Appointment of Endowed Chairholder without National Search:
University of New Orleans

Background Information

At its January 12, 2015 meeting, the Board unanimously approved the following revision to the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars policy:

> Effective immediately, all campuses shall provide documentation to the Commissioner of Higher Education that each Chair vacancy is being filled – whether externally or internally – following a national search. Any request for waiver of this policy shall be made in writing to the Commissioner of Higher Education and reviewed by external consultants. Upon receipt of the consultants' response, the Commissioner will provide a formal recommendation for consideration and approval by the Board of Regents. Board approval of the waiver must be provided prior to appointment of the chairholder. The Board reserves the right to render a campus not in compliance with this policy to be ineligible for new Endowed Chairs funds.

Staff Summary

The Marshall Plan Anniversary Chair in Austrian Studies is a $1,000,000 Chair matched by the Board of Regents Support Fund in FY 1999-2000, which was recently vacated by its previous holder. In accordance with current policy, the University of New Orleans has requested waiver of the Endowed Chairs national search requirement to appoint Dr. Günter Bischof, professor in the Department of History and Director of CenterAustria, to the Marshall Plan Chair. Documentation outlining Dr. Bischof's qualifications was provided to an external reviewer, who concluded that this appointment is appropriate and recommended approval; the Commissioner of Higher Education concurred.

Senior Staff Recommendation

The Senior Staff recommends approval of University of New Orleans' request to appoint Dr. Günter Bischof to the Marshall Plan Anniversary Chair in Austrian Studies without a national search. As stipulated in Board policy, a Letter of Appointment to Dr. Bischof must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of this approval.