

AGENDA ITEM X.A

Campus Requests for Waiver of Endowed Chair National Search Requirements

Background

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.

In accordance with this policy, two campuses – Tulane University and Centenary College of Louisiana – have submitted requests for a waiver of the Endowed Chair national search requirement.

Reviews of the three requests were provided by Dr. Roy Koenigsknecht, professor emeritus at the Ohio State University and chair of the BoRSF Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars review panel. Dr. Koenigsknecht noted that the Endowed Chairs policy was revised in 1999-2000 to enable funding of two types of Chairs: “(1) one which combines research/scholarly and teaching/educational foci, in which the research/scholarly focus is preeminent; and (2) one which combines teaching/educational and research/scholarly foci, in which the teaching/educational focus is preeminent.” Dr. Koenigsknecht concluded that Tulane’s role, scope, and mission are appropriate for the primarily research/scholarly chair category, and Centenary’s role, scope, and mission are appropriate for the primarily teaching/educational chair category.

Dr. Joseph C. Rallo, Commissioner of Higher Education, has reviewed staff assessment of the external reports. Senior Staff recommendations follow.

1. Tulane University: John and Mary Wright Ebaugh Chair in Science and Engineering

Tulane wishes to fill the John and Mary Wright Ebaugh Chair in Science and Engineering with Dr. YiPing Chen, currently holder of the endowed Yahoo! Founder Chair. Dr. Chen is a researcher and scholar who was recruited to Tulane through a national search to fill the Yahoo!

Founder Chair. Upon appointment to the Ebaugh Chair, Dr. Chen will surrender the Yahoo! Chair, which will then be filled through another national search. Dr. Koenigsnecht, in recommending approval, found that “Dr. Chen’s current curriculum vitae affirms his continuing preeminence as a national scholar in Science and Engineering with exceptional influence in biomedical engineering applications.”

Senior Staff Recommendation

The Senior Staff recommends approval of Tulane’s request to appoint Dr. YiPing Chen to the John and Mary Wright Ebaugh Chair in Science and Engineering, with the stipulation that Tulane University will submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education by May 31, 2018 a report of Chair activities during the first three years of appointment. The report will reference the standards of performance listed in the Endowed Chairs policy and Tulane’s letter of appointment to Dr. Chen.

2. Centenary College of Louisiana: Arthur and Emily Webb Chair of International Studies

Centenary requests to appoint Dr. Dana Kress, Professor of French, to the Webb Chair. Dr. Kress has been at Centenary since 1992 and during that time has been promoted from assistant to full professor and served in numerous local, regional, and national administrative roles. Dr. Koenigsnecht judged that “his current curriculum vitae affirms Dr. Kress as a notable scholar attaining high standards of performance in areas expected of chairholders in which the teaching/educational focus is preeminent...There are numerous examples of local and national peer recognitions Dr. Kress has amassed [and] his outreach as an educator earned him the Carnegie Foundation designation as Louisiana Professor of the Year.”

Dr. Koenigsnecht also noted, however, that no evidence of donor approval of Dr. Kress’s appointment had been provided.

Senior Staff Recommendation

The Senior Staff recommends that Centenary’s request to appoint Dr. Dana Kress to the Arthur and Emily Webb Chair of Internal Studies be deferred until documentation is received that the donor approves the proposed appointment without a national search. Donor approval is not required if the donor is deceased, has requested no contact, or his/her contact information cannot be located after a good-faith search.

3. Centenary College of Louisiana: George A. Wilson Eminent Scholars Chair of American Literature

Centenary requests to appoint Dr. Jefferson Hendricks, Professor of English and Film Studies, to the Wilson Chair. Dr. Hendricks has been at Centenary since 1983 and has served in several

roles at the College including a three-year term as Chair of the English Department; upon his retirement, Centenary plans to conduct a national search for the next holder of the Wilson Chair. Dr. Koenigsknecht indicated that “additional information is needed to attest to the candidate’s influence on local, State, and national academic or economic development programs. Submission of such information, followed by an internal review by the Commissioner and/or Board staff, should be a condition of approval.”

Dr. Koenigsknecht also noted that no evidence of donor approval of Dr. Hendricks’s appointment had been provided.

Senior Staff Recommendation

The Senior Staff recommends that Centenary’s request to appoint Dr. Jefferson Hendricks to the George A. Wilson Eminent Scholars Chair of American Literature be deferred until (a) further evidence is provided of the proposed chairholder’s eminence as a scholar, and (b) documentation is received that the donor approves the appointment of Dr. Hendricks without a national search. Donor approval is not required if the donor is deceased, has requested no contact, or his/her contact information cannot be located after a good-faith search.

AGENDA ITEM X.B

Approval of Revisions in the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Subprogram Policy

Background Information

As the Board noted at its January 2015 meeting, the purpose of the Regents' Endowed Chairs program is to help campuses attract and retain nationally and internationally recognized eminent scholars. The Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo, observed that Board policy should help accomplish this goal in a manner which minimizes the need for campuses to request waivers. The recommended policy revision (see Appendix A) is an effort to accomplish this by specifying more extensive standards a chairholder must meet, consistent with the campus's role, scope, and mission, whether the chair is filled through a national search, or internally without a national search.

Recommended policy changes will replace Sections IX.A-B in the existing subprogram policy.

Senior Staff Recommendation

The Senior Staff recommends that the Committee approve revisions to the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars subprogram policy as reflected in Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

REVISIONS TO ENDOWED CHAIRS POLICIES: STANDARDS OF APPOINTMENT AND CHAIRHOLDER SELECTION (REPLACES SECTION IX.A-B OF CURRENT POLICY)

A. Standards of Appointment

Endowed Chairs are granted in recognition of attainment of national and/or international distinction for having made unique and significant impacts on their field through outstanding research, creative scholarly achievement, teaching, and/or service. Institutions will ensure that appointments are made only to those individuals who, consistent with the role, scope, and mission of the host campus, meet the following standards of eminence, adapted to the type of endowed chair (i.e., combining research/scholarly and teaching/educational foci, in which the research/scholarly focus is pre-eminent; or combining teaching/educational and research/scholarly foci, in which the teaching/educational focus is pre-eminent).

1. Attainment of exceptional national and/or international distinction for outstanding research or other creative scholarly achievement. Examples listed below are representative of supporting evidence for a nominee's national and/or international distinction at a level clearly above that expected of a typical professor at the host campus.
 - a. The publication of highly cited or recognized books, articles, reviews, works of art, and other evidence particular to the field of scholarly achievement. Publications shall be in scholarly journals or sources customary to the field of interest.
 - b. Significant contributions to economic development including patents, licenses, inventions, and start-up companies
 - c. Directorships of national centers
 - d. Awards, prizes, and certificates of recognition from professional organizations and foundations
 - e. Grants in support of research, study, or creative works
 - f. Offices held in learned societies
 - g. Papers read before learned societies
 - h. Lectures or performances delivered at other academic, industrial, or professional venues
 - i. Services as expert, consultant, etc., to business, industry, governmental agencies, and educational organizations
 - j. Evidence of success of the nominee's graduate students (where appropriate)
2. A superior record of teaching and outreach as confirmed through previous appointments, experience, and formal recognition

Except under unusual circumstances, as approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education and the non-State donor(s), chairholders, upon assuming the chair, will be full-time, tenured faculty members at their respective institutions.

B. Selection of the Endowed Chairholder

1. National Search

The proposal must make clear the plan to conduct a well-documented national search for the candidate. A national search should be conducted both for new chairs and for refilling chairs that have been vacated. Search committees must include at least one individual external to the campus who is a recognized expert/scholar in the general field of the prospective chair, but who is not affiliated with either the private donor or the Board. A description of the types of individuals who would serve on the search committee must be included in the proposal. The priority of the Endowed Chairs program is recruitment of new eminent scholars, rather than retention of existing faculty; however, a current employee may be named as the chairholder when he/she emerges as the selection of the national search committee.

2. Appointment of an Internal Candidate Without a National Search

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 the Board of Regents (see Section A, above) and detailed in the approved proposal.

Permission of the non-State donor(s) shall be required for internal appointments. Donor permission shall not be required under the following circumstances: 1) the donor is deceased; 2) the donor has in writing requested no contact; and/or 3) despite a good faith effort, the donor's contact information could not be located.

To request appointment of an internal candidate without a national search, a letter of request from the campus head or his/her designee shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Higher Education and include the following:

- a. Campus rationale(s) for selection of an internal candidate
- b. Alignment of the candidate's qualifications with existing standards for the Chair (see Section A, above, and standards detailed in the approved proposal)
- c. The candidate's current curriculum vitae
- d. Documentation of non-State donor approval of the proposed appointment

Upon receipt of these documents, the Commissioner will develop a formal recommendation for consideration and approval by the Board of Regents. Board approval 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.

AGENDA ITEM X.C

Approval of LSU System Appointments to the BoRSF Advisory and Master Plan Research Advisory Committees

Background Information

The Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) Advisory Committee provides advice and guidance to the Board of Regents and the Sponsored Programs Section relative to the management and operation of the BoRSF, as well as other matters pertaining to Sponsored Programs. Membership on the Advisory Committee includes of one representative each from the Governor's Office, Senate, House of Representatives, and the five public and independent higher education systems.

The Board of Regents Master Plan Research Advisory Committee (MPRAC) provides guidance to the Board of Regents relative to fulfillment of the goal of the 2011 Master Plan related to research and technology transfer. Membership of MPRAC consists of one representative from each four-year system and each campus with a significant research program.

Staff Summary

Dr. F. King Alexander, President of the LSU System, has nominated Dr. Stuart Bell, Vice President and Provost, to serve as LSU's representative on both the BoRSF Advisory and Master Plan Research Advisory Committees. Dr. Bell replaces Dr. Carolyn Hargrave on both Committees.

Senior Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve the nomination of Dr. Bell to the BoRSF Advisory and Master Plan Research Advisory Committees.