

BOARD OF REGENTS

BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision, Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Annually, the Board of Regents recognizes outstanding students, researchers, faculty, and advisors through the granting of "Regents' Awards." Each award includes a cash stipend that is provided to the recipient. Currently, *Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18* limits the Rising Researcher Award to one recipient annually at UNLV, UNR, NSC, and DRI (for a total of four awards) in recognition of early-career accomplishments and potential for future advancement and recognition in research. The nomination and selection process for the Rising Researcher Award occurs at the institution level and the stipends are paid by the institution. The awarding process for the Rising Researcher Award varies from the traditional Researcher Awards that is given to faculty members in recognition of distinguished careers in research and mid-career accomplishments, which are reviewed by an external panel of reviewers.

In recent years and with the permission and action of the Board, UNR awarded the Rising Research Award to two early-career researchers. Recognizing that the Rising Researcher Award is a unique opportunity to recognize faculty who show considerable promise in the area of research, the NSHE Research Affairs Council is recommending that the awards be allotted to "up to three" early career researchers per institution each year. To preserve the recognition and competitive nature of the distinguished and mid-career awards, the NSHE Research Affairs Council is not recommending any changes to those awards that will continue to be limited on one award annually.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18* to increase the number of Rising Researcher Awards from one annually at UNLV, UNR, NSC, and DRI to up to three annually. See the attached Policy Proposal.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The proposed revision is brought forward at the request of the NSHE Research Affairs Council.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Recognizing early-career researchers supports the Board's strategic goal of research by recognizing the contributions of faculty who are at the beginning of their professional careers and further afford the institutions the opportunity to grant awards in more than one discipline.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Early-career faculty often have many career options to consider following the completion of a Ph.D. program. As such, the opportunity to recognize the exceptional work of early-career researchers allows the institution to send a strong message to all researchers that their work is valued and deserving of recognition. As an early-career award recognizing more than one researcher provides that awards can be granted in more than one discipline area.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

The Board may consider no action, whereby the limitation of one award per institution (at UNLV, UNR, NSC and DRI) will stand and therefore additional awards will not be granted.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office supports the proposal as written.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18*

Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Other: _____

Fiscal Impact: Yes No _____

Explain: *The Rising Researcher Award includes a \$2,000 cash stipend that is paid by the awarding institution. Institutions who award multiple awards will provide the cash stipend for each award recipient up to three awards.*

POLICY PROPOSAL
Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18
Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 18. Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

1. The Nevada Regents' Researcher Award shall be given annually to NSHE faculty members at UNLV, UNR, NSC and DRI with a distinguished record in research. Two awards will be given annually: one to a faculty member in recognition of a distinguished career in research and one to a faculty member in recognition of mid-career accomplishments in research. Although this award is intended for individuals, groups who by their collaboration have made major advances may be recognized as well. In addition, a Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award shall be given annually to ~~[one]~~ *up to three* NSHE faculty ~~[member]~~ *members* at *each* UNLV, UNR, NSC and DRI in recognition of early-career accomplishments and potential for future advancement and recognition in research.
2. The Researcher Award will carry with it a cash stipend of \$5,000. The intent is to select one individual (or group) for recognition each year for the Researcher Award. However, the Selection Committee may choose to send forward more than one nomination for the Researcher Award in exceptional circumstances. The Rising Researcher Award will carry with it a cash stipend of \$2,000 for each recipient.
3. Faculty members who receive the Regents' Researcher Award may use the title as such in perpetuity.
4. Guidelines for the nomination and selection of the recipient of the Nevada Regents' Researcher Award and the Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Awards shall be established by the office of the Chancellor. Institutions may establish additional guidelines related to the nomination of faculty members for the Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award.