

**The Council of Principal Investigators**  
(CPI)

**Annual Report**  
**2003-2004 Academic Year**

## Table of Contents

I.	Overview.....	2
II.	Activities and Accomplishments .....	3 - 4
III.	Membership	
	- 2003-2004.....	5 – 6
	Guest membership .....	6
IV	Meeting Schedule 2003-2004 .....	7
V.	Focus Issues – Academic Year 2003-2004.....	8
VI.	Attachments	
	- Letter to Dr. Gates on travel restrictions for graduate recruiting .....	pg 9
	- Letter to Dr. Gates on graduate assistant health benefit change.....	pg 10
	- Letter to Governor Perry on the cancellation of the ARP program.....	pg 11
	- Revised Form 5G.....	pg 12

## Overview

### Mission

(The following Mission and Electorate statements still require formal approval by CPI; a former combined statement is copied below)

The primary mission of the Council of Principal Investigators (CPI) is to facilitate the conduct by PIs of competitively funded research. Towards that end, the CPI serves as a liaison between university administrators and faculty. Additionally, the CPI participates in the identification and evaluation of potential means for improving research and academic activities at Texas A&M University towards the university's goal of enhanced national and international stature.

### Electorate

The Council of Principal Investigators (CPI) consists of elected PIs representing each Texas A&M College and various A&M System affiliations such as the Health Sciences Center (HSC), Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES), Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) and Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX).

### Previous statement

#### Purpose/Mission

The Council of Principal Investigators (CPI), consisting of elected PIs representing each Texas A&M college and various A&M System affiliations such as the Health Sciences Center (HSC), Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES), Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) and Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), serves as a liaison between university administrators and faculty. The mission of CPI is to recognize and evaluate potential means for improving teaching and research at Texas A&M University in efforts to bring to realization the university's goal of being nationally recognized and competitive in these areas.

<http://cpi.tamu.edu>

### Activities and Accomplishments

The 2003-2004 academic year was the second year of Dr. Robert M. Gates' Presidency at Texas A&M University. His faculty reinvestment plan, which aims to recruit an additional 447 faculty over a four-year period, brings with it great opportunities and many challenges. The latter include a shortage of research infrastructure funding and a looming lack of laboratory and office space.

Over the past decade, the CPI has worked closely with the Office of the Vice President for Research to develop a more PI-friendly 5G document. This is the form that the university uses for making changes in all research supported

positions. This document was to have been tested in fall 2003 semester in the College of Science but this has yet to be initiated.

### **Undergraduate Research**

The CPI supports research education for undergraduates through working experience in research laboratories. Many undergraduates are employed by PI's and the CPI would like to see this recognized by the administration and legislature. New opportunities for undergraduate employment in labs are highly desirable.

With the support of Dr. Mark H. Weichold, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Programs and Dr. Richard Ewing, Vice President for Research the new position of Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Research was established. As a result of budget cuts and hiring freezes earlier in the year, this position has only recently been re-opened. The CPI will have a voting member on the search committee (chaired by URC member Jan Hughes) for this position.

### **Research and Graduate Studies**

Dr. Jean Gould led the CPI's efforts in support of direct graduate admissions. The graduate student direct admissions feasibility study, initiated during the 2001-2002 academic year was adopted as the default admissions process for the 2002-2003 recruiting season.

The CPI has participated in many actions to alleviate burdens placed on graduate and potential graduate students by recent changes in Federal and State laws. International students have faced increasing difficulties in obtaining visas and several Chinese students who returned to China for the Christmas vacation missed the beginning of the spring semester because of visa problems. Health benefits have been cut and a 90 day waiting period for health coverage instituted (for all new state employees). The CPI will work aggressively with the International Student Activities (Suzanne Drolesky, Director) to rescind these ill-advised changes.

Visitors and faculty of foreign heritage have also faced many visa difficulties over the past year. We are indebted to Mr. Mario Rojo del Busto, Director of International Services Department, for his energetic and professional help in many of these situations. President Gates has also written powerfully in support of international academic exchanges and it is evident that his stature assured governmental attention to academic concerns.

### **Invited Speakers**

The CPI also had the opportunity to have presentations from a broad spectrum of guests during the year at our monthly meetings. These guests included: 1) Dr. Joe Newton, Research Environment Council, 2) Dr. James Calvin, Executive Associate Vice President for Research, who will be serving on the CPI as a full-time representative for the Vice President for Research Office; 3) Drs. Ewing

and Giardino, who met with us on a routine basis keeping us apprised of various issues impacting research and graduate studies; 4) Mr. Mario Rojo del Busto, Director of International Services Department, who met with us on two occasions to discuss the changes in the operation of INS as a result of the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security; 5) Dr. William Perry, Executive Vice President and Provost, who shared plans for the Life Sciences Complex, 6) Mr. William Krumm, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, 7) Mr. Mike O'Quinn, VP for Governmental Affairs, Presidents Office, 8) Mr. Stanton Calvert, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations, 9) Suzanne Drolesky, Executive Director, International Student Activities, shared concerns with graduate student enrollment, and has now been added as a CPI guest member ; 10) Henry Nemcik , Assistant Vice President for Development & Campaign Director, Development Foundation and was also added as a CPI guest member; 11) Dr. James Anderson, the new Vice President and Associate Provost for Institutional Assessment and Diversity, shared some of his background information and gave an update on what his office has been doing since he came to the university. He was also added as a CPI guest member. 12) Mr. Harold Strong, Director of Research Park, was the final guest of the 2003-04 year and shared with the CPI some of the things that have transpired at the Research Park this year.

The CPI is extremely pleased that these influential administrators are willing to spend time with the CPI and to work together towards common goals that will enhance research quality and productivity on campus. We are especially happy that Michael O'Quinn has accepted a standing invitation to participate in the CPI meetings. His humor and acumen should help our interactions so that we can work together to deflect proposed legislation detrimental to the research enterprise and assist in passing legislation that will enhance research. Towards these goals, our new acquaintance with lobbyist Mr. Stanton Calvert (facilitated by Mike O'Quinn) is most important.

## CPI Members – FY04

MEMBER	COLLEGE	DEPARTMENT	E-MAIL	PHONE	TERM ENDS
<b>Evan Anderson</b>	Business	Business Analysis MS 4217	<a href="mailto:eanderson@tamu.edu">eanderson@tamu.edu</a>	845-1616	2005
<b>Tom Blasingame</b>	Engineering	Petroleum Engineering MS 3116	<a href="mailto:t-blasingame@tamu.edu">t-blasingame@tamu.edu</a>	845-2292	2005
<b>Dave Burnett</b>	Engineering	Petroleum Engineering MS 3116	<a href="mailto:burnett@gpri.org">burnett@gpri.org</a>	845-2274	2007
<b>Lisa Campbell</b>	Geosciences	Oceanography MS 3146	<a href="mailto:lisacampbell@tamu.edu">lisacampbell@tamu.edu</a>	845-5706	2007
<b>Craig Coates</b>	COALS	Entomology MS 2475	<a href="mailto:ccoates@tamu.edu">ccoates@tamu.edu</a>	458-1219	2004
<b>Sumana Datta</b>	COALS (temp. replacement for Williams )	Biochemistry and Biophysics MS 2128	<a href="mailto:sumad@tamu.edu">sumad@tamu.edu</a>	862-4641	2004
<b>Michael Delp</b>	Education	Health & Kinesiology MS 4243	<a href="mailto:mdd@hlkn.tamu.edu">mdd@hlkn.tamu.edu</a>	845-0515	2004
<b>James Derr</b>	Vet Med	Vet Pathobiology MS 4467	<a href="mailto:j-derr@tamu.edu">j-derr@tamu.edu</a>	862-4775	2005
<b>William Eisele</b>	TTI	TTI Administration MS 3135	<a href="mailto:bill-eisele@tamu.edu">bill-eisele@tamu.edu</a>	845-8550	2007
<b>Tom Ficht</b>	Vet Med	Vet Pathobiology – R&G Base MS 4467	<a href="mailto:tficht@tamu.edu">tficht@tamu.edu</a>	845-4118	2005
<b>Richard Gibson</b>	Geosciences	Geology MS 3115	<a href="mailto:gibson@tamu.edu">gibson@tamu.edu</a>	862-8653	2005
<b>Jean Gould</b>	COALS	Forest Science R&G Base MS 2135	<a href="mailto:gould@tamu.edu">gould@tamu.edu</a>	845-5078	2005
<b>Steve Gregory</b>	TEES	Food Protein Research Center MS 2476	<a href="mailto:sgregory@tamu.edu">sgregory@tamu.edu</a>	862-2262	2004
<b>Timothy Hall Chair, FY04</b>	Science	Biology MS 3258	<a href="mailto:tim@idmb.tamu.edu">tim@idmb.tamu.edu</a>	845-7747	2004
<b>Donald House</b>	Architecture	MS 3137	<a href="mailto:d-house@tamu.edu">d-house@tamu.edu</a>	845-3465	2004
<b>William Hyman</b>	Engineering	Biomedical Engineering MS 3120	<a href="mailto:w-hyman@tamu.edu">w-hyman@tamu.edu</a>	845-5593	2004
<b>Art Johnson</b>	HSC	Medical Biochemistry & Genetics MS 1114	<a href="mailto:aejohnson@tamu.edu">aejohnson@tamu.edu</a>	862-3188	2004
<b>Howard Kaplan</b>	Liberal Arts	Sociology MS 4351	<a href="mailto:h-kaplan@tamu.edu">h-kaplan@tamu.edu</a>	845-2411	2007
<b>Mahlon Kennicutt</b>	Geosciences	GERG MS 3149	<a href="mailto:m-kennicutt@tamu.edu">m-kennicutt@tamu.edu</a>	862-2323	2007
<b>Alan Love</b>	COALS	Ag Eco & Sociology MS 2124	<a href="mailto:alove@tamu.edu">alove@tamu.edu</a>	845-3270	2005
<b>Mary Meagher</b>	Liberal Arts	Psychology MS 4235	<a href="mailto:m-meagher@tamu.edu">m-meagher@tamu.edu</a>	845-2564	2004
<b>Ozden Ochoa</b>	Engineering	Mechanical Engineering MS 3123	<a href="mailto:oochoa@tamu.edu">oochoa@tamu.edu</a>	845-2022	2004

<b>David Russell</b>	Science	Chemistry MS 3255	<a href="mailto:russell@mail.chem.tamu.edu">russell@mail.chem.tamu.edu</a>	845-3345	2005
<b>Jim Sacchetti, Vice Chair</b>	COALS	Biochemistry and Biophysics MS 2128	<a href="mailto:sacchett@tamu.edu">sacchett@tamu.edu</a>	862-7636	2004
<b>Marty Scholtz</b>	HSC	Medical Biochemistry & Genetics MS 1114	<a href="mailto:jm-scholtz@tamu.edu">jm-scholtz@tamu.edu</a>	845-0828	2004
<b>Eva Sevick-Muraca</b>	Engineering	Chemical Engineering MS 3122	<a href="mailto:sevick@che2.tamu.edu">sevick@che2.tamu.edu</a>	458-3206	2007
<b>Dorothy Shippen</b>	COALS	Biochemistry and Biophysics MS 2128	<a href="mailto:dshippen@tamu.edu">dshippen@tamu.edu</a>	862-2342	2004
<b>Katherine Turnbull</b>	TTI	TTI Administration MS 3135	<a href="mailto:k-turnbull@tamu.edu">k-turnbull@tamu.edu</a>	845-6005	2004
<b>Robert Webb Immediate Past Chair, FY03</b>	Science	Physics MS 4242	<a href="mailto:webb@heprb.physics.tamu.edu">webb@heprb.physics.tamu.edu</a>	845-4012	2004
<b>John Whitcomb Representing Engineering for Ochoa</b>	Engineering	Aerospace Engineering MS 3141	<a href="mailto:jdw@tamu.edu">jdw@tamu.edu</a>	845-4006	2004
<b>Claire Williams</b>	COALS	Forest Science MS 2135	<a href="mailto:claire-williams@tamu.edu">claire-williams@tamu.edu</a>	862-3745	2004

<b>CPI Guest Membership - 2004</b>				
<b>Guest</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Phone #</b>
Mike Buckley	Vice President For Research	Compliance	<a href="mailto:mwb@vprmail.tamu.edu">mwb@vprmail.tamu.edu</a>	845-8585
Jim Calvin	Exec. Assoc. VP for Research	VPR	<a href="mailto:jcalvin@vprmail.tamu.edu">jcalvin@vprmail.tamu.edu</a>	845-8585
Carol Cantrell	TEES – Chancellor’s	Deputy Chancellor – Engineering office	<a href="mailto:c-cantrell@tamu.edu">c-cantrell@tamu.edu</a>	845-1324
Richard Ewing	Vice President For Research	VPR	<a href="mailto:ewing@vprmail.tamu.edu">ewing@vprmail.tamu.edu</a>	845-8585
Greg Foxworth	Vice President For Research	Office of Sponsored Projects	<a href="mailto:g-foxworth@tamu.edu">g-foxworth@tamu.edu</a>	845-8585
Rick Giardino	Vice President for Research	Office of Graduate Studies	<a href="mailto:jrg@vprmail.tamu.edu">jrg@vprmail.tamu.edu</a>	845-3631
C. F. Kettleborough	Engineering	Mechanical Engineering	<a href="mailto:fkettleborough@mengr.tamu.edu">fkettleborough@mengr.tamu.edu</a>	845-1919
Karin T. Lum	College of Science	Chemistry	<a href="mailto:lum@mail.chem.tamu.edu">lum@mail.chem.tamu.edu</a>	
Charlene Miller	Asst. V.P.	Research Foundation	<a href="mailto:miller@tamu.edu">miller@tamu.edu</a>	845-3806
Mike O’Quinn	VP for Governmental Affairs	Presidents Office	<a href="mailto:irishmike@tamu.edu">irishmike@tamu.edu</a>	845-2217
Josh Peschel	Chair, Graduate Student Council		<a href="mailto:j-peschel@tamu.edu">j-peschel@tamu.edu</a>	
Mario Rojo-Del-Busto	Director, International Services	International Services	<a href="mailto:mrbusto@tamu.edu">mrbusto@tamu.edu</a>	862-1919
Max Summers	Vice President for Research	Entomology	<a href="mailto:m-summers@tamu.edu">m-summers@tamu.edu</a>	845-9730
Mark Smock	Research Foundation	Interim – COO	<a href="mailto:msmock@rf-mail.tamu.edu">msmock@rf-mail.tamu.edu</a>	845-9994

**CPI Regular Meeting Schedule - 2003**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
September 10, 2003	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
October 8, 2003	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
November 12, 2003	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
December 10, 2003	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
January 14, 2004	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC Canceled
February 11, 2004	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
March 10, 2004	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
April 14, 2004	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
May 12, 2004	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
June 9, 2004	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
July 14, 2004	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC
August 11, 2004	Regular/Monthly	11:30-1:15	MSC



## FOCUS ISSUES - ACADEMIC YEAR 2003-2004

Timothy Hall, Chair  
Jim Sacchetti, Vice Chair  
Robert C. Webb, Immediate Past Chair

- Graduate Student Insurance
- Graduate Student Parking Issues
- Graduate recruiting, fellowships, etc.
- Expanding Undergraduate Research Opportunities
- Post-doctoral issues
- INS issues
- Interdisciplinary programs
- Research Infrastructure
- Legal Issues for PI's
- Improving the University's use of the World Wide Web
- Mission statement and QEP
- Indirect Costs usage and redistribution
- CAFRT
- Research Park and Technology Transfer
- Enhancing the Diversity of the University