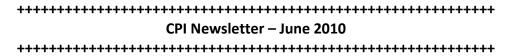
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Included in this issue are updates/information on:

- Summary of May 12, 2010 CPI Meeting
- 2010-2011 CPI Vice Chair Election Results
- Research Administration Shared Services (RASS) Consultant's PI Survey
- Biosafety Support Team hosts Open Forums
- Bioinformatics Forum Summary & Next Steps
- BOR Reviewing Faculty Development Leave for A&M System Universities
- NIH Requests Comments on Proposed Change in Managing Financial Conflicts of Interest

Summary of May 12, 2010 CPI Meeting

At the May 12, 2010 CPI meeting, Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at Texas A&M University, discussed the research and development services at Texas A&M University, specifically with regards to the future of the Office of Proposal Development (OPD) and the objective of enhancing its contributions to Texas A&M's higher success rate in large grants for centers, institutes, IGERTs, graduate training grants, and other large multi-investigator grants. Other issues covered included Biosafety, Research Park, and the challenge of scaling undergraduate research so a greater percentage of students can participate. Next, Mr. Michael O'Quinn, Vice President for Governmental Relations at Texas A&M University, presented "Trends in Federal Research Funding".

The video and other materials for the May meeting can be found at http://cpi.tamu.edu/videos/may-12-2010-cpi-meeting

2010-2011 CPI Vice Chair Election Results

Voting for the vice chair run-off election concluded on Wednesday, May 18, 2010, resulting in the election of Lawrence Rauchwerger (Engineering) as the 2010-2011 CPI vice chair. The CPI would like to congratulate the newly elected vice chair and thank all of the highly qualified council members who accepted nominations of candidacy for the 2010-2011 CPI vice chair position. The 2010-2011 CPI vice chair will serve as chair in 2011-2012 and past chair in 2012-2013.

The 2010-2011 CPI officers are Terry Thomas (Science), chair; Lawrence Rauchwerger (Engineering), vice chair; and Nancy Amato (Engineering), past chair.

The 2010-2011 CPI membership roster can be found at http://cpi.tamu.edu/2010members.pdf.

Update on Research Administration Shared Services (RASS): Consultant's PI Survey

As reported last month, Schaefer & Company was selected to assist in an evaluation of research administration within the System. Based in Charlottesville, Virginia, Schaefer & Company is a strategic and technology management consulting firm that works with universities and corporations in conducting research productivity evaluations. Their research and analysis will include an evaluation of organization models that should be considered for contract and grant administration including consolidation of functions, a fully distributed network, or some variations thereof. As part of their data gathering, a sample of PIs will be asked to complete a survey regarding research administration services. It is anticipated that the survey will be administered in late June/July. PIs are encouraged to complete the survey if they receive a request to do so.

Contact:

Dr. Terry Thomas, tlthomas@tamu.edu

Biosafety Support Team hosts Open Forums

Last month, Dr. Jeffrey Seemann, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at Texas A&M University, announced the formation of the Biosafety Support Team and charged them with implementing a plan of engagement for the Texas A&M community in the general area of biosafety. As a part of their efforts, a series of open forums are being held to discuss the current and future plans for our biosafety program. The first forum was held on June 1 at the College of Veterinary Medicine Biomedical Sciences and was attended by more than 40 researchers and staff. During the coming weeks, there will be two additional biosafety forums, hosted by Dr. Seemann and the Biosafety Support Team:

- Tuesday, June 15, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Reynolds Medical Building (Lecture Hall 1) and transmitted to sites in Temple (MEC LH2), Houston (IBT, Room 1115), Kingsville (COP, Room 247) and Dallas (BCD, room pending).
- Friday, June 18, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the auditorium of the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building.

The Biosafety Support Team encourages PIs to take this opportunity to share their concerns. They look forward to a very open discussion, "as together we can resolve any issue and plan a path to the future". If you are not able to attend, please contact Drs. Seemann or Scholtz directly with your thoughts and suggestions.

Contact:

Dr. Jeffrey Seemann, jseemann@tamu.edu Dr. Marty Scholtz, jm-scholtz@tamu.edu

Report on Bioinformatics Resources Forum and Next Steps

The Division of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) and the Alliance for Bioinformatics, Computational Biology and Systems Biology (ABCS) hosted a campus-wide forum on Friday May

21, 2010 to discuss and prioritize future bioinformatics needs and resources. The forum included presentations on currently available resources and breakout sessions to refine needs and propose next steps. Existing resource presentations and draft reports from the breakout sessions are posted in on the forum webpage:

http://abcs.tamu.edu/2010-bioinformatics-forum.html.

The forum was the first step towards soliciting and prioritizing current and future bioinformatic needs and resources. In the next stage, a team consisting of Dr. Marty Scholtz (Associate VPR), members of the ABCS Coordinating Committee, and other interested parties, will work to further scope out bioinformatic resource needs. Please contact Nancy Amato (ABCS Chair) if you would like to participate in this process.

Contact:

Dr. Nancy Amato, amato@tamu.edu

BOR Reviewing Faculty Development Leave for A&M System Universities

Faculty development leave for A&M System Universities was on the list of agenda items and reports for the May 27-28, 2010 Board of Regents meeting. A story on this review of the faculty leave program was also published in a May 23, 2010 Bryan/College Station Eagle article: http://www.theeagle.com/am/A-amp-amp-M-reviews-leave

NIH Requests Comments on Proposed Change in Managing Financial Conflicts of Interest

The NIH is requesting comments on a Proposed Rule that will result in a significant change in how NIH manages financial conflicts of interest. Included in the new guidelines are a reduction from \$10,000 to \$5,000 of the minimum reportable payment and a requirement that all institutions that employ NIH funded researchers monitor compliance. Comments on the Proposed Rule must be received on or before July 20, 2010:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-10-099.html