

1. Higher Education Research Council

a. Purpose and Coverage

Idaho's universities seek to be a driving force in innovation, economic development and enhanced quality of life in the State of Idaho through nationally and internationally lauded research programs in strategic areas. By developing and leveraging the State's unique research expertise and strengths, Idaho's universities will serve as catalyst and engine to spur the creation of new knowledge, technologies, products and industries. This in turn will lead to new advances and opportunities for economic growth and enhance the State's reputation as a national and international leader in excellence and innovation.

The Higher Education Research Council of the Idaho State Board of Education (HERC) provides guidance to Boise State University, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College and the University of Idaho for a statewide collaborative effort to accomplish these goals and objectives. In addition, HERC provides direction for and oversees the use of the limited resources of the State of Idaho provided by the Legislature for research by promoting research activities that will have the greatest beneficial effect on the quality of education and the economy of the State. The implementation of the higher education research policy of the Board will be the duty and responsibility of HERC. HERC shall report annually to the Board on a schedule and in a format established by the Executive Director.

b. The Role of Research in Higher Education

Research is the creative search for and application of new knowledge.

i. Philosophical Statements and Guiding Principles

The significant role science, technology and other research play in statewide economic development is also accompanied by a demand for the scrutiny of publicly funded research, accountability, and attention to the management of ethical, legal, and safety issues associated with academic research. To fulfill this role, HERC will direct and oversee the development, implementation, and monitoring of a statewide strategic plan for research. The development of a statewide strategic plan for research will assist in the identification of general research areas that will enhance the economy of Idaho via partnering between academia, industry, and/or government. HERC will facilitate this partnering and interaction among business, industry and the public sector with science, engineering and other research faculty.

This Policy is designed to assist the public baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate institutions in addressing these areas via appropriate research activities through:

- 1) individual and multi-disciplinary research projects;
- 2) extensive and rapid dissemination of the new knowledge and establishment of knowledge networks which would facilitate public, private, and academic institution interaction; and
- 3) collaborative relationships between academia and varied shareholders outside the academy.

The guiding principles are:

- 1) to maximize impact on the quality of education and economic development as a consequence of Idaho's investment in quality science, engineering, and other research.
- 2) to ensure accountability for the state's investment via demonstrable results.

ii. Support of research activities with public funds is important because:

- 1) Research is important in the education of students at all levels.
- 2) Research plays an important role in maintaining and enhancing faculty quality.
- 3) Academic research contributes to economic development.

iii. The Board desires to increase the quality and quantity of research and to encourage continued public and private support of research in Idaho through application of the following principles:

The quality and quantity of academic research produced is extremely dependent upon the research infrastructure.  
Faculty at Idaho's baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate institutions will be eligible to compete for research funds.

iv. The development and implementation of a statewide strategic plan for research is a vehicle for identification of research objectives and areas.

c. Specific Funding Programs to Strengthen Research in Idaho

The Board recognizes that talent exists on all of the campuses and the importance of permitting competition for research support and initiation funds. Therefore, the Board will use the following criteria in allocating funds for research activities under this policy at the various institutions.

Additionally, any condition set forth in the legislative appropriation for these research programs must be demonstrably met by the programs and/or projects that are to receive the appropriation.

i. Infrastructure

A portion of the competitive research funding should be distributed to the state's baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate institutions to support their science, engineering, and other research infrastructure. Distribution of these funds will be made according to guidelines approved by HERC. These funds should be reserved for library support essential to research, graduate research assistantships, post doctoral fellows, technician support, maintenance contracts, research equipment, competitively awarded summer research support, startup funds for new hires, and incentives to reward faculty for their research achievements.

ii. Targeted Research Funding

Faculty members at the state's baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate institutions will have an opportunity to submit research project proposals for review under this program.

- 1) All projects selected for funding under this program will demonstrate the potential for economic benefit or cost savings for the State.
- 2) A major focus under this program should be start-up and seed funds that will assist a principal investigator in promoting basic or applied research; competing for external funding; and enhancing technology transfer or commercialization.
- 3) Collaborative research projects are encouraged.

Guidelines for this program will be established by HERC, will incorporate an independent peer review, and will include an evaluation component for commercial applicability for the benefit of the State.

iii. Research Centers

Many important research advances are made through focused research centers. These centers should involve several faculty members from multiple institutions in conjunction with the necessary research equipment and support personnel. The funds needed to establish centers of this type should be adequate to create a critical research mass for multiple years leading to research center sustainability. State funding should be supplemented by non-state matching funds.

iv. State Matching Awards

Under this program State funds would be available to match those awarded by non-state sources by using an external peer review process.

Examples of matching entities for the state matching funds would be:

- 1) Federal Agencies
- 2) EPSCoR projects e.g., National Science Foundation, National Institute of Health, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, etc.
- 3) Foundations
- 4) Business and Industry
- 5) Other

v. Post-Award Accountability

Any project receiving funding through any of the previously described Board sponsored programs will be required to report on its productivity with respect to such items as:

- 1) number of students involved;
- 2) number of faculty involved;
- 3) external funding earned as a result;
- 4) publications in refereed journals;
- 5) presentations at professional meetings and conferences;
- 6) patents awarded or pending;
- 7) economic benefits; or
- 8) problem resolution.

Reporting procedures will be established and administered through HERC.

d. Responsibilities and Membership of the Higher Education Research Council

In order to advise the Idaho State Board of Education on the implementation of the above strategies, HERC will report to the Board through the Instruction, Research and Student Affairs Committee. The assigned responsibilities of HERC will include the following:

- i. direct and oversee the development of a higher education statewide strategic plan for research;
- ii. direct and oversee the use of Legislatively appropriated funds for higher education research;
- iii. determine and distribute to all interested parties the guidelines for submission of proposals under the competitive programs;
- iv. organize the review procedures for proposals submitted under the guidelines mandated and recommend to the Board which of these proposals should be funded;
- v. monitor the productivity of each funded project to warrant continued funding and to provide accountability.

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The membership of HERC shall consist of:

- i. the Vice Presidents of Research from Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho and a representative of Lewis-Clark State College;
- ii. a representative of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL); and
- iii. three non-institutional representatives, with consideration of geographic, private industry involvement and other representation characteristics.

The Board shall appoint the three non-institutional representatives. The three non-institutional representatives shall be appointed for terms that are initially staggered to provide a rolling renewal of appointments. Thereafter, appointments shall be for three years. The appointments of the representative of INL shall be subject to approval of the Board. All members of HERC shall have equal voting privileges.

One (1) of the Vice Presidents of Research shall serve as chair of the Council, with a new chair selected each academic year such that the chair shall rotate among the Vice Presidents of Research. No Vice President of Research shall hold a term in consecutive years.

Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee shall consist of the three Vice Presidents of Research.

e. Nominating Process

HERC shall nominate candidates for membership for Board consideration. The list of candidates, including letters of interest and biographical information, must be forwarded to the Board for consideration not less than 60 days prior to expiration of the term of a committee member, or within 30 days after any vacancy.

i. Incumbent Reappointment

If the incumbent candidate is interested in reappointment and is eligible to continue serving based on HERC's current membership structure, the incumbent will provide in writing his or her interest for reappointment, which will be forwarded to the Board for consideration.

ii. Open Appointment

1) HERC members shall solicit nominations with consideration given to geographic, private industry involvement, and other representation characteristics.

- 2) Each nominee must provide a written statement expressing his or her interest in becoming a member of HERC. Each nominee must also provide a description of his or her qualifications, and must identify his or her primary residence.
- 3) HERC will review all nominations for the vacant position and will forward the qualified candidates with recommendations to the Board for consideration.

The Board may, after a review of nominee's pursuant to the process described herein, consider other candidates for HERC membership identified by the Board or its staff.

## 2. Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

### a. Overview

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) represents a federal-state partnership to enhance the science and engineering research, education, and technology capabilities of states that traditionally have received smaller amounts of federal research and development funds. As a participating state, Idaho EPSCoR shall be subject to federal program requirements and policy established by the Idaho State Board of Education (Board). The purpose of EPSCoR is to build a high-quality, academic research base to advance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to stimulate sustainable improvements in research and development capacity and competitiveness.

### b. EPSCoR Mission

Idaho EPSCoR's mission shall be to stimulate systematic and sustainable improvements in Idaho's academic science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) research capabilities for the purpose of establishing nationally prominent research competitiveness in selected areas eligible for support by the National Science Foundation and other federal and private sponsors. It is expected that EPSCoR investments shall harmonize with the research interests of Idaho's public universities, the State of Idaho, and Idaho's industries. The University of Idaho, Idaho State University and Boise State University are Idaho EPSCoR partner institutions.

### c. Idaho EPSCoR Committee

Idaho EPSCoR shall be guided by a committee appointed by the Board.

#### i. Duties and Responsibilities

The Idaho EPSCoR Committee shall serve under the direction of the Board and shall oversee the implementation of the Idaho EPSCoR program and office. The Idaho EPSCoR Committee is responsible for the selection and progress of EPSCoR projects funded by various federal agencies, in accordance with agency-specific guidelines. The committee shall establish policies and procedures to ensure that EPSCoR program goals and objectives are met. These policies and procedures shall be brought to the Board for approval. The committee will carry out the following EPSCoR objectives:

- 1) To catalyze key research themes and related activities within and among EPSCoR jurisdictions that empower knowledge generation, dissemination and application;
- 2) To activate effective jurisdictional and regional collaborations among academic, government and private sector stakeholders that advance scientific research, promote innovation and provide multiple societal benefits;
- 3) To broaden participation in science and engineering by institutions, organizations and people within and among EPSCoR jurisdictions; and
- 4) To use EPSCoR for development, implementation and evaluation of future programmatic experiments that motivates positive change and progression.

ii. Operating Procedures

The committee will meet in person annually, and more often by teleconference to fulfill its duties. Additional meetings may be called by the chair or by request of three (3) or more committee members. The chair will appoint subcommittees as needed. The appointments are subject to review of the entire committee. On a regular basis, the committee shall monitor the activities of the project director and provide direction as necessary.

The project director, under the direction of the chair, prepares the agenda, schedules each meeting of the committee and maintains a written record of the committee's activities.

iii. Membership

Committee membership shall be constituted to provide for geographic, academic, business and state governmental representation. The committee shall consist of sixteen (16) members with voting privileges, composed of the following:

- 1) The Vice President for Research or Chief Research Officer at the University of Idaho, Idaho State University, and Boise State University;
- 2) One member from each chamber of the Idaho state legislature;

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- 3) One representative from Idaho National Laboratory;
- 4) One representative from the Idaho Department of Commerce – such individual shall be focused on economic development;
- 5) The remainder shall be representatives of the private sector who have a stake in developing the state's research infrastructure or who have experience in innovation and entrepreneurial activities, applied research and development, management and finance, or community economic development.

In addition, one representative of the Governor's office and one member of the Board shall serve on the committee as ex officio members without voting rights.

iv. Nominating Process

The Idaho EPSCoR Committee will nominate candidates for committee membership for consideration by the Board. The list of candidates must be forwarded to the Board for consideration not less than 60 days prior to expiration of the term of committee member, or within 30 days after any vacancy.

1) Incumbent Reappointment

In the event that the incumbent candidate is interested in reappointment and is eligible to continue serving, the nominating committee shall forward a recommendation to the Board, along with a letter of interest and statement of qualifications for the incumbent. The Board may choose to reappoint the incumbent without soliciting other candidates, thus completing the appointment procedures. If there is no incumbent seeking reappointment, or if the Board chooses not to reappoint an incumbent, the procedures are as outlined in item (2).

2) Open Appointment

- a) The EPSCoR committee on behalf of the Board will advertise the vacancy in appropriate state, regional or local publications. Such advertisements will solicit interested persons to apply for the vacant position on the Idaho EPSCoR Committee.
- b) Each applicant must provide a written statement expressing his or her interest in becoming a member of the committee. Each applicant must also provide evidence of his or her qualifications, and must identify his or her primary residence.
- c) The EPSCoR committee will review all applications for the vacant position and conduct interviews as deemed necessary. The purpose of this review is to identify the most qualified candidates for Board consideration.

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- d) The EPSCoR committee will forward the qualified candidates, in order of preference, to the Board for consideration. The Board may provide for interviews of the candidates, if needed.

The Board may, after review of the candidates nominated by the committee pursuant to the process described herein, consider other candidates for committee membership identified by the Board or its staff.

- v. Terms of Membership

Committee members shall serve five-year terms. An incumbent member may be nominated by the committee for re-appointment by the Board, but no member may serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. All terms, regardless of length, shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th of the year(s) beginning or ending said term.

Appointments will be staggered to ensure that no more than one-third (1/3) of the appointments will become vacant in any given year. An appointee who has reached the end of his or her term shall remain in service as a committee member until reappointment, or until the appointment of a new member is named and approved by the Board. Officers will be nominated and elected by a vote of the committee.

- d. Reporting

The committee shall prepare an annual report to the Board that details all projects by federal agency source, including reports of project progress from associated external Project Advisory Board (PAB).

- e. Idaho EPSCoR Office

Within guidelines specified by NSF and this policy, the EPSCoR committee shall determine and select an Idaho EPSCoR partner institution to serve as the lead institution which will house the project director for purposes of administering Idaho EPSCoR and providing support and resources to the Idaho EPSCoR Committee.

- f. Idaho EPSCoR Project Leadership

The project director and any associate project directors are selected by and serve under the direction of the Idaho EPSCoR Committee.

The project director shall be a tenured faculty member of an Idaho EPSCoR partner institution whose qualifications must include: a successful research track record (grants

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and professional publications) in science or engineering, experience in research management and academic administration, and a successful record of dealing with various segments of academic institutions, government, industry, and the public.