



TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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February 17, 2012

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TO: Verma Elliott, Audit Manager, State Auditor's Office

FROM: Raymund A. Paredes *RAP*

SUBJECT: National Research University Fund Eligibility Report

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC) 62.146(c), passed in 2011 by the 82nd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, please find enclosed the FY 2012 National Research University Fund (NRUF) Eligibility Report. This report identifies Texas Tech University and the University of Houston as meeting the eligibility requirements for distributions of monies from NRUF.

TEC 62.146(c) requires a mandatory audit by the state auditor in accordance with Chapter 321, Government Code, as follows:

"(c) Information submitted to the coordinating board by institutions for purposes of establishing eligibility under this subchapter and the coordinating board's certification or verification of that information under this section are subject to a mandatory audit by the state auditor in accordance with Chapter 321, Government Code. The coordinating board may also request one or more audits by the state auditor as necessary or appropriate at any time after an eligible institution begins receiving distributions under this subchapter. Each audit must be based on an examination of all or a representative sample of the restricted research funds awarded to the institution and the institution's expenditures of those funds, and must include, among other elements:

- (1) verification of the amount of restricted research funds expended by the institution in the appropriate state fiscal year or years; and
- (2) verification of compliance by the institution and the coordinating board with the standard methods of accounting and standard methods of reporting prescribed by the coordinating board under Subsection (a), including verification of:
 - (A) the institution's compliance with the coordinating board's standards and accounting methods for reporting expenditures of restricted research funds; and
 - (B) whether the institution's expenditures meet the coordinating board's definition of restricted research expenditures.

(d) From money appropriated from the fund, the comptroller shall reimburse the state auditor for the expenses of any audits conducted under Subsection (c)."

We request that you send a copy of the final audit report(s) pertaining to the eligibility of Texas Tech University and the University of Houston to the comptroller to begin the distribution process.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. MacGregor Stephenson, Assistant Commissioner in the Division of Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research, at (512) 427-6523 or via e-mail at macgregor.stephenson@thecb.state.tx.us.

Enclosure
AAR/cr

c: Staff, Comptroller of Public Accounts
Members, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Emerging Research Institutions