



# Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – March 2014  
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PIs are encouraged to contact their elected [college/unit representatives](#) to bring forward any issues for the Council to address during the monthly meetings. PIs can also contact me directly at [slowey@ocean.tamu.edu](mailto:slowey@ocean.tamu.edu) or 845-8478.

### **Summary of CPI EC meetings with administration**

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The CPI Executive Committee (EC) will meet next with Interim Texas A&M President and Provost on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The CPI EC will also hold its next monthly meeting with invited research administration representatives from AgriLife, HSC, Texas A&M, TEES and TTI on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Lastly, the CPI EC is scheduled to meet with The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents Chairman, Phil Adams and Regent Charles Schwartz on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Summaries of the aforementioned meetings will be provided in the April CPI newsletter.

### **CPI-Sponsored Open Forum on Draft Proposal Re: F&A Earnings**

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As reported by the CPI membership through their respective college/unit listservs, Dr. Glen Laine, Vice President for Research at Texas A&M University, came to the February 12<sup>th</sup> CPI meeting to discuss and answer questions relating to the draft proposal entitled “*Research Development Fund: A New Model for the Use of Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Earnings for Texas A&M*” (click [here](#) for the proposal, and [here](#) for the meeting video).

At previous CPI and CPI Executive Committee meetings and again at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, PIs have repeatedly asked pertinent questions regarding the draft “*Research Development Funds*” proposal that can only be addressed by the Deans of Ag and Engineering and the Provost, since they or their designees were the primary negotiators and authors of the draft proposal.

The following individuals have accepted an invitation to participate in a CPI-sponsored open forum/panel discussion on **March 7<sup>th</sup> (2-4 p.m.) in Rudder 601**, which will provide PIs an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments directly related to the aforementioned draft proposal:

- Dr. M. Katherine Banks, Director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station and Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering, Texas A&M University;
- Dr. Bill Dugas, Acting Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences, The Texas A&M University System;
- Dr. Glen A. Laine, Vice President for Research, Texas A&M University;
- Dr. Karan L. Watson, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Texas A&M University

While attendance is open for any PI to attend and an RSVP isn’t necessary, if PIs could [click here](#) to let us know if they plan to attend, it will help us ensure there is adequate seating for everyone.

### **SAVE THE DATE – 2014 Undergraduate Research Mini-Symposium**

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Interested in increasing your research and scholarly activity? Thinking of moving in a new direction or adding a new dimension to your projects?

On Wednesday, March 19, 2014 (2 – 5 p.m. – [click here for flyer](#)) in the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building Auditorium, come hear eminent faculty in Humanities, Social Science, Engineering and Science discuss their strategies and priorities for integrating undergraduates into their scholarship team. Discover how experienced undergraduate scholars view their experiences. Please register for this free event at [ers.tamu.edu](http://ers.tamu.edu). For questions, contact Ms. Sandra Chavarria – [schavarria@tamu.edu](mailto:schavarria@tamu.edu).

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## IT Advisory Committee (ITAC) Survey

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The IT Advisory Committee (ITAC) recently completed an IT Vision for Texas A&M University. [http://itacwiki.tamu.edu/Strategic\\_Vision](http://itacwiki.tamu.edu/Strategic_Vision).

This spring, ITAC will present the IT Vision to various committees across campus and solicit feedback. They will present to CPI during the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you cannot attend, but would like to provide feedback please complete the short, two-question survey located at [https://tamu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_9vRUZOU76j5zslR](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9vRUZOU76j5zslR). You can see a copy of their power point presentation and handout at [http://itacwiki.tamu.edu/Communication\\_Plan#Meeting\\_Schedule](http://itacwiki.tamu.edu/Communication_Plan#Meeting_Schedule).

## Update from the Texas A&M Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS)

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In February The Texas A&M Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) inducted its second class of TIAS Faculty Fellows at a black tie Gala on campus on February 7, 2014. Also inducted was Dr. Vernon Smith, the 2002 Nobel Prize winner in Economics, who was in the first class but could not make the induction ceremony in 2013. A speech at the Gala on behalf of the second class was made by Dr. Roger Howe, a mathematician from Yale but a TIAS Faculty Fellow in the College of Education and Human Development, who praised TIAS for its promotion of collaboration across fields of study, which he attributes to promoting significant advances in man's knowledge. [Click here](#) for a link to the New York Times article about the induction of the second class.

Two members of the second class were awarded major honors after they were selected as TIAS Faculty Fellows, substantiating that TIAS's selection process is merit based and is working as planned. Dr. Leif Andersson, visiting from Sweden, won the Wolf Prize (an award on par with the Nobel Prize) in Agriculture in January, and Dr. Robert Levine, probably best known at A&M for being the editor of the five volumes of the Norton Anthology of American Literature, was awarded the Hubbell Medal in literature in December 2013.

The TIAS Gala was preceded by a brunch for TIAS Advocates at which the importance of TIAS to A&M's future as a world academic leader was discussed by Nobel Prize winners, some on the A&M faculty and two visiting A&M as TIAS Faculty Fellows. Former President of Texas A&M University, Dr. Ray Bowen, returned to campus to be moderator of the Nobel panel.

A public lecture was presented by Dr. Peter Liss, a TIAS Faculty Fellow from the U.K. in the Department of Oceanography, followed by a tribute banquet on February 14 to honor Dr. Liss given by the College of Geosciences.

Contact:

Dr. Clifford Fry - [cfry@tamu.edu](mailto:cfry@tamu.edu) or 979-458-5723

## Climate Workshops (March 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>)

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Mark your calendars for one of two Climate Workshops on March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (box lunches provided). Locations TBD (likely in Eller O&M on March 10<sup>th</sup>). The workshop schedule is available at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/resources/2014-climate-workshops>. Please RSVP by March 7<sup>th</sup> to [gws@geos.tamu.edu](mailto:gws@geos.tamu.edu) with the date of the workshop you plan to attend.

Contact:

Dr. Gunnar Schade – [gws@geos.tamu.edu](mailto:gws@geos.tamu.edu) or 979-458-5723

## Texas A&M National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) Collaborative Research Grant Program

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A call for Letters of Intent has been issued for the 2014 Texas A&M–NSFC Collaborative Research Grant Program. This newly developed program between Texas A&M University and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) aims to encourage research collaborations between faculty at Texas A&M and faculty at Chinese universities or research institutes. The program is designed to facilitate faculty-to-faculty collaboration and deepen research ties, with the aim to further basic scientific research that can foster joint applications to extramural funding programs.

The [announcement](#) at the website for the Division of Research gives details about this program, including priority research areas and submission processes. The due date for letters of intent is Monday, March 24, 2014, 11:59 p.m. (CST). Full proposals must be submitted to Texas A&M and NSFC by Monday, May 5, 2014, 11:59 p.m. (CST).

This program is open to all areas of research that are mutually supported by NSFC and Texas A&M. Research areas supported by NSFC are described in its [annual program guide](#) and more generally at [NSFC's English website](#).

Awards, which will offer up to \$25,000 in support for the Texas A&M faculty member and up to 50,000 RMB for the Chinese collaborator, must involve a joint research project directed by two principal investigators—one from Texas A&M and one from a Chinese university or research institution.

The program is open to all tenured or tenure-track faculty at Texas A&M University. The principal investigator in China must have a current NSFC grant.

Please contact Ms. Monica Holder ([m-holder@tamu.edu](mailto:m-holder@tamu.edu)) if you have questions regarding the program.

#### **Pending reports from CPI representatives serving on external committees (CPI representative)**

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- Council for the Built Environment (Paul Hardin)
- Council for the Strategic Budgeting and Strategic Reallocation Sub-Council (Mary Bryk)
- Email Selection Advisory Committee (Terry Thomas)
- EPIK-Maestro Working Group (Beverly Kuhn, Terry Thomas, Victor Ugaz)
- Federal Demonstration Partnership (Wolfgang Bangerth)
- Graduate Student Copyright/IP Policies Review Task Force (Jean Luc-Guermond, Sandy Tucker)
- Intellectual Property Constituent Committee (Wolfgang Bangerth)
- Laboratory Safety Advisory Committee (Mary Bryk)
- PricewaterhouseCoopers Administrative Review Advisory Committee (Lawrence Rauchwerger, Eva Shipp, Heather Wilkinson)
- SRS PI/Faculty Advisory Committee (Terry Thomas, Lawrence Rauchwerger, Niall Slowey)
- Texas A&M University Research Administration Committee (Terry Thomas)
- Texas A&M University Multidisciplinary Accounting Committee (Steve DiMarco)
- Transportation Services Advisory Committee (Sandy Tucker)
- University Research Council (Clint Allred)

See the full list of CPI members serving on external committees and committee descriptions at [goo.gl/rP41nF](http://goo.gl/rP41nF).

#### **Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities**

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Up-to-date limited submission proposal opportunities, including deadlines for required letters of intent, are available on the website of the Division of Research at [vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/funding/lsp/lsp/#limited-submission-proposal-opportunities](http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/funding/lsp/lsp/#limited-submission-proposal-opportunities).