
CPI Newsletter - November 2010

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Summary of October 13, 2010 CPI Meeting

At the October 13, 2010 CPI meeting, elected Council members met in executive session to discuss focal research areas to address for 2010-2011.

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Preview of December 8, 2010 CPI Meeting

At the December 8, 2010 CPI meeting, there will be a panel discussion on multidisciplinary research. The meeting will take place from 11:30-1:15 p.m. in Rudder, room 601.

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Budget Reallocation Working Group

Texas A&M University President, Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, charged the Budget Reallocation Working Group (**BRWG**) to address the next phase in the budget reallocation process. Specifically, the BRWG was charged to recommend strategic university fiscal investment priorities. The BRWG will provide recommendations to the President by November 19, 2010. The BRWG represents a broad cross-section of students, faculty and staff, including CPI members Drs. Mary Bryk, Mary Jo Richardson, and Terry Thomas. The group is co-chaired by Dr. Pamela Matthews, associate provost for undergraduate studies, and Dr. Karen Butler-Purry, associate vice president for graduate studies. Information on the activities of the BRWG is available at

<http://provost.tamu.edu/strategic-planning-2010/recommendation-formulation>

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Research Administration Shared Services (RASS)

Schaefer & Company, the consultant selected to evaluate TAMUS research administration, has completed its collection of financial data from System members and the Research Foundation, data from benchmark institutions and a PI satisfaction survey. Schaefer is now evaluating alternative organizational structures for managing research administration based on varying operational and timing scenarios. Schaefer met throughout October with System members and Research Foundation representatives to

evaluate key assumptions and develop recommendations. A report to the Board of Regents is anticipated at the December Board meeting.

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Biosafety Advisory Committee

The Biosafety Advisory Committee met on Thursday, October 28, 2010 and discussed a draft report summarizing current concerns and needs of the PIs with respect to biosafety and compliance. The committee also discussed recommendations that will potentially improve services. The discussions will continue during the next meeting when the report will be finalized for presentation to Dr. Seemann in December. The committee welcomes any recent PI experiences with the BSO or IBC.

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EPIK-MAESTRO Working Group

The working group last met on Thursday, November 4th, 2010. The meeting consisted of an update on overall implementation phases and discussion that most of the work for the time being will be accomplished by the various subcommittees addressing the different components of the pre-proposal module and the executive portal. The subcommittees are making progress identifying the basic structure and needs of the following components: key personnel, proposal development, and funding opportunities. The working group will not meet in December, but the subcommittees will continue to meet and finalize details to move forward to production.

Contact:

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Transportation Services Advisory Committee

The Transportation Services Advisory Committee met on October 19th, 2010. One of the two items discussed were the pending meeting between Transportation Services and Lot 23 permit holders. Lot 23 will be closed soon as a result of building construction and the meeting will be to discuss options for permit holders regarding new parking assignments. The other agenda item was the launch of the bicycle program. The program involves free registration for bicycles on campus and more rigorous enforcement of bicycle regulations at bike racks across campus. The first phase of the program launched November 1st. Information regarding the program is available on the Transportation Services website at <http://transport.tamu.edu/bicycles>. The next meeting of the Committee is November 16, 2010.

Contact:

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Faculty Senate Task Force for Academic Excellence

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has formed a Task Force for Academic Excellence. The membership consists of Ramesh Talreja (Chair), Bob Bednarz, Michael Benedik, Mark Clayton, Walter Daugherty, Wendy Keeney-Kennicutt, Andrew Klein, Martha Loudder, Tom Linton (TAMU-G), Peter McIntyre, Adam Myers, Thomas C. Omer, Brian Perkins, Dale Rice, John Stallone and Bob Strawser. The first meeting of the task force took place on October 27, 2010. The task force is charged with producing a document with the following chapters (or sections): TAMU Mission; Education & Research; Proposed Solutions, Recommendations; and Closure. A blog-based forum for faculty input to the task force will be created.

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Update and Next Steps Regarding the IUMRIs

Following the Academic Master Planning Process, Texas A&M University identified eight multidisciplinary research groups for extraordinary support. These groups have been called "Initial University Multidisciplinary Research Initiatives" or IUMRIs for short. Seven of the eight IUMRIs have been approved to receive operating funds, and faculty searches have been approved for each of these groups as discussed in their implementation plans. As the IUMRIs develop; colleges, departments, the IUMRIs, and the Division of Research and Graduate Studies will work together to assure success as multidisciplinary initiatives. In an October 27, 2010 memo to the Provost, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, College Deans and Directors of the IUMRI programs, it was suggested that next steps in advancing these initiatives should include assuring multidisciplinary and decanal oversight.

It is expected that upcoming meetings with the deans and the IUMRI conveners will discuss progress to date and plans for the future.

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Texas A&M Marketing and Public Relations Efforts

At the November 3, 2010 CPI Executive Committee (EC) meeting, the EC met with Jason Cook, Michael O'Quinn and representatives from the communication units of Texas A&M, HSC, TEES, TTI and AgriLife Research to discuss current efforts of marketing and public relations. Mr. Cook shared the presentation, *Texas A&M as a Research Giant – Telling the Greater Story*, and discussed the unified public relations and marketing efforts of The Texas A&M University System Members in telling of the benefits of research to the local community, state and nation. Principal Investigators are invited to share research success stories by sending a brief summary to jason.cook@tamu.edu.

Contact:

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PI-DISCUSS Listserv for PI Communication

The CPI has set up a listserv PI-DISCUSS@listserv.tamu.edu to facilitate communication among PIs and others in the research community. 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.

Anyone can join or sign-off from the listserv by following this link: <https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=pi-discuss&A=1>

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