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AGENDA
SPONSORED PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

11:40 a.m.

The Claiborne Building
Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Request from Centenary College of Louisiana for Waiver of National Search Requirement for Two Chairs “in Which the Teaching/Educational Component is Preeminent”
 - A. Arthur and Emily Webb Chair of International Studies
 - B. George A. Wilson Eminent Scholars Chair of American Literature
- IV. Revisions in the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Subprogram Policy
- V. LCTCS Appointments to the BoRSF Planning and Advisory Committees
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

Committee Members: Joseph Wiley, Chair; William Fenstermaker, Vice Chair; Christopher Bollinger; Maggie Brakeville; Raymond Brandt; Edward Markle; Gray Stream

AGENDA ITEM III

Request from Centenary College of Louisiana for Waiver of National Search Requirement for Two Chairs “in Which the Teaching/Educational Component is Preeminent”

Background

The Board of Regents has a long-standing policy regarding the recruitment of eminent scholars to fill Endowed Chair vacancies which requires that “a national search must be conducted for both new chairs and for refilling chairs that have been vacated.” Board policy differentiates two types of chairs based on the mission of the campus: (a) one which combines research/scholarly – and teaching/educational – foci, in which the research/scholarly focus is preeminent; and (b) one which combines teaching/educational – and research/scholarly – foci, in which the teaching/educational focus is preeminent.

The two requests submitted from Centenary College of Louisiana are to fill Chairs in which the “teaching/educational focus is preeminent.” Following an external review and based on Senior Staff recommendations, the Board unanimously voted at its February 23 meeting to defer consideration of Centenary’s requests pending receipt and review of additional information as follows:

- A. Arthur and Emily Webb Chair of International Studies:** Documentation that the donor approves the proposed appointment of Dr. Dana Kress 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.

- B. George A. Wilson Eminent Scholars Chair of American Literature:** (1) Further evidence of the proposed chairholder’s eminence as a scholar; and (2) documentation that the donor approves the appointment of Dr. Jefferson 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.

Centenary College has submitted documentation related to each request. In both cases, Centenary confirmed that donors for the Chairs, established respectively in 1988 and 1993, are now deceased.

Dr. Jenifer K. Ward, Provost of Centenary College, noted in support of Dr. Hendricks’ appointment to the Wilson Chair the importance of his scholarly work on the twentieth-century poet Edwin Rolfe as well as his extensive service to Centenary, managing the Centenary in Paris study abroad program, helping to develop the program in communication studies, and guiding the foundation of the Robinson Film Center.

The staff concluded that the additional information which Centenary provided fulfilled guidelines of the external review. Dr. Joseph C. Rallo, Commissioner of Higher Education, concurs with the staff assessment and recommends approval of both appointments.

Senior Staff Recommendation

The Senior Staff recommends approval of Centenary's request to appoint Dr. Dana Kress to the Arthur and Emily Webb Chair of International Studies, and Dr. Jefferson Hendricks to the George A. Wilson Eminent Scholars Chair of American Literature with the stipulation that Centenary College will submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a report of activities for each chairholder annually in May during the first three years of appointment. Reports will reference the standards of performance listed in the Endowed Chairs policy, the original proposal, and Centenary's letters of appointment to Dr. Kress and Dr. Hendricks.

AGENDA ITEM IV

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) 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. These proposed revisions were brought to the Board at its February 23, 2015 meeting; consideration was tabled to provide staff and Board members additional time for review.

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

Senior Staff Recommendation

The Senior Staff recommends approval of revisions to the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars subprogram policy as reflected in the Appendix to the summary.

APPENDIX

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 V

LCTCS Appointments to the BoRSF Planning and Advisory Committees

Background Information

The Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) Planning and Advisory Committees provide 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. The Planning Committee is comprised of two members from each public and independent higher education system, as well as representatives from State agencies with interests in science, culture, and economic development. 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.

Staff Summary

Dr. Monty Sullivan, President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, has nominated Mr. Joe Marin, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, to serve as LCTCS's representative on the BoRSF Planning and Advisory Committees. Dr. Sullivan also nominated Mr. Daniel Roberts, Vice President for Academics and Student Affairs, as the second LCTCS member of the Planning Committee.

Senior Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve the nominations of Mr. Roberts to the BoRSF Planning Committee and Mr. Marin to the BoRSF Planning and Advisory Committees.