

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Regents Awards

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Currently, Board policy establishes awards for faculty and staff, including the Award for Creative Activities, the Regents' Research Award, the Regents' Teaching Award, and the Regents' Academic Advisor Award (*Title 4, Chapter 1, Sections 16 -18 of the Handbook*). Recipients for these awards are nominated annually through the NSHE institutions and approved by the Board. These awards are highly valued and appreciated by faculty and staff at the institutions for the honor and recognition that accompany each award, and therefore, the nomination process is highly competitive.

Members of the Academic Affairs Council participate in the nomination process through their respective institutions and recently noted areas in which three of these awards may be modestly expanded or clarified:

- **Award for Creative Activities** – Instead of one award for all teaching institutions, authorize two awards with one for the universities and state college and a second one for the community colleges. This recommendation is consistent with the other awards for which all teaching institutions may submit nominees (the Regents Teaching Award Expand and the Regents' Academic Advisor Award).
- **Rising Researcher Award** – Authorize a \$2,000 stipend for each recipient to be paid by the awarding institution. This award goes to a Rising Researcher from UNLV, UNR and DRI annually, but currently no stipend accompanies these three awards.
- **Regents Teaching Award** – Expand the faculty eligible for this award at UNLV, UNR or NSC to include faculty who are tenured or on tenure-track, in addition to those currently eligible who provide teaching as part of their regular assignment. The current language limiting the award to faculty who provide teaching as part of their regular assignment has caused some confusion with the quantity of teaching required for eligibility and expanding the language to include tenured or tenure-track faculty would provide clarity and ensure that focus of this award is teaching faculty, as intended.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 1, Sections 16, 17 and 18* to add a second Award for Creative Activities to provide one award for the universities and state college and a second award for the community colleges; authorize a cash stipend for the Rising Researcher Award; and expand eligibility for the Regents' Teaching Award to include faculty who are tenured or tenure track, in addition to faculty who provide instruction as part of their regular assignment. The proposed policy revisions are effective Fall 2015 for 2016 awards because the current nomination process for 2015 awards is already underway.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The Academic Affairs Council recommends these policy revisions.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Currently, the Award for Creative Activities is awarded to only one recipient from all teaching institutions. The only other award for which there are not two (or more) award recipients based on institution type is the Researcher Award that goes to a recipient from UNLV, UNR or DRI. Expanding this award provides the opportunity to recognize two recipients annually, consistent with other awards for which all teaching institutions may submit nominees. The institutions are willing to absorb the cost of the \$5,000 stipend for the proposed second award.
- Receiving the Regents' Rising Research Award is a tremendous honor for researchers for their early accomplishments and promise of future success, and yet this award is the only one for which there is not an accompanying cash stipend. UNLV, UNR, and DRI are willing to absorb the cost of the proposed \$2,000 stipend for each of their recipients.
- Clarifying the language regarding the faculty eligible to receive the Regents' Teaching Award will facilitate the nomination process.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

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

None have been presented.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 1 Sections # 16, 17, and 18
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes X No _____

Explain: UNLV, UNR, and DRI will each absorb the cost of the \$2,000 for their respective Rising Researcher Award recipient. The cost for the second Award for community college Creative Activities (\$5,000) will be shared among the institutions, consistent with the cost for the existing Award for Creative Activities.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 16
Nevada Regents' Award for Creative Activities
EFFECTIVE FALL 2015

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

Section 16. Nevada Regents' Award for Creative Activities

1. The Nevada Regents' Award for Creative Activities shall be given annually to [~~one~~] NSHE Faculty [~~member~~] *members* with [~~a~~] distinguished [~~record~~] *records* in creative activity. *The award will carry with it a cash stipend of \$5,000.* [~~Although this award is intended for individuals, groups who by their collaboration have made major advances may be recognized as well.~~]
2. *Two awards will be granted annually. Faculty with a distinguished record in creative activity at UNLV, UNR and NSC will be eligible for one award. Faculty with a distinguished record in creative activity at CSN, GBC, TMCC, and WNC will be eligible for one award. Although these awards are intended for individuals, groups who by their collaboration have made major advances may be recognized as well.*

[~~The Creative Activities 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 circumstance.~~]

3. Faculty members who receive the Regents' Award for Creative Activities may use the title as such in perpetuity.
4. Guidelines for the nomination and selection of the [~~recipient~~] *recipients* of the Nevada Regents' Award for Creative Activities shall be established by the office of the chancellor.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 17
Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards
EFFECTIVE FALL 2015

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 *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 Research Award*. However, the Selection Committee may choose to send forward more than one nomination *for the Research Award* in exceptional circumstances. *The Rising Researcher Award will carry with it a cash stipend of \$2,000 for each recipient.* [~~The Regents' Rising Research 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.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 18
Nevada Regents' Teaching Award
EFFECTIVE FALL 2015

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

Section 18. 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 awards will be granted annually. *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.* [~~Full-time faculty who provide instruction as part of their regular assignments at DRI or who provide instruction as their primary assignments at UNLV, UNR and NSC will be eligible for one award.~~] Full-time faculty who provide instruction as their primary assignments at CSN, GBC, TMCC, and WNC 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.