



# Council of Principal Investigators

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Principal Investigators,

As a reminder the July 13, 2011 CPI meeting **has been canceled**. The next scheduled meeting is August 10, 2011 in Rudder 701; 11:30-1:15 pm. Materials will be available at [http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI\\_8.10.11.pdf](http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_8.10.11.pdf).

The August meeting will feature: a presentation and discussion of the draft 2010-11 CPI Annual Report; follow up discussion on current issues affecting higher education in Texas; and recognition of outgoing and incoming CPI Members.

If you plan to attend in person as an observer, please email [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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 – July 2011**  
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**Included in this issue are updates/information on:**

- Review of June CPI Meeting & Preview of August CPI Meetings
- Regular CPI Executive Committee Meetings with Administrators
- July 7, 2011 CPI Officer Letter to the PI Community & Resources Regarding the Debate on Higher Education In Texas
- Update on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)
- EPIK-MAESTRO Working Group Update Biosafety Advisory Committee
- New TEES Policy on Some Student Fees on Federal Projects
- NCURA Training – August 2, 2011 – The Fiscal Aspects of Human Subjects Compliance
- PI-DISCUSS listserv to facilitate PI communication

### **Review of June CPI Meeting & Preview of August CPI Meeting**

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At the June CPI meeting, Mr. Brooks Moore, Managing Counsel for The Texas A&M University System, presented "A Case Study, Advice and Strategies regarding the Texas Public Information Act". Following the presentation was an open forum discussion on promoting the value of teaching and research. A video of the meeting can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/videos/june-8-2011-cpi-meeting>. The August 10, 2011 meeting will recognize the efforts and service of those outgoing CPI members whose terms on the Council expire on August 31, 2011. The meeting will also be the final meeting chaired by Dr. Terry Thomas, 2010-11 CPI Chair, who will present a summary of the activities of the CPI during the 2010-11 academic year.

Contact:  
Dr. Terry Thomas, [tthomas@tamu.edu](mailto:tthomas@tamu.edu)

### **Regular CPI Executive Committee Meetings with Administrators**

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The CPI Executive Committee (EC) meets monthly with the President and Provost and quarterly with the CEOs of TAMUS research entities (Texas A&M University, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, Texas AgriLife Research, and Texas Transportation Institute). Updates about these meetings will be provided in future CPI monthly newsletters.

Contact:  
Dr. Terry Thomas, [tthomas@tamu.edu](mailto:tthomas@tamu.edu)

### **July 7, 2011 CPI Officer Letter to the PI Community & Resources Regarding the Debate on Higher Education in Texas**

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On July 7, 2011, the CPI Officers distributed a letter to the PI community regarding the efforts of TAMU Leaders (i.e., CPI, Faculty Senate and Distinguished Professors) in working to ensure "that external elements do not circumvent the education and scholarly activities of TAMU faculty." The full letter can be read at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/7july2011letter.pdf>.

Links to resources (information, websites and updates) regarding the debate on higher education in Texas can be found on the CPI website at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/pi-resources.html>.

Contact:  
Dr. Terry Thomas, [tthomas@tamu.edu](mailto:tthomas@tamu.edu)

### **Update on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)**

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The development of the OSRS Organizational Chart and the identification of the final number of staff members to move into OSRS continues. Middle management positions have been posted and interviews have taken place. Recommendations and offers are currently being negotiated. These positions should be in effect in the next week or so. Once in place the structure of the OSRS staffing levels will also be finalized and positions will be posted. As of July 1, all sponsored research proposals are being submitted in the name of the submitting system member. The OSRS Oversight Committee is still being established and will be announced soon. This committee will then establish the PI/Faculty Advisory Committee.

Work is continuing on finalizing the OSRS budget and determining the assessment methodology. Final reports and recommendations for best practices have been received from all working groups and are being compiled to share with the established Oversight Committee.

Contact:  
Mr. Mark Smock, [msmock@tamu.edu](mailto:msmock@tamu.edu)

### **EPIK-MAESTRO Working Group Update**

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The Working Group met on July 7th to discuss progress in the development of the EPIK-MAESTRO system. Currently, the Executive Portal is still in the final stages of completion and should go into the production stage in August. With respect to Phase II activities, an upgrade to the Oracle Fusion Middleware is being implemented which will make the system more reliable. There has been some progress in the implementation at the regional campuses with most of them about half way through with completion. The Key Personnel section was released into production on June 15th, 2011, and comments and requests are being assessed as they arrive. It is located under the General tab under Bio Data. PIs can enter all of their information in this section as appropriate. TEES is currently working with other institutions to determine if any existing bio data they have in their databases can be transferred. The results of the subcommittees on best practices and how they impact MAESTRO are being assimilated and various sections of the pre-award module are under development. The group also discussed the initial concept of the future vision of EPIK-MAESTRO with respect to those pre- and post-award and financial features of FAMIS and EPIK and how they will be blended into a final product. This vision is an initial concept that will evolve over time.

Contact:

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

### **Biosafety Advisory Committee**

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In June, the VPR's office reviewed the recommendations submitted by the Biosafety Advisory Committee for streamlining the process associated with implementing biosafety and compliance practices, and provided an executive response to individual recommendations. The VPR's office accepted, in principle, most of the recommendations, and has agreed to work towards implementing them. A complete copy of the recommendations and the executive response will be made available through Dr. Seemann's office.

Contact:

Dr. Bhanu Chowdhary, [bchowdhary@tamu.edu](mailto:bchowdhary@tamu.edu)

### **New TEES Policy on Some Student Fees on Federal Projects**

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Starting in January 2011, TEES put in place a new policy that disallowed the payment of some required student fees on federal research projects. These fees total around \$400 a semester. This change of policy has been a hardship for PIs who routinely promise to pay all required fees in offer letters. Current work around solutions either cost more to PIs' contracts (through stipend supplements, which are subject to indirect) or require them to use other funds such as incentive funds. The CPI Executive Committee brought this issue to the attention of the VPR's office early in the spring semester and has continued to advocate for a resolution that will not be a financial burden to PIs or students, and which will be consistent across the various units.

Contact:

Dr. Nancy Amato, [amato@tamu.edu](mailto:amato@tamu.edu)

### **NCURA Training – August 2, 2011 – The Fiscal Aspects of Human Subjects Compliance**

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The next NCURA - National Council of University Research Administrators' TV series for 2011 will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2011. The topic is "The Fiscal Aspects of Human Subjects Compliance." The Main viewing site will be 101A General Services Complex. Parking is available in Lot 88 with valid TAMU hang tag. Visitor parking is also available for hourly rate. To register, go to <http://tamurs.tamu.edu/forms/ncura-registration>. Registration requested before Thursday, July 28, at 9 AM, because lunch counts must be submitted. If you would like to view this teleconference from your site, the TTVN Confirmation Number is # 3571042. Please contact TTVN Scheduling to add your site to the viewing schedule. Call 979-862-2240 or email [ttvn-schedule@tamu.edu](mailto:ttvn-schedule@tamu.edu). Only Texas A&M

July 2011  
CPI Newsletter

System members may participate. NCURA'S web page for NCURA TV is:  
[http://www.ncura.edu/content/educational\\_programs/ncura\\_tv/schedule.php](http://www.ncura.edu/content/educational_programs/ncura_tv/schedule.php)

Contact:

Ms. Janet Killion, [jkillion@tamu.edu](mailto:jkillion@tamu.edu)

#### **PI-DISCUSS Listserv for PI Communication**

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The CPI has set up a listserv [PI-DISCUSS@listserv.tamu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:amato@tamu.edu)