

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: HANDBOOK Revision, Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards and Teaching Award

MEETING DATE: June 7, 2018 – ARSA Meeting

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Under current policy, the Board of Regents annually acknowledges outstanding performance at NSHE institutions in many fields, including teaching, research, creative activities, and academic advising. These awards are prestigious and highly-competitive among the institutions and their faculty. In the past, the Board has approved a limited expansion in the number of awards within the categories to recognize different types of service or different institution types.

With the support of the NSHE Academic Affairs Council (AAC) and NSHE Research Affairs Council (RAC), the System office recommends revisions to Board policy governing the Regents' Researcher Awards and Regents' Teaching Award as follows:

- **Regents' Researcher Award** – Currently, Board policy authorizes one Regents' Researcher Award annually to an NSHE faculty member at UNLV, UNR or DRI. Board policy also authorizes a Rising Researcher Award for NSHE faculty members at UNLV, UNR and DRI (3 awards total – one at each institution). As these institutions continue to expand their presence nationally and internationally in the field of research, they have distinguished faculty members with a wide-range of experience and prominence in their respective fields. Some faculty in the middle of their careers are highly-successful and well-renown within their field. NSHE institutions also have faculty with decades of distinguished service in the field of research. All of these faculty should be eligible for consideration for the Researcher Award, but those in the middle of their career – no matter how successful – are less competitive than those closer to the end of their careers. In an effort to acknowledge the varying amount of time within a research career, the System office – with the support of RAC – recommends expanding the Researcher Award from one to two awards: a Distinguished Career Researcher Award and a Mid-Career Researcher Award.
- **Regents Teaching Award** – Current, Board policy authorizes two Regents' Teaching Awards annually: one for faculty who provide instruction as their primary assignment and are tenured or tenure-track at UNLV, UNR, NSC, or DRI, and one for faculty who provide instruction as their primary assignment at CSN, GBC, TMCC and WMCC. With the support of AAC, System staff recommends expanding this award from two awards to four awards to include tenure and non-tenured faculty at each institution type. The NSHE faculty with distinguished records in teaching who are providing outstanding instruction and support for students should be eligible for recognition by the Board regardless of tenure status.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 1, Sections 18 and 19 to include both a Mid-Career and Distinguished Career Regents' Researcher Award and to expand the number of Nevada Regents' Teaching Awards from two to four to provide an award for tenured and non-tenured faculty for each institution type. (See the attached policy proposals.)

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Institutional representatives on the RAC and AAC requested the expansion of these awards to recognize faculty who currently may not be competitive or eligible under the existing policy.

5. 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

At a minimum, these proposals support both the student success and research strategic plan goals by recognizing, supporting and encouraging NSHE faculty to strive for excellence and outstanding careers. Faculty members are a fundamental, irreplaceable component of each of the plan goals and the ultimate success of NSHE students, and these types of efforts to support the work of our faculty promote the overall strategic plan goals of the Board.

6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The Nevada Regents Awards are highly-competitive, prestigious awards recognizing the achievements of NSHE faculty in support of their respective institutions and the students they serve. The targeted expansion of the number of Regents’ Researcher Awards (addition of one award annually) and Regents’ Teaching Awards (addition of two awards annually) provides the Board an opportunity to acknowledge achievement that otherwise may not be recognized in this manner.
- As set forth in the background section of this briefing paper, expanding the number of Regents’ Teaching Awards provides an opportunity for the Board to recognize NSHE faculty with distinguished records in teaching who are providing outstanding instruction and support for students should be eligible for recognition by the Board regardless of tenure status.
- Within the research field, faculty should be eligible for consideration for the Regents’ Researcher Award in both the middle of their careers and after decades of distinguished work. Expanding the award to include a mid-career and a distinguished career award provides this opportunity.

7. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

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

None have been suggested.

9. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE:

Support for the policy recommendation.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- X Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 1, Sections 18 and 19*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Other:_____
- X Fiscal Impact: Yes X No _____
Explain: Each of the proposed awards carries a cash stipend of \$5,000, the cost of which is shared by the institutions.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 18

Regents' Researcher Award –
Addition of a Mid-Career Researcher Award

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 [~~one~~] NSHE faculty members *at UNLV, UNR 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 NSHE faculty member at UNLV, UNR 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.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 19
Nevada Regents' Teaching Award –
Expansion to Include Tenure and Non-Tenured Faculty at All Institutions
Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 19. Nevada Regents' Teaching Award

1. The Nevada Regents' Teaching Award shall be given annually to NSHE faculty members with distinguished records of teaching. The award will carry with it a cash stipend of \$5,000.
2. [~~Two~~] ***Four*** awards will be granted annually.
 - a. Full-time faculty who are tenured or tenure track or who provide instruction as their primary assignment at UNLV, UNR, or NSC – and DRI faculty who provide instruction as part of their regular assignment – are eligible for one award.
 - b. ***Full-time faculty who are not tenured or tenure track who provide instruction as part of their regular assignments at DRI or who provide instruction as their primary assignments at UNLV, UNR and NSC are eligible for one award.***
 - c. ***Full-time faculty who are tenured or tenure track or who provide instruction as their primary assignment at CSN, GBC, TMCC, and WNC are eligible for one award.***
 - d. Full-time faculty who ***are not tenured or tenure track who*** provide instruction as their primary assignments at CSN, GBC, TMCC, and WNC ***are*** [~~will be~~] eligible for one award.

Although these awards are intended for individuals, groups who by their collaboration have made outstanding instructional contributions may be recognized as well.

3. Faculty members who receive the Regents' Teaching Award may use the title as such in perpetuity.
4. Guidelines for the nomination and selection of the recipients of the Nevada Regents' Teaching Award shall be established by the office of the Chancellor.