

CPI Newsletter
March 2011

Principal Investigators,

The agenda and materials for the March 9, 2011 CPI meeting (Rudder 601; 11:30-1:15 pm) are available on the CPI website at http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_3.9.11.pdf. The meeting will feature a presentation on Texas A&M's ADVANCE Center for Women Faculty by Dr. Sherry Yennello; a presentation on Deemed Export Control Attestation by Mr. Mario Rojo del Busto; and **importantly** comments and input on Research Administration Shared Services. If you plan to attend in person as an observer, please email cpi@tamu.edu.

The meetings are open to the public and are webcast live at <http://tvn.tamu.edu/webcasts> on Channel 20. Previous CPI meetings can be viewed at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/videos>.

Our 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,

Terry Thomas, Ph.D.
Chair, Council of Principal Investigators

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Included in this issue are updates/information on:

- Preview of April 13, 2011 CPI Meeting
- Update on RASS Development and Implementation Steering Committee
- Feedback requested on "Best Practices" for pre- and post-award services
- Texas A&M's ADVANCE Center for Women Faculty
- Call for Proposals for the 2011-2012 Undergraduate Research Scholars & Fellows Program
- New Foreign Assistance Dashboard
- University Rule Update
- Texas A&M University and The National Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT) Proposals
- PI-DISCUSS listserv established to facilitate PI communication

Preview of April 13, 2011 CPI Meeting

The next CPI meeting is Wednesday, April 13, 2011 from 11:30 am. - 1:15 pm. in Rudder 701. The meeting will feature a presentation on Enhancing and Expanding Undergraduate Research by Dr. Pamela Matthews and Dr. Sumana Datta.

Contact:
Dr. Terry Thomas, tthomas@tamu.edu

Update on RASS Development and Implementation Steering Committee

The Research Administration Shared Services Development and Implementation Steering Committee (RASS DISC) is making remarkable progress towards a **draft** proposal for an integrated TAMUS RASS enterprise that will provide timely and cost-effective research administration services to **all** TAMUS research entities and PIs. It is anticipated that an initial **draft** proposal will be generally available for review and comment no later than Friday, March 11th.

Contact:
Dr. Terry Thomas, tthomas@tamu.edu

Feedback requested on “Best Practices” for pre- and post-award services

The Research Administration Shared Services Development and Implementation Steering Committee (**RASS DISC**) seeks input for pre- and post- award services for all contracts and grants sought by and awarded to all System members. Information on the **RASS DISC** process is available at the following System site: <http://www.tamus.edu/offices/cro/activities/>.

Using the following list of Research Administration Activities as a guideline, please describe the “Best Practices” for each research administration activity that affects your program. Furthermore, designate the units to which these best practices apply. Feel free to add additional best practices as needed. Please provide your “best practices” response by replying to this email no later than noon on Friday, March 11, 2011. Timely return of this information will help meet the time line set by the Board of Regents.

Research Administration Activities:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Purchasing < \$5,000 | 12. Account Balances |
| 2. Purchasing > \$5,000 | 13. Payroll |
| 3. Travel-Domestic | 14. Contractual Agreements |
| 4. Travel-International | 15. Account Set Up |
| 5. Airfare | 16. Account Close Out |
| 6. Travel Advances | 17. Project cost Pre-audit |
| 7. International Agreements | 18. Disbursements |
| 8. GSA Schedule | 19. Accounts Receivable |
| 9. Consulting Groups | 20. Cost Sharing/Matching |
| 10. Non-Profit Status (The Research Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation) | 21. Project Insurance |
| 11. Tuition Payments | 22. Project Equipment Acquisition |
| | 23. Performance Measurements |

Sincerely,

Terry Thomas, Ph.D.
Chair, Council of Principal Investigators
tthomas@tamu.edu

Glenn Laine, Ph.D.
Convener of TAMU Department Heads
GLAINE@cvm.tamu.edu

Texas A&M’s ADVANCE Center for Women Faculty

Dr. Sherry Yennello, Regents Professor of Chemistry and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Science, and Christine Kaunas, MPH, Director, are scheduled to meet with the CPI to discuss Texas A&M’s ADVANCE Center for Women Faculty. The mission of the ADVANCE Program is to transform Texas A&M University by enhancing and sustaining gender equity and improving representation of women faculty in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The goals of the Center are to improve the workplace climate for women STEM faculty, promote women STEM faculty to higher ranks and to administration, recruit the next generation of women STEM academicians, increase retention of women STEM faculty, and institutionalize activities that prove to increase gender equity. The underlying conceptual framework for the Center’s diversity-enhancing activities is the American Psychological Association’s Psychologically Healthy Workplace (PHW). PHW is an evidence-based initiative that enhances productivity and well-being in the workplace for all employees.

Visit: <http://advance.tamu.edu>

Contact:
Chris Kaunas, ckaunas@tamu.edu

Call for Proposals for the 2011-2012 Undergraduate Research Scholars & Fellows Program

Honors and Undergraduate Research wishes to announce the call for proposals for the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program and the Undergraduate Research Fellows Program for the 2011-2012 academic year. The goal of these programs is to encourage capable undergraduates to participate actively in research/scholarly projects and to give them the opportunity to communicate their findings as principal authors to the university's scholarly community.

The deadline for proposals for the 2011-12 academic year is Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 5 p.m.

For more information about the Undergraduate Research Scholars and Fellows Programs, visit our web site at <http://honors.tamu.edu/Research/Scholars&Fellows.html>

If you have questions about the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, please direct them to Dr. Sumana Datta, Executive Director for Honors and Undergraduate Research at ugr@honors.tamu.edu or phone 979-845-1957

New Foreign Assistance Dashboard

Visit the new Foreign Assistance Dashboard at <http://foreignassistance.gov> for a user-friendly way to find key State and USAID foreign assistance budget and appropriation data that you can manually query, filter, and download. The Office of Electronic Information, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein. You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact support@govdelivery.com. This service is provided to you at no charge by the [U.S. Department of State](http://www.state.gov). For additional information, contact Suzanne Droleskey (sdroleskey@tamu.edu).

University Rule Update

University rule 15.01.01.M1, Treatment of Costs for Sponsored Agreements was recently revised. Revisions are not substantive. Contract administration will no longer oversee this rule; the Division of Research and Graduate Studies will now have oversight. OMB Circular A references throughout the document have been redirected to Title 2 CFR Part 220. See <http://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.01.01.M1.pdf> for details.

Texas A&M University and The National Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT) Proposals

Texas A&M University and The National Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT) have announced the request for proposals for the Texas A&M University-CONACYT: Collaborative Research Grant Program for 2011. This program annually awards one-year grants of up to \$24,000 to faculty members to advance inter-institutional cooperation in science, technology, and scholarly activities through the complementary efforts of scientists and scholars from Texas A&M and Mexican institutions. A letter of intent is required and must be received by 12 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, in order to be eligible to submit a full proposal. Full proposals must be submitted, routed electronically for appropriate signatures, and received by 12 p.m. on Thursday, April 28.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Monica Holder at m-holder@tamu.edu <<mailto:m-holder@tamu.edu>>. Texas A&M University and CONACYT have had an agreement of cooperation in higher education and research since 2001. This partnership provides unique opportunities for researchers from Mexico and Texas A&M University to work together in addressing issues of common concern on both sides of the border.

For more information on the program and submission instructions see:

<http://conacyt.tamu.edu>.

PI-DISCUSS Listserv for PI Communication

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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>

Contact:

Dr. Nancy Amato, amato@tamu.edu