Roll-out of new Research Chairs: adjudication and granting processes

Briefing Session

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# Research Chairs Call Timelines

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<th>Activities</th>
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<td><strong>Phase 1:</strong> Shortlisting of universities</td>
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<td>1.  NRF Briefing Meeting for University Deputy Vice-Chancellors</td>
<td>16 September 2013</td>
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<td>1.  Call opens for Phase 1 applications</td>
<td>12 September 2013</td>
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<td>1.  Call closes for Phase 1 applications</td>
<td>31 October 2013</td>
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<td>4.  Review outcome letter sent to Deputy Vice-Chancellors</td>
<td>11 December 2013</td>
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<td>1.  Feedback letter sent to Deputy Vice-Chancellors</td>
<td>18 December 2013</td>
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<td><strong>Phase 2:</strong> Awarding of the Research Chair and approval of nominated</td>
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<td>candidate and full proposal</td>
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<td>1.  Call opens for Phase 2 applications by shortlisted universities</td>
<td>11 December 2013</td>
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<td>1.  Call closes for Phase 2 applications</td>
<td>28 February 2014</td>
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<td>1.  Review outcome letter sent to Deputy Vice-Chancellors</td>
<td>28 April 2014</td>
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<td>1.  Feedback letter sent to Deputy Vice-Chancellors</td>
<td>05 May 2014</td>
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Adjudication and Review
Principles

• Confidentiality
• Access to information
• Transparency
• Conflict of Interest
• Ethical considerations
• Commitment to excellence
All individuals involved with the review and awarding process will be required to sign the following two agreements prior to commencement of proposal reviews:

- Confidentiality Agreement
- Conflict of Interest Agreement

In a case of a declared conflict of interest with a proposal, the individual is released from assessing the specific proposal and requested to recuse him/herself from the discussion of the specific proposal.

Each time a Panel Member recuses him/herself from the discussion of the specific proposal, a ‘Record of Conflict of Interest’ form must be signed by him/her.
General Overview of Adjudication Process

• Screening Process

• Two-Phased Review Process
Proposal/Response to the call may be returned to the submitting institution without review for any one or all of the following:

• is submitted late, past the announced submission deadline date;
• does not meet eligibility criteria;
• does not include requested and required supporting documentation;
• does not have the required institutional approvals (endorsements);
• has [required] sections of the submission/application template not completed fully;
• Substantially exceeds the recommended page limitations.
Objectives of Phase 1

• Shortlisting of submissions/applications to Phase II;
• Not necessarily focused on the scientific programme of the Chair, but to:
• Establish readiness and commitment of the university to host the proposed Research Chair/creating an enabling environment with regard to:
  – Office and/or laboratory space.
  – Infrastructure (equipment, IT facilities, etc.);
  – Academic support (information, resource facilities and related research groups);
  – Management and leadership; and
  – Financial support (direct and indirect);
Objectives of Phase 1

- Alignment of the proposed research chair with the university research strategy and Programme & Qualification Mix (PQM)
  - submit supporting documents i.e. University Research Strategy; PQM
- Potential of the proposed Research Chair to enhance the international research and/or innovation competitiveness within the said discipline
  - Detailed current academic and research staff; research outputs;
  - Postgraduate students trained and graduated in ast five (5) years and
- the potential of the research to positively impact on social and/or economic development of the country
Awarding of the Research Chair, thus:

Submission of the Full proposal which will include:

- Nomination of a candidate for appointment to the chair;
- Research (programme) and activity plan prepared by the nominated candidate;
- How the Chair will deliver/contribute to the university research plan;
- Specific objectives, (anticipated) outputs and outcomes for the five year period and;
- [Where applicable in Swiss chair] Research cooperation programme with Swiss institution(s)
Phase 2 of Review Process & requirements

Full proposal must also give specific details on:

• **The proposed teaching: research ratio** – Teaching of postgraduates only Chair holders may not spend more than 20% of their time on undergraduate and or management responsibilities related to the chair;

• **Research objectives for the five-year period**;

• **Expected knowledge outputs in the five-year period** – Recognized research outputs in the discipline/field i.e., peer reviewed articles/conference proceedings; books/ chapters etc.

• **Expected human capital outputs in five years**;

• **Proposed budget**;

• **Existing and planned collaborations**;

• **Expected development trajectory of the nominee**;
Phase 2 of Review Process: Assessment of SARChI Proposals and nominees

Full proposals and nominated candidate will be assessed for scientific, technical merit and suitability as well as relevance in to the objectives of the call in a two-tiered process.

• Postal/remote peer review to assess the scientific merit, quality of proposed programme/project;

• Postal/remote peer review to assess the track record, and suitability of the nominee;

• Panel peer review assessing the scientific merit of programme and suitability of candidate informed by peer review reports, and

• Panel to advise the NRF on fundability and level of funding.
Composition of Phase 2 Review Panel(s)

- External Chairperson
- Independent Assessor
- Discipline/cognate discipline-based Reviewers
- NRF Executive Director or Director
- DST Representatives
- Secretariat
- Scribe
Grants will be awarded on competitive basis;
Awards will be based on merit as assessed through the rigorous peer review;
The awarding processes must be fair, transparent and accountable;
Grant for year 1 of 5 will be disbursed to the university upon receipt of signed Conditions of Grant;
Thereafter grant will be paid on annual basis through the institution and not the individual;
The Guidelines for SARChI grant annual break down… provides an indication of the categories and levels of funding
Discussion
Questions and Answers
Enkosi, Thank you, Re a leboga, Siyabonga, Dankie