

## BOARD OF REGENTS

### BRIEFING PAPER

#### ***Handbook* Revision, Institutional Research and Entrepreneurial Activity**

##### **BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

At its November 29, 2012, roundtable the WRED Committee received input from the Presidents and research community at UNLV, UNR, and DRI, as well as state and community leaders on actions the Board may consider to promote research and entrepreneurial activity that supports economic development. Building on this discussion at its meeting on February 28, 2013, the WRED Committee discussed policy options for directing the institutions and DRI to foster a culture that promotes research and entrepreneurial activity, including technology commercialization, industry engagement, and pursuit of state, federal and industry-sponsored projects that support the State's economic development plans.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the WRED Committee asked staff to draft a broad policy based on their discussion for consideration at its next meeting.

##### **SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Amend Title 4, Chapter 12 of the *Handbook* to add a new section stating the support of the Nevada Board of Regents and the Nevada System of Higher Education for efforts by faculty and staff to advance research, technology commercialization, industry engagement, and the entrepreneurial goals of the institution, as well as the objectives set forth in the state economic development plan and the Knowledge Fund, and similar activities.

In addition, require Presidents to ensure institutional procedures, policies and protocols establish and sustain a culture that promotes and incentivizes these research and entrepreneurial goals and activities. Specify that Presidents must evaluate existing institutional procedures, policies and protocols; make provisional changes as necessary to comply with this section; and report upon request to the Board the findings and actions taken as a result of this evaluation.

##### **IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

This proposal is brought forward at the request of the WRED Committee.

##### **BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- Adoption of this policy reinforces the Board's commitment to the State's economic development efforts.
- The extensive work of the WRED Committee examining higher education's involvement in research, entrepreneurial activity, and economic development throughout the State and methods of removing barriers to these efforts must be continued, fostered, and sustained in depth at the institutional level. Adoption of this policy will provide the institutions with clear direction on the policy of the Board of Regents and ensure a mechanism exists for reporting back to the Board on the results of the presidential review required under the policy.
- The institutions are heavily involved in and have detailed processes governing research and entrepreneurial activity. Adoption of this overarching policy will require Presidents to review their processes and ensure that they are designed to facilitate and support the goals of the Board of Regents with regard to advancing research, technology commercialization, industry engagement, and entrepreneurial goals. Such a review is necessary to ensure any barriers that are inadvertently interfering with these goals are removed at the institution level.

**POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None have been presented at this time.

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

Do not adopt a policy stating the Board of Regents and NSHE support for such institutional research and entrepreneurial activity. Continue promoting these efforts under the direction of the Board.

**COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 12, new Section 11*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 12, *new* SECTION 11**  
**Policy on Fostering Research and Entrepreneurial Activity**

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

INSERT THE FOLLOWING NEW SECTION 11:

***Section 11. Institutional Research and Entrepreneurial Activity***

*The Nevada Board of Regents and the Nevada System of Higher Education support and encourage efforts by faculty and staff to advance research, technology commercialization, industry engagement, and the entrepreneurial goals of the institution, as well as the objectives set forth in the state economic development plan and the Knowledge Fund created pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 231.1592, and similar activities. These efforts must include the vigorous pursuit of related federal, state and industry-sponsored research, entrepreneurial and economic development opportunities.*

*In support of these efforts, Presidents shall ensure institutional procedures, policies and protocols establish and sustain a culture that promotes and incentivizes these research and entrepreneurial goals and activities. On a periodic basis, Presidents shall evaluate existing institutional procedures, policies and protocols and make provisional changes as necessary to comply with this section. Areas of evaluation should include, but are not limited to, the following:*

- a) Transparent, expeditious, and informed review of conflict of interest issues, particularly as they affect research and entrepreneurial activity;*
- b) Methods of increasing faculty awareness and incentivizing faculty to participate in NSHE and institutionally supported research and entrepreneurial activities through performance evaluations, workload adjustments, and leave opportunities;*
- c) Faculty recruitment plans that include provisions for attracting and retaining faculty active in research and entrepreneurial activity;*
- d) Consulting policies that allow for and encourage research and entrepreneurial activity;*
- e) Transparent, expeditious, and informed review and processing of contracts related to research and entrepreneurial activity;*
- f) Policies and procedures related to Intellectual Property that are related to or support research and entrepreneurial activity; and*
- g) Recommendations for policies or changes to policies adopted by the Board of Regents to support research and entrepreneurial activity.*

*Presidents shall report upon request to the Board the findings and actions taken as a result of this evaluation.*

*RENAME CHAPTER 12: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, RESEARCH, AND  
ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY*