Fund Program Allocations in FY 2025–26 Approved Plan and Budget

V. Other Business

VI. Adjournment

Committee Members: Stephanie A. Finley, Chair; Wilbert D. Pryor, Vice Chair; Ted H. Glaser III; Dallas Hixson; Phillip R. May Jr.; Samer Shamieh
Staff: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

AGENDA ITEM III.

Division of Endowed Chair into Endowed Professorships: Louisiana State University and A&M College

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 Freeport McMoRan Endowed Chair in Economics is a \$1 million endowed chair held by LSU and A&M College, matched by the BoRSF in FY 1993–94; the Chair has been vacant since 2019. LSU A&M requests approval to divide the Chair into two Endowed Professorships, as follows:

- Freeport McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #1 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF)
- Freeport McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #2 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF)

The original donor entered into a revised donor agreement in 2024, which approves this conversion.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consistent with the August 2011 policy, the Senior Staff recommends approval of LSU A&M’s request to divide the Freeport McMoRan Endowed Chair in Economics into two (2) endowed professorships, as follows: (1) McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #1, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF); and (2) McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #2, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF).

AGENDA ITEM IV.

Adjustments to Board of Regents Support Fund Program Allocations in FY 2025–26 Approved Plan and Budget

Background Information

The Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF), constitutionally designated to and managed by the Board of Regents, receives revenues on an annual basis from the Kevin P. Reilly, Sr. Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF). The Board is required by Article VII, Section 10 of the Constitution to submit an annual plan and budget to the Legislature and the Governor not less than 60 days prior to the beginning of the Regular Legislative Session. This document outlines proposals for expenditure across the four constitutionally permitted components of the Support Fund: Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars, Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students, Targeted Research and Development, and Enhancement of Academic, Research, and Agricultural Departments and Units. The programmatic budget is incorporated annually into House Bill 1 and the allocations fixed by category upon passage by the legislature and signature of the governor. Category allocations typically must adhere to the submitted budget and specific appropriations in HB 1. The annual budget for FY 2025–26 was approved by the Board of Regents and forwarded to the legislature and the governor as required in December 2024 and was incorporated into HB 1 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

Staff Summary

House Bills 473 and 579 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session repeal the constitutionally established Kevin P. Reilly Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF) and related Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF). For the repeal to proceed, approval of the constitutional amendment by the voters will be sought in April 2026. Liquidation of LEQTF and BoRSF assets will begin immediately upon voter approval, with all repealed Funds eliminated in their entirety by June 30, 2026. Given the uncertainty around the continuation of the BoRSF, Regents staff propose shifting funds within the programs approved in HB 1 to ensure the highest and best use of its remaining investments in eligible institutions and to address as much as possible outstanding donor requests for endowment matching.

The BoRSF operates grant and endowment matching programs on a competitive basis through a year-long process, beginning annually in July. For this reason, it is critical to address prior to the start of the new fiscal year the adjustments to the FY 2025–26 budget necessitated by the repeal of the BoRSF in HB 473 and HB 589. Once the Board acts on the recommendation, institutions and faculty members will be informed of the status of competitive grant and endowment program funding for the new fiscal year.

Senior staff recommends revision of the approved FY 2025–26 BoRSF budget to provide new awards for only one competitive grant program – the Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS) – and transfer funds allocated to the Departmental Enhancement Subprogram to the endowment matching programs within the Enhancement category (Endowed Professorships, Endowed First-Generation Scholarships, and Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships). Funds are allocated by category in HB 1 and, once adopted in statute, cannot be moved among categories. Only the Research & Development (R&D) category does not provide endowment matching programs, so it is proposed that new R&D monies budgeted in FY26 will be consolidated to support one-year awards in the

highest-impact R&D activity, RCS. Endowment-only categories – Graduate Fellows and Endowed Chairs – must be left unchanged. Existing obligations in the Support Fund (multiyear awards approved in previous fiscal years and match to federal awards) as well as the statutorily calculated administrative allocation will be retained in full. Descriptions of all BoRSF programs included in the approved FY 2025–26 budget are provided in Attachment B.

The rationale for this adjustment is related to both the need to continue addressing the high demand for endowment matching from donors and institutions across the state as well as supporting highly impactful seed grants to faculty researchers, for which the average direct return on Support Fund grants totals \$8 for every dollar expended.

During fall 2025, based on the possibility of the immediate repeal of the LEQTF, BoRSF staff collected from all eligible systems and institutions complete lists of outstanding nonstate donor contributions awaiting state match through the Support Fund to complete permanent endowments in support of scholarships and high-value faculty. The total amount needed to match all outstanding slots reported in November 2025 was \$59.25 million. The BoRSF matched approximately 10% of this total – \$5.85 million – in FY 2024–25, but significant additional investments are needed to satisfy donor demand. These adjustments will increase available matching dollars to \$8.13 million in FY 2025–26, helping to reduce the number of requests that are incomplete upon potential termination of the BoRSF on June 30, 2026.

Though the BoRSF may be repealed in FY 2025–26, a FY 2026–27 Plan and Budget is constitutionally required to be submitted to the Legislature and Governor no less than 60 days prior to the 2026 Regular Legislative Session. This budget, to be developed during fall 2025, will be brought to the Board for consideration in December 2025. If the BoRSF is repealed in April 2026, this Plan and Budget will not be enacted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommends approval as presented of the adjustments to Board of Regents Support Fund programmatic funding levels in accordance with the budget levels approved in HB 1 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

ATTACHMENT A

Staff Recommendation: FY 2025–26 Board of Regents Support Fund Budget

Adjusted per HB 463/HB 579 BoRSF Repeal

Support Fund Program/Subprogram	FY 2025–26 ADJUSTED BUDGET		FY 2025–26 HB 1 BUDGET	
	Prior Commitments (Existing Obligations)	New Monies	Prior Commitments (Existing Obligations)	New Monies
Federal Matching	\$375,000	\$900,000	\$375,000	\$900,000
Endowed Chairs	\$0	\$2,020,000	\$0	\$2,020,000
Graduate Fellows	\$0	\$1,020,000	\$0	\$1,020,000
Traditional (GF)		Terminated		\$0
BoR/SREB Fellowships		Terminated		\$0
Endowed Grad Scholarships		\$1,020,000		\$1,020,000
Research & Development	\$3,324,204	\$2,090,000	\$3,324,204	\$2,090,000
Research Competitiveness	\$2,202,532	\$2,090,000	\$2,202,532	\$1,150,000
Industrial Ties/PoCP	\$1,121,672	Terminated	\$1,121,672	\$620,000
Awds to Artists & Scholars	\$0	Terminated	\$0	\$320,000
Enhancement	\$1,980,333	\$4,690,000	\$1,980,333	\$4,699,741
Departmental ENH (includes BoR/SREB)	\$1,980,333	Terminated	\$1,980,333	\$1,849,741
Endowed Professorships	\$0	\$2,680,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Endowed WF Scholarships	\$0	\$2,010,000	\$0	\$850,000
Administration (Formula)	\$0	\$590,722	\$0	\$590,722
TOTAL	\$5,679,537	\$11,310,722	\$5,679,537	\$11, 320,463
FISCAL YEAR BUDGET	\$17,000,000		\$17,000,000	

ATTACHMENT B

Board of Regents Support Fund Program/Subprogram Descriptions

The Constitution specifies that the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) may be used to support “any or all” of the following activities:

- The carefully defined research efforts at public and private universities in Louisiana;
- The endowment of chairs for eminent scholars;
- The enhancement of the quality of academic, research or agricultural departments or units within a university; and
- The recruitment of superior graduate students.

Programs and subprograms are divided among these categories, to ensure the BoRSF is structured in accordance with the constitutional provisions.

Enhancement of the Quality of Academic, Research & Agricultural Departments and Units

1. Departmental Enhancement

Departmental Enhancement is a competitive infrastructure-building component with the goal of improving the educational and research infrastructure and capacity in academic, research, and agricultural departments and units. Departmental Enhancement is available to any eligible formally recognized department or unit, and includes a Multidisciplinary component. Awards will be made for comprehensive (multi-year, multi-activity, broad-impact) projects, as well as targeted (short-term, smaller-scale) projects. All institutions are eligible to compete to support educational, research, and workforce activities. A spectrum of activities, from equipment purchases to curricular redesign, are allowed and encouraged; support for graduate students, either as fellowships/scholarships or assistantships, is also permitted. Disciplines are eligible every other year, on a rotating basis.

2. BoR/Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Support Initiative

The Board of Regents/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative provides up to ten (10) support slots to help prorecruit and retain students seeking to enter the professoriate after earning their doctoral degrees. Awards are made to graduate schools or governing units for graduate education at eligible institutions, which then determine the distribution of individual slots among qualified departments. Each slot includes an academic-year supplement for student membership in SREB’s Doctoral Scholars Program, and participation in SREB’s annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring for both the student and the student's faculty mentor.

3. Endowed Professorships

Endowed Professorships is a non-competitive subprogram designed to help campuses recruit or retain faculty whose research, teaching, and/or public service uniquely contribute to the mission of their departments and institutions. Participation requires a contribution of at least \$80,000 from an external source, to be matched with \$20,000 from the BoRSF; campuses with fewer than 15 matched Professorships may continue to request matching at the previous rate of \$40,000 BoRSF for \$60,000 non-State contribution until the threshold of 15 is reached. Each eligible campus is guaranteed, but not necessarily restricted to, two matching slots per year, provided that required external contributions are raised and documented. Beginning in FY 2019–20, campuses are permitted to submit requests for matching of Endowed First-Generation Undergraduate Scholarships under the same terms as Endowed Professorships, with the guarantee of two matching slots total, inclusive of both types, per campus.

4. Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce Scholarships

The competitive Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce Scholarships subprogram provides scholarship opportunities for students on two-year campuses to enter the Louisiana workforce in the following ways: (a) train students for immediate entrance into selected, high-demand, four- and five-star jobs, including positions in nursing and allied health; and/or (b) prepare students to become job-ready in STEM fields after completing degrees on four-year campuses. Non-State contributions combined with a BoRSF match will produce permanent endowments.

5. Federal Matching

The Board of Regents manages several major federal research and education awards from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, NASA, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Energy. Many State-level federal grant opportunities require matching be provided, and the BoRSF has been the source of Louisiana's match since 1987. BoRSF matching funds have leveraged more than \$7 in federal funding for every dollar committed.

Targeted Research and Development

1. Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS)

RCS funds projects that strengthen the fundamental research base and competitiveness of Louisiana's public and private universities. The subprogram is a stimulus opportunity available to researchers who are currently not competitive for federal support but show strong potential for achieving national research competitiveness in an area funded by the federal government within a limited span of time. Research funded through RCS must make fundamental contributions to knowledge in eligible scientific and engineering disciplines rather than simply seek to apply existing knowledge. RCS also includes a one-year award to assist faculty who may already be competitive through short-term pilot awards to

conduct novel scientific and engineering research leading to near-term federal support. RCS has been a highly successful initiative: a recent survey showed more than \$9 in federal/private research funding received for every \$1 in RCS funds awarded.

2. Industrial Ties Research Subprogram (ITRS)

ITRS supports research efforts that show significant potential for contributing to the development and diversification of Louisiana's economy in the near term. Funded projects are required to involve significant private sector or Federal funding or, at a minimum, include a plan to leverage substantial Federal or private sector funding in the near future; and link research efforts to establishment of a new or enhancement of an existing Louisiana business or industry. A consolidated component of ITRS, the Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative provides funding to enable technology transfer research and activities, to advance innovations toward commercialization. Like RCS, ITRS has leveraged significant external investment in Louisiana research, attracting more than \$10 for every BoRSF dollar invested.

3. Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS)

The BoRSF Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Subprogram provides support to faculty members in arts, humanities, and social sciences disciplines to complete major scholarly and artistic productions with the potential to have a broad impact on a regional, national, and/or international level. The primary focus of ATLAS is the scholarly or artistic merit of the proposed work. Projects are assessed based on their necessity, importance, originality, and likelihood to have an impact on a broad academic and/or artistic community. ATLAS has supported major scholarly and creative works that have received significant recognition and accolades across the region, the nation, and the world.

Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students

1. Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships

The Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships subprogram matches non-State contributions of at least \$60,000 with \$40,000 from the BoRSF to create endowed scholarships that may be used in support of graduate and first-professional students as well as post-doctoral fellows. Higher levels of non-State contributions, in minimum increments of \$60,000, may be matched with additional \$40,000 contributions from the Support Fund. The initial corpus of the endowment must remain intact, while income above the corpus may be used to benefit the student recipient in the form of scholarships, fellowships, and/or experiential opportunities, including internships, externships, conference travel, and field work.

Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars

Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars, introduced in 1987, is a highly competitive program designed to enhance the recruitment and retention of distinguished university faculty at institutions throughout Louisiana. The program pairs a 60% private-sector match with a 40% Board of Regents award to endow a chair at a minimum level of \$1 million. The Chair, operating from the income generated by investment of the permanent endowment, must be filled in perpetuity by scholars of high renown and great ability. Given the permanent commitment of funding, Endowed Chairs must be aligned clearly with institutional role, scope, mission, and strategic priorities, and the campus must demonstrate the long-term value of the Chair to academic, teaching, and/or service work in the discipline. Campuses must provide each Chair, at a minimum, with a salary line sufficient to engage a senior scholar/leader.