



Council of Principal Investigators

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

Principal Investigators,

The agenda and materials for the May 11, 2011 CPI meeting (Rudder 601; 11:30-1:15 pm) are available on the CPI website at http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_5.11.11.pdf.

The meeting will feature discussions on the following items: Maestro Faculty Resume Module by Ms. Leonarda Horvat; Update on the Office of Sponsored Research (OSRS) by Mr. Mark Smock; Emergency Processes for Students Conducting Research Abroad by Dr. Suzanne Droleskey; and Celebrating and Promoting Faculty and Institutional Success by Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann.

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://ttvn.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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CPI Newsletter – May 2011
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Included in this issue are updates/information on:

- Preview of June 8, 2011 CPI meeting
- Update on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)
- Transportation Services Advisory Committee
- Maestro Working Group
- Handling Student Emergencies Abroad When Conducting Research
- Survey on Maestro Faculty Resume Module
- TAMU Africa Working Group Formed
- 2011-12 CPI Election Summary
- PI-DISCUSS listserv established to facilitate PI communication

Preview of June 8, 2011 CPI Meeting

Mr. Brooks Moore, Managing Counsel at The Texas A&M University System, will present on Public Information Requests at the June 8, 2011 CPI meeting.

Contact:

Dr. Terry Thomas, tthomas@tamu.edu

Update on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)

The OSRS continues to move forward in getting established. Space has been secured and the office will be located at 400 Harvey Mitchell Parkway, suite 300. This location may sound familiar to you as it is the space right next to the Research Foundation. We will begin making minor building modifications so that the new space and the Research Foundation space will become one. Work continues on identifying the staffing needs of the OSRS. Work groups are meeting at least weekly if not more often to make recommendations regarding best practices for HR issues, general accounting, purchasing, accounts payable/travel, accounts receivable, fixed assets and project payroll. Contrary to many rumors no final decisions have been reached on best practices at this time.

The priority for the next few weeks will be the development of the OSRS Organizational Chart, and the identification of the final number of staff members to move into the OSRS. We will also be working on the creation of the OSRS Oversight Committee and the PI/Faculty Advisory Committee.

Contact:

Mr. Mark Smock, msmock@tamu.edu

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

The Transportation Services Advisory Committee met on April 19, 2011 after a 2 month hiatus. The group further discussed the Ross Street Operations project and voted to support the project with a caveat that the previously voiced concerns of the TSAC are recorded and shared with the University community and that a review of the plan be conducted after implementation to see if it is operating well. The group also heard a presentation from the Aggie Association of Blind Students regarding changes that have been and are being implemented to enhance accessibility to the campus transportation system. The group also heard reports on permit registration, the bike program, new visitor parking areas, bollard installation, and a pending license plate recognition software. Please let Beverly Kuhn know if you have any questions regarding the TSAC.

Contact:

Dr. Beverly Kuhn, b-kuhn@tamu.edu

Maestro Working Group

The MAESTRO Working Group met on April 7th and May 3rd to discuss progress on system development. Final changes are being made to the Researcher Portal, and the Executive Portal is scheduled for release in June. Over the next month, the sub-groups on (1) proposal, compliance, routing, and approval, (2) budget current and pending, routing, and approval, and (3) negotiation will be meeting to identify best practices for and a working manual to facilitate implementation. It is the intent of the pre-award module will be ready in September 2011. Please let Beverly Kuhn know if you have any questions.

Contact:

Dr. Beverly Kuhn, b-kuhn@tamu.edu

Handling Student Emergencies Abroad When Conducting Research

In summer 2010 an incident occurred abroad with two students (one graduate and one undergraduate) who were conducting research abroad. One of these students became critically ill and was moved to a

third country center of medical excellence to receive medical treatment. The dean of the college where the incident occurred requested an investigation by an outside committee and authorized a redacted, summarized version of the committee's report (http://cpi.tamu.edu/SAPPC_Report.pdf). The dean also agreed to share the report broadly in the hopes that all colleges and branch campuses could benefit from an internal review of their practices related to engaging students in research conducted abroad, both by graduate and undergraduate students. PIs are encouraged to read this report and have discussions about this information within their departments and research groups. The Study Abroad Programs Office would be happy to be involved in these discussions as needed or provide PIs with additional information about services available to assist them and their students engaged abroad in research activities. The office also invites feedback from PIs about services needed, but perhaps not currently provided, to assist PIs as they make these important opportunities available for students.

Contact:

Dr. Suzanne Droleskey, sdroleskey@tamu.edu

Survey on Maestro Faculty Resume Module

The Maestro Working Group is currently developing a Maestro Faculty Resume module. We would like to be able to upload the existing resumes available in the structured database format throughout the campus, without asking faculty/researcher to do Maestro data entry. In order to get information about the types of interfaces that we will be required to build in Maestro, we are asking researchers to take a very brief survey at the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FYZY5LR> by noon on Friday, May 9, 2011.

Contact:

Ms. Leonarda Horvat, l-horvat@tamu.edu

TAMU Africa Working Group Formed

At the request of several TAMU faculty members, an informal, interdisciplinary Africa Working Group has been established within the Office of the Provost, International Initiatives. The purpose of the working group is to support and serve as a resource for all ongoing and future activities, programs and projects related to Africa at Texas A&M University. The group is comprised of faculty, staff and researchers from across campus and is open to anyone who is interested. The working group meets once a month to discuss ongoing activities related to Africa, as well as upcoming events and opportunities to collaborate (research projects, student programs, proposals, etc.). If you are interested in learning more about the working group or joining the next meeting, please contact Stephanie Curs (s-curs@tamu.edu or 845.2262).

2011-12 CPI Election Results

Information on the 2011 PI spring census, results of the 2011-12 CPI elections, and the 2011-12 CPI membership roster (effective September 1, 2011) can be found at http://cpi.tamu.edu/records/11election_results

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>

Contact:

Dr. Nancy Amato, amato@tamu.edu