

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Awards

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The Nevada Regents' Researcher Award is given to an outstanding researcher from UNLV, DRI or UNR annually. These awards are given for significant accomplishments in research that are usually the result of a lengthy career of achievement. The Research Affairs Council suggests that there be an award given at each of these institutions annually to a researcher who shows considerable accomplishment and future promise, but who has not been employed in the NSHE for as long as the customary Regents' Researcher Awardee. These Regents' Rising Researcher awards would provide recognition for three early stage researchers annually and thus assist in retention of the most talented new hires. This award would be for recognition only and will not include a financial award.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend the Board of Regents' *Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 17 to create Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Awards to be given at each of the research institutions annually in recognition of achievement and future promise. This would be a recognition given without remuneration. Amend *Procedures and Guidelines Manual*, Chapter 8, Section 2 to define the criteria and establish the process for these awards.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The Research and Economic Affairs Committee asked if more faculty should be given recognition for their outstanding efforts in research. Specifically, they asked if all nominees for the Regents' Researcher Award, not just the winner, should receive recognition. The Research Affairs Council decided that only one Regents' Researcher Award per year in the NSHE is appropriate. However, they recognize that only later career nominations are competitive for this award. They recommend that recognition for researchers in their early career would be helpful in highlighting success and in retaining outstanding early researchers within the NSHE.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The Research and Economic Development Committee asked the Research Affairs Council to recommend whether more research awards or recognitions should be given annually.
- The Research Affairs Council recognized that the Regents' Researcher Award is given preferentially to faculty members who have a long history of excellent achievement but that there was no mechanism for recognizing early career researchers.
- The Research Affairs Council recommends a non-monetary Rising Researcher Award be given annually to one researcher from each of the research institutions.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

The Regents already give an annual researcher award and early career faculty can compete along with the later career researchers. No change is necessary.

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

No action can be recommended.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 17
 Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter 8, Section 2
 Other: _____
 Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No _____
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 17
Nevada Regents' Research Awards

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

Section 17. Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

1. The Nevada Regents' Researcher Award shall be given annually to one NSHE faculty member with a distinguished record 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, each Nevada research institution will nominate annually a Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award 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. However, the Selection Committee may choose to send forward more than one nomination in exceptional circumstances. *The Regents' Rising Researcher Awards are non-cash awards.*
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.*

PROPOSED REVISIONS
NSHE Procedures and Guidelines Manual
CHAPTER 8, SECTION 2 (in part)
Regents' Research and Rising Researcher Award

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

Section 2. Board of Regents' Scholar Award; Nevada Regents' Award for Creative Activities; Nevada Regents' Researcher [Award] Awards; Nevada Regents' Teaching Award; Nevada Regents' Academic Advisor Award

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The following procedures outline the nomination and selection process for each award:

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2. Regents' Researcher Award *and* Regents' Rising Researcher Awards

I. Regents' Researcher Award. [~~The Nevada Regents' Researcher Award~~] *This award* is given annually to one NSHE faculty member at UNLV, UNR, or DRI with a distinguished record in research. Although this award is intended for individuals, groups who by their collaboration have made major advances may be recognized as well. The intent is to select one individual (or group) for recognition each year. However, the selection committee may choose to send forward more than one recommendation in exceptional circumstances.

A. Nominations. Notification is sent annually by Chancellor's Office to each *of the three research institutions* [~~NSHE campus~~] to begin the nomination process [~~in~~] *in* late August/early September. Each institution may submit one nomination only for consideration to the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs. Each nomination must contain the following information only:

- i. Formal letter of nomination from an NSHE employee or student, adhering to the following guidelines:
 1. The nomination letter must indicate the significance, volume, and quality of the candidate's research in such a way as to clarify the nominee's activities for individuals from other disciplines;
 2. The letter must address how the candidate's research or scholarly work brings recognition to the NSHE;
 3. The letter must address clear evidence of the national or international stature of the candidate's research. This evidence should reflect recognized evaluation in the form of critically reviewed papers, presentations, books, monographs, and other forms of scholarly activity or recognition (e.g., invited presentations, awards, honors). A fuller listing of these should be provided in the candidate's curriculum vitae, which must be attached to the letter of nomination;

4. In those disciplines where research grants and contracts are recognized as an important part of career achievement, there must be clear evidence provided in the letter of nomination that the candidate has been competitive for such grants at the national and/or international level; and
 5. The letter of nomination must address the candidate's continuous record of long-term research.
- ii. Curriculum vitae containing a listing of grants funded, presentations made at national and/or international research meetings, awards/honors, published articles, monographs, or books; and
 - iii. Supplementary materials as follows:
 1. No more than three examples (reprints or copies) of significant published works that the candidate feels are representative of his or her research accomplishments;
 2. A list of grants and contracts received, indicating the project title, name of grantor, amount of grant, beginning and termination dates, and the nature of the competition for the grant;
 3. No more than three reviews, adjudications, or testimonials conferred by persons who audited the original work;
 4. No more than three letters of support from persons knowledgeable of the nominee's qualifications; and
 5. Names, addresses, and phone numbers of up to five persons outside of the NSHE whom the Selection Committee may contact about the candidate's research achievements.

Nomination materials must be submitted to the Department of Academic and Student Affairs on a compact disc or via electronic mail. If nomination materials are provided on a compact disc, please submit two copies of the disc. The deadline for campus nominations to be received by the Chancellor's Office is approximately November 30 of each year. The exact deadline will be provided to the institutions by the Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs in the annual call for nominations.

- B. Length of Service: Candidates must have at least [~~five~~] **ten** years of cumulative service in the NSHE by the date of nomination in order to be considered for the award.
- C. Composition of the NSHE Selection Committee. The selection committee must consist of the following members:
 - i. Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs to act as non-voting chairman;
 - ii. Research Affairs Council members from UNR, UNLV, and DRI; and
 - iii. One faculty researcher from UNR, UNLV, and DRI.
- D. Final Approval. The recommendation of the selection committee shall be presented to the Research and Economic Development Committee for final approval.
- E. Award Amount: \$5,000

II. Regents' Rising Researcher Awards. These awards are given annually to one faculty member each from UNLV, UNR, and DRI. Awards are to be based on early-career accomplishments and potential for future advancement and recognition in research. The selection process shall be managed on each campus through an institutional selection committee. Committee selections must adhere to the following eligibility criteria and nomination process:

A. Eligibility. Nominees shall have:

- ii. a doctorate or terminal degree awarded within the last ten years;***
- iii. at least five years of cumulative service within NSHE and be a current employee;***
- iv. a strong beginning record of accomplishment during the time of employment with NSHE; and***
- v. a record of outstanding research accomplishment that is demonstrable through publications, patents and intellectual property, or grants and contracts.***

B. Nominations. Notification is sent annually by the Chancellor's Office to the three research institutions to begin the nomination process in late August/early September. Each nomination submitted must contain the following information:

- ii. Formal letter of nomination that demonstrates the nominees' accomplishments and promise;***
- iii. NSHE nomination form; and***
- iv. Other supplemental materials as determined by the institution.***

C. Composition of the Institutional Selection Committee. The selection committee shall be determined by each institution, but shall minimally be composed of the research vice president and senior research faculty with significant records of achievement.

D. Final Approval. The recommendations of the selection committees shall be presented to the Research and Economic Development Committee for final approval.

E. Award Amount. There is no financial award for the Regents' Rising Researcher Awards.