



Council of Principal Investigators

Principal Investigators,

The meeting materials for the January 18, 2012 CPI meeting (Rudder 601; 11:30-1:15 p.m.) are available at http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_1.18.12.pdf. Dr. B. Don Russell will present on “*The Academies – State of Membership at Texas A&M*”; and Dr. John L. Junkins will present on the Texas A&M University Institute of Advanced Study (TIAS).

If you plan to attend in person as an observer, please email cpi@tamu.edu. Meetings are open to the public and are webcast live at <http://ttvn.tamu.edu/webcasts> on Channel 20. Previous CPI meetings can be viewed at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/videos>. The monthly electronic newsletter is included below and includes items of interest to the research community. Please send comments regarding the newsletter to cpi@tamu.edu. To learn more about CPI membership, activities and initiatives, visit <http://cpi.tamu.edu>.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Rauchwerger
Chair, Council of Principal Investigators

CPI Newsletter – January 2012

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Texas A&M University - Texas A&M Health Science Center - Texas Engineering Experiment Station -
Texas AgriLife Research - Texas Transportation Institute

Purpose of the CPI

The Council of Principal Investigators consists of individuals elected to represent Principal Investigators (PIs) from members of the Texas A&M research community. The Council is committed to the continued improvement of the research environment for students, faculty, and staff. Specifically, the CPI and the PIs it represents, endeavor to work with administration to provide an effective and efficient research organization, to achieve the goal of being nationally recognized and competitive in research and teaching.

The Council meets monthly to address specific issues concerning the research and graduate environments. Appropriate recommendations are discussed with and implemented through the appropriate organizations or administrative offices. – CPI Bylaws, Section 1. *Purpose of the Council*

The CPI would like to thank each member of the administration that meets regularly with the Council to provide insight and expertise on the Texas A&M research enterprise.

Preview of February 8, 2012 CPI Meeting

Dr. James Kracht and Dr. Sumana Datta will present on ‘Enhancing and Expanding Undergraduate Research’ and Dr. Karen Butler-Purry will also present on “Promoting and Strengthening Graduate Studies at Texas A&M” at the February 8, 2012 CPI meeting, from 11:30-1:15 p.m. in Rudder 701. Additional CPI meeting information can be found at: <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings>

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, rwerger@cse.tamu.edu

Summary of December 14, 2011 CPI Meeting

At the December 14, 2011 CPI meeting, Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann, Vice President for Research at Texas A&M University and Chief Research Officer of The Texas A&M University System, introduced Dr. Robert Nobles, Executive Director (ad interim) of the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety. Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto, Executive Associate Vice President for Administration and Legal Affairs/Chief of Staff, Division of Research, Texas A&M University, provided an update on Human Subjects in Research.

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, rwerger@cse.tamu.edu

Summary of December 15, 2011 CPI EC meeting with the Distinguished Professors Executive Committee

The CPI Executive Committee (EC) met with Distinguished Professors Executive Committee on December 15, 2011. The committees discussed areas of common interests and reported on recent activities. The two executive committees will schedule a meeting each semester on an as needed basis.

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, rwerger@cse.tamu.edu

Summary of January 11, 2012 CPI EC meeting with meeting research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI

The CPI Executive Committee (EC) held its monthly coordination meeting on January 11, 2012 from 11:30-1:15 p.m. Research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI are invited to these coordination meetings. At the January 11, 2012 meeting, attendees discussed the formation of the OSRS PI/Faculty Advisory Committee (PIFAC); reviewed the January 18, 2012 CPI EC meeting agenda with CEOs and CROs (Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES, & TTI); reviewed the 2012 CPI meeting schedule to date; reviewed the CPI EC meeting schedule to date; and reviewed draft items for the January

2012 CPI newsletter. The CPI EC meeting schedule is available at http://calendar.tamu.edu/?calendar_id=1230&upcoming=upcoming&limit=100.

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, rwerger@cse.tamu.edu

EPIK-Maestro Working Group Update

Ms. Leonarda Horvat, Chief Information Officer and Director of TEES Information Systems, presented a summary report to the steering committee; provided an update on the proposal implementation; and reviewed the contract negotiation component. At the next meeting, in addition to other items, information on submission to grants.gov will be presented and discussed.

Over 500 proposals have been created; 50 proposals have completed routed; and 120 proposals are currently in routing. The different stages of the routing process and proposal components, as well as the CFDA, were discussed. The procedure for creating an EPIK-Maestro account and completing assurances forms was discussed. Also discussed were conflict of interest, nepotism, human subjects, etc. The contract negotiation component is being tested with a pilot contract negotiation group. At the next meeting Ms. Horvat and her team will present for discussion the submission to grants.gov.

Contact: Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, a-lara@tamu.edu

Feedback on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)

Comments & suggestions about OSRS services can be sent to the CPI Chair at pi-osrs-comments@tamu.edu.

Research Compliance Software

The Division of Research has selected a software provider and is working with the vendor for integration. The software will be in use for testing by the research community in June 2012, and the campus will begin using it exclusively in September of this year. The Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety will communicate widely with the progress of the implementation as well as training and testing opportunities for the research community. All submissions to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, the Institutional Biosafety Committee, and the Institutional Review Board are included in the software program, and the software has features to make the review process more transparent.

Informational Session for Research Compliance and Biosafety Programs:

Join us Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. for a presentation from the Texas A&M University Biological Safety Officer Dr. Christine McFarland as she provides an update on the Biosafety Program and recent changes determined by the Institutional Biosafety Committee. The session, held in 101C of the General Services Complex, will include a question and answer portion for any program within the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety. The Animal Welfare Assurance Program will be presenting in March.

Federal Summary Update

Congress passed and the President signed the "minibus" FY12 appropriations. The package comprised the Agriculture, Transportation-Housing, and Commerce-Justice-Science bills. This legislation included funding increases for several important science agencies and directorates. National Science Foundation (NSF) received a \$7 billion budget, which is a \$173 million increase over FY11. The Science Directorate in NASA received a \$5 billion budget, which is a \$155 million increase over FY11. National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) received a \$567 million budget, which is a 12% increase over FY11. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) received a \$4.9 billion budget, which is a \$306 million increase over FY11.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) received \$264 million, which is the same as FY11. The Office of Government Relations is in the processes of thanking the House and Senate appropriators for their support for basic research.

Phase 1 Assessment of Research Park Complete; Phase 2 in Development

A comprehensive assessment of the Texas A&M Research Park was conducted in 2011 by the consulting firm Eva Klein & Associates (EKA). A synopsis of the Phase 1 Assessment can be downloaded as a PDF at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/resources/researchpark/RPPPhase1Synopsis.pdf>. The full report, available at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/resources/researchpark/eka-final-report>, identifies specific issues and opportunities to guide our strategic planning in Phase 2, which will center on the development of a strategic business plan for the Park that closely aligns with the University's academic, research, and service missions.

OSRS Open House Announcement

The Office of Sponsored Research Services invites you to an OPEN HOUSE at our new offices at 400 Harvey Mitchell Parkway South, Suite 300 on Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Get an inside look at OSRS. Meet the team members and research administrators associated with your sponsored activities. Bring your questions to the experts. View a Maestro demo. Enjoy complimentary refreshments.

All researchers, faculty, and staff are welcome. We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions. Parking is available (no permit required). For more information, call 979.862.6777.

Contact:

Mr. Mark Smock, msmock@tamus.edu

Points of Contact for the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)

If you need to contact an OSRS staff member, please call 862-OSRS (6777), or check our website at <http://www.tamus.edu/offices/cro/osrs/contacts/>.

Contact:

Mr. Mark Smock, msmock@tamus.edu

Reviewers for Limited Submission Proposals

The Office of the Vice President for Research at Texas A&M University is requesting the assistance of CPI members to periodically serve as members of ad hoc review panels for proposals where the sponsor has limited the number of proposals that can be submitted for a particular program. For these "Limited Submission" opportunities, it is often necessary to perform an internal review of "short pre-proposals" to select the proposal(s) that can go forward. For more information on the Limited Submission Process at Texas A&M, please visit: <http://vpr.tamu.edu/funding/lsp>

Contact Dr. J. Martin Scholtz, Associate Vice President for Research (<mailto:jm-scholtz@tamu.edu>) who coordinates the Limited Submission process for additional information and to volunteer as an occasional reviewer. This is an outstanding opportunity for CPI members to participate in the process of TAMU research administration.

Dr. Howard B. Kaplan Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Howard B Kaplan was a Regents Professor, a Distinguished Professor of Sociology and the Mary Thomas Marshall Professor of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University. He received his PhD from New York University in 1958 and was internationally known and regarded as an expert in the area of deviance, social psychology and especially medical sociology. Dr. Kaplan joined the Texas A&M Sociology Department in 1988 (coming from the

Baylor School of Medicine in Houston) and established The Laboratory for Studies of Social Deviance. In addition to directing a myriad of ongoing grants and associated studies, and mentoring graduate students, he regularly taught graduate seminars on social psychology and social deviance. His reputation is demonstrated by his award of the American Sociological Association's Leo G. Reeder Award for a career of distinguished contributions to medical sociology, the highest award that can be given in the area. This award honored his more than 50 years of research that made an indelible impact on the field of medical sociology as well as deviant behavior and social psychology.

To honor his memory, his family and friends are establishing the Howard B. Kaplan Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will help fund graduate students in the department of sociology. Additional information about donating to the scholarship can be found at <http://sociweb.tamu.edu/kapmem.php>.

Contact Information for CPI Representatives

If you are a Principal Investigator at Texas A&M University, the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, AgriLife Research, the Texas A&M Health Science Center, or the Texas Transportation Institute you can find the contact information for your CPI representative(s) at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/members>. PIs are encouraged to send any issues or ideas for improving the Texas A&M research enterprise to their respective CPI representative.

Nominations for Sigma Xi Distinguished Scientist and Outstanding Science Communicator Awards

The Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, has issued a call for nominations for the 2012 Distinguished Scientist Award and the 2012 Outstanding Science Communicator Award. The recipients will receive a plaque and a \$750 cash prize at the Sigma Xi Induction and Awards Banquet in May 2012. The winner of the Distinguished Scientist Award will present the fall 2012 Distinguished Scientist Lecture, hosted by Sigma Xi.

For a nominee to be competitive, he/she should have credentials equivalent to those of previous recipients. See http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/Prizes_and_Awards for information on the awards and previous winners. Nominations should include a nomination letter, curriculum vitae, and letters of support.

Nominations are due by February 13, 2012, and may be submitted via email or through campus or U.S. mail to: Sigma Xi Coordinator, Division of Research, 1112 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1112. Email: sigmaxi@tamu.edu. Please note that membership in Sigma Xi is not required for nominators or nominees.

Posting Faculty-equivalent Research Positions

Effective January 17, 2012, faculty-equivalent research positions must be posted with the Texas Workforce Commission per System Regulation 33.99.01. Procedures and forms for this new requirement may be found at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/resources/staffing/DoRProcedureResearchPosting.pdf>.

Affected positions are: Postdoctoral Research Associate; Assistant Research Scientist; Associate Research Scientist; Research Scientist

PI-DISCUSS LISTSERV renamed FACULTY-DISCUSS

The CPI set up the PI-DISCUSS listserv back in July 2010 to facilitate communication among PIs and others in the research community. Since that time, the scope of the list has expanded beyond solely research-oriented discussions and the membership has expanded outside the PI community. To acknowledge this expansion of scope, we have changed the list to FACULTY-DISCUSS and have retired the PI-DISCUSS listserv.

Everything else is the same, including the subscribers, i.e., if you were subscribed to PI-DISCUSS you are now subscribed to FACULTY-DISCUSS. Below are a few reminders about how the listserv works.

IMPORTANT: ****THE LIST IS NOT PRIVATE****. Anyone can sign-on or sign-off the list by following the instructions below. The list is not moderated, i.e., messages to the list are not approved by a moderator or editor. However, only people subscribed to the list can send to the list. Subscription to the list is voluntary and is managed by the individual. Below are some basic instructions on how to send to the list, and how to sign-off or sign-on the list.

See the following link for additional Listserv info: <http://listserv.tamu.edu/faq/subscriberFAQ.html>

Sending to the List: To send to the list, send e-mail to FACULTY-DISCUSS@listserv.tamu.edu from the email address with which you are subscribed to the listserv. Note: If you want to send from a different email address, then you should re-sign on to the list from your preferred email and probably also sign-off from your other email. You can join or sign-off from the listserv by following this link:

<https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=faculty-discuss&A=1>

CPI Calendar

CPI meetings can now be added electronically to your calendar. Go to http://calendar.tamu.edu/?calendar_id=1230&upcoming=upcoming&limit=100 to see the meeting schedule from January – August 2012.