



# Council of Principal Investigators

Principal Investigators,

The meeting materials for the February 8, 2012 CPI meeting (Rudder 701; 11:30-1:15 p.m.) are available at [http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI\\_2.8.12.pdf](http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_2.8.12.pdf). Dr. James Kracht and Dr. Sumana Datta will present on “*Expanding and Enhancing Undergraduate Research*”, and Dr. Karen Butler-Purry will present on “*Promoting and Strengthening Graduate Studies at Texas A&M.*”

If you plan to attend in person as an observer, please email [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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 – February 2012**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Included in this issue are updates/information on:**

- Spring PI census, CPI nominations and elections
- Preview of March 7, 2012 CPI meeting
- Summary of January 18, 2012 CPI meeting
- Summary of January 18, 2012 CPI EC meeting with CEOs and CROs
- Summary of February 1, 2012 CPI EC meeting research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI
- Feedback on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)
- EPIK-Maestro Working Group update
- Council on the Built Environment (CBE) update
- Budget Reallocation Activity 2 Proposal Review Committee
- Providing raises for research staff supported by federal grants
- Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study
- Points of contacts for the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)
- Dr. Howard B. Kaplan memorial scholarship
- Student Research Week – Request for Judges
- Nominations for Sigma Xi Distinguished Scientist and Outstanding Science Communicator Awards
- Contact information for CPI Representatives
- FACULTY-DISCUSS Listserv
- CPI meeting calendar
- Did you know?

Mail Stop 1112 • College Station, TX 77843-1112 • (979) 458-1861 • [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) • <http://cpi.tamu.edu>

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

---

### **Spring PI census, CPI nominations and elections**

---

Each spring the CPI conducts a PI census for every college/unit at Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI. Census results are used to allocate CPI seats to college/units represented on the Council. If a college/unit will have an open seat(s) for the upcoming academic year, then a nomination and election process is held to fill the open seat(s). CPI members serve a 3 year term on the Council, beginning on September 1 and ending on August 31, and may serve two consecutive terms.

The census is expected to be completed at the end of February 2012, with CPI nominations/elections to follow in March 2012. Additional information on the PI census and CPI elections can be found at [http://cpi.tamu.edu/records/12census\\_elect\\_info](http://cpi.tamu.edu/records/12census_elect_info).

### **Preview of March 7, 2012 CPI meeting**

---

Dr. Rodney P. McClendon, J.D., Ph.D., will provide a presentation and discussion on the various departments within the [Division of Administration](#) at the March 7, 2012 CPI meeting from 11:30-1:15 p.m. in Rudder 601. Additional CPI meeting information can be found at: <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings>

### **Summary of January 18, 2012 CPI meeting**

---

At the January 18, 2012 CPI meeting, Dr. B. Don Russell, Regents Professor and Harry E. Bovay, Jr. Endowed Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Dwight Look College of Engineering, presented on "The Academies – State of Membership at Texas A&M," and Dr. John L. Junkins, Regents Professor, Holder of the Royce Wisenbaker Chair, Department of Aerospace Engineering, presented on the [Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Studies \(TIAS\)](#). Dr. Junkins is also the interim director of the institute. Presentation slides and meeting video can be found at: <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings>

### **Summary of January 18, 2012 CPI EC meeting CEOs and CROs**

---

The CPI EC's quarterly meeting with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Chief Research Officers (CROs) from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI was held on January 18, 2012. Attendees discussed mechanisms to continue to grow the TAMUS funding base, specifically by expanding and supporting the research infrastructure at all levels and developing the Office of Research Development (ORD). Discussion also centered on how to facilitate and grow interdisciplinary programs. Other business items included standardizing the method for communicating internal funding opportunities; a proposal for a CPI Advisory Committee; and the mechanism to provide raises for research staff supported by federal grants.

### **Summary of February 1, 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 February 1, 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. Attendees discussed updates on the OSRS PI/Faculty Advisory Committee (PIFAC); agenda items for the February 15, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the Provost; follow up items from the January 18, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the CEOs and CROs; and suggestions for the February 2012 newsletter. The CPI EC meeting schedule is available at [http://calendar.tamu.edu/?calendar\\_id=1230&upcoming=upcoming&limit=100](http://calendar.tamu.edu/?calendar_id=1230&upcoming=upcoming&limit=100).

### **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](mailto:pi-osrs-comments@tamu.edu).

---

## **EPIK-Maestro Working Group update**

---

At the February 2, 2012 EPIK-Maestro Working Group meeting, Ms. Leonarda Horvat, Chief Information Officer and Director of TEES Information Systems, and representatives from her office presented on the following: the summary report submitted to the EPIK-Maestro Steering Committee; an update on proposal implementation; and information on "Contract Log Implementation" and requirements for Grants.gov.

Mr. Horvat informed the group that as of February 2, 2012, 839 proposals had been submitted, 222 had been completed, and 233 were in routing. In order to process a proposal submission, PIs and/or Co-PIs need a Maestro account. To obtain a Maestro account, there is an available form for interested individuals to complete. The form includes the individual's University Identification Number (UIN). Ms. Horvat also informed the group that PIs and/or Co-PIs can check the compliance section on-line. With the exception of the personnel section, PIs and Co-PIs will have access to the entire proposal at all times. Also presented was a newly created section for funding opportunities. Under this section interested PIs and/or Co-PIs can use key words to access grants and contract opportunities related to their areas of expertise.

Personnel from various offices at the system level continue participating in different pilot activities. Finally, participants provided comments and feedback to the components of the EPIK-Maestro portal such as: contract negotiator, negotiable indicator, restricted indicator, contract numbering, available proposals, proposal status such as, awarded, pending, what imports into Maestro, and what contract data other systems need. The next EPIK-Maestro Working Group meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2012.

Contact:

Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, [a-lara@tamu.edu](mailto:a-lara@tamu.edu)

Dr. Beverly Kuhn, [b-kuhn@tamu.edu](mailto:b-kuhn@tamu.edu)

Dr. Jamie Foster, [jlfoster@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jlfoster@ag.tamu.edu)

## **Council on the Built Environment (CBE) update**

---

Council of Built Environment (CBE) is a university-wide committee that makes decisions about allocation of campus building space, preservation, renovation, reconstruction and new construction of buildings, and other elements of the built environment on Campus such as sport facilities, parking lots, signage, statues, flags and plaques, horticultural designs, etc. The Committee is chaired by Dr. Rodney P. McClendon, Vice President for Administration, and CBE reports to the University President through Karan Watson, the University Provost, who is also an Ex-Officio member of the Council. The CBE recommendations are sent to the President for final review and approval. While many decisions of the CBE affect all aspects of life on Campus, the most relevant topics to the CPI membership that were addressed over the last year include: Allocation and re-distribution of the space in various buildings on Campus; change of ownership of campus buildings; approval of design issues with buildings such as lab construction; approval of add-on construction to the various buildings; and approval of temporary construction such as experimental facilities for research.

The decisions of CBE are done through a vote of the CBE members. Recommendations for various actions are quite often presented by the sub-councils on particular issues such as Technical Design Sub-council, and Technical Review Sub-council. The CBE meetings are held once a month and minutes are readily available. Further details related to CBE activities can be obtained from Ms. Jo Williams at [jowilliams@tamu.edu](mailto:jowilliams@tamu.edu) or 979-862-1065.

Contact:

Dr. Mladen Kezunovic, [kezunov@ece.tamu.edu](mailto:kezunov@ece.tamu.edu)

## **Budget Reallocation Activity 2 - Proposal Review Committee**

---

In the Fall of 2011, the CPI selected two members to serve on the Budget Reallocation Activity 2 proposal review committee. To remind you, Budget Reallocation Activity 2 is expected to provide \$1M in recurrent

---

funding to support up to 10 proposals annually. The successful proposals will provide activities aimed to improve undergraduate and graduate student learning and faculty engagement through high-impact educational practices, nontraditional course delivery methods, and multidisciplinary approaches that address societal challenges collaboratively. Applicants can request project funds for up to 3 years. However, in the first year of the program, about three projects will be selected for 3 years of funding, about three will be funded for 2 years and about three projects will be funded for 1 year. As the program proceeds, the goal is to add three to four projects every year. These additional projects may be funded for 1 to 3 years.

The Activity 2 proposal review committee was chaired by the Dean of Faculties Antonio Cepeda-Benito and the Speaker of the Faculty Senate, Mike Benedik. The evaluation committee was made up of 18 voting members appointed by the deans of the colleges, schools, and libraries (11), by the Faculty Senate (2), by the Council of Principal Investigators (2), by the Vice President for Student Affairs LtGen Joe Weber (2), and by Provost Watson (1).

The evaluation committee met four times last fall and this spring to develop an RFP (called Integration of Multidisciplinary Research and Creative Activities into the Learning Experience that was distributed to faculty in October 2011), to develop review criteria, to obtain copies of the 35 submitted proposals, and to discuss and rank proposals. The last meeting was on Wednesday January 25, 2012. The Dean of Faculties has submitted a ranked list of proposals to the Provost.

Contact:

Dr. Mary Bryk, [bryk@tamu.edu](mailto:bryk@tamu.edu)

Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, [a-lara@tamu.edu](mailto:a-lara@tamu.edu)

### **Providing raises for research staff supported by federal grants**

-----

There has been confusion over whether research staff supported by federal grants can be given raises when raises for employees supported by state funds are not allowed. As discussed at the November 7, 2011 CPI Executive Committee meeting, current policy allows for raises to be given to research staff supported by federal grants if the raises are properly justified and approved by the dean of the college. For details about the process for requesting and justifying raises for research staff supported by federal grants, you are encouraged to contact the dean of your college.

Contact:

Dr. Paul Hardin, [phardin@bio.tamu.edu](mailto:phardin@bio.tamu.edu)

### **Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study**

-----

This spring and summer the Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) will invite 6-10 top scholars from across the country to research and teach in collaboration with faculty and student scholars at Texas A&M. The TIAS Faculty Fellows will hold appointments for up to a year and will be selected through a faculty-led nomination process designed to attract pre-eminent thinkers from throughout the nation and abroad. During their stay at Texas A&M, the Faculty Fellows will engage Texas A&M faculty and students in ways intended to enhance the University's intellectual climate and to deepen educational experiences for students. Faculty Fellow nominations are due Feb. 17. More information on TIAS and the nomination process can be found at <http://tias.tamu.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](mailto:msmock@tamus.edu)

---

### **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>.

### **Student Research Week – Request for Judges**

-----

Student Research Week (SRW) is an annual student-run research conference and competition designed to promote student research at Texas A&M University. SRW leaders are seeking your support to help make Student Research Week a successful Aggie tradition. Please consider participating as a judge (topic and/or layman judge) <http://srw.tamu.edu/judges>; encourage your students to participate as a competitor in oral or poster competitions, as a volunteer, or as an attendee. Graduate students are also invited to participate as judges; please consider listing SRW on your spring semester syllabi and/or offering an incentive (such as extra points) for students who attend or compete.

Registration Process for Judges: Register online at <http://srw.tamu.edu/judges>; An email will be forwarded in early March regarding the sessions schedule. Registration deadline: Feb. 24, 2014

### **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](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](mailto:sigmaxi@tamu.edu). Please note that membership in Sigma Xi is not required for nominators or nominees.

### **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.

### **FACULTY-DISCUSS Listserv**

-----

A listserv ([FACULTY-DISCUSS@listserv.tamu.edu](mailto:FACULTY-DISCUSS@listserv.tamu.edu)) has been set up to facilitate communication among faculty and others. 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.

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](http://calendar.tamu.edu/?calendar_id=1230&upcoming=upcoming&limit=100) to see the meeting schedule from January – August 2012.

### **Did you know?**

-----

Did you know the Texas A&M Division of Research, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI provide annual (and equal) funding that supports the activities (lunches for full and EC meetings and a 50% time staff person) of the Council of Principal Investigators?