



# Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – November 2015  
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## Update from Dr. Helene Andrews-Polymenis, CPI Chair

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Two top priority areas Sponsored Research Services and graduate student support remain discussion topics that came from the 2015 PI Interest Survey and continue on for the month of November.

One of the top priority areas identified in the PI survey was improving the services of the Texas A&M System Sponsored Research Services (SRS). As indicated previously, SRS was brought back to the TAMU Division of Research on September 1, and is undergoing a rapid evolution to better serve the research community. Dr. Glen Laine met with the full CPI on October 14. Dr. Laine has met with CPI EC for a second month regarding SRS changes and this time he was joined by Dr. B. Don Russell, Distinguished Professor and SRS Transformation Facilitator. Dr. Russell discussed the transitions taking place within SRS and he will provide a full update to CPI members at the November 11<sup>th</sup> CPI Meeting.

The CPI EC met on November 4<sup>th</sup> and further discussed the 2015 PI Survey and decided to bring in a panel of participants to discuss several key themes across several colleges and units.

Thank you for continuous participation providing feedback and attending meetings! You continue to provide us with very valuable feedback on the research environment, and we are bringing these issues to the attention of the administration. It is beneficial when PIs are willing to inform the Council of broad issues affecting their ability to perform research. If you have any issues the Council should be aware of, you can send an email to [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) or call or email me at [handrews@medicine.tamhsc.edu](mailto:handrews@medicine.tamhsc.edu) or 979.436.0340.

The CPI meeting on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 will be webcast live at [tvn.tamu.edu/webcasts](http://tvn.tamu.edu/webcasts) on Channel 20, and videos are stored on the "[Archives](#)" section of the CPI website.

## CPI Executive Committee Meeting Summary

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The CPI EC met for its monthly coordination meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> with invited research administrators from the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, TTI, and TEES along with College of Science and College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The group discussed questions received for the six presenters and it was decided that a panel discussion would be serve for interaction and allow for additional time for questions from CPI members attending the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The CPI EC group discussed questions received and constructed broader questions that would allow for each panelist to answer on behalf of their college or unit they are representing. These topics and questions are based off of what PIs submitted as it relates to the 2015-16 PI Survey where priorities were listed.

Dr. B. Don Russell provided an update and progress report on SRS transformation and how they are working on complaints that come in after September 1st. Dr. Russell agreed to provide an update to the CPI members at the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost position was discussed and the CPI EC members were invited to have meetings with the three candidates have identified to initially interview for the position.

The CPI EC discussed the December CPI meeting and plans for inviting a group of Deans and Mr. Mark Klemm to provide insight on the Capital campaign project for 2016 and how colleges go about identifying priority projects for their college or unit.

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## SRS Executive Director Search Committee Update, Loren Skow

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To date, twelve applications have been received for the SRS Director position. The SRS search committee has completed the review of all twelve applicants for the position but the position will remain open and new applications accepted until a final hiring decision is made and an offer accepted. Three individuals have been selected for phone interviews by the committee. The first phone interview was completed on October 30 and the other two will be conducted on November 13. Assuming no new applications are received in the next few days, the committee plans to recommend 1-3 individuals to VPR Laine on or before November 20.

## Transportation Services Advisory Committee Update, Margaret Hobson

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With the increasing number of departments and groups relocating and requiring new parking assignments, Transportation Services has updated their policy for prioritizing permits. The new policy state that Faculty and Staff who have a mid-year office relocation mandated by the University will be ranked third in priority for parking spaces (behind current permit holders in the lot and customers whose lot is permanently closed). *Assignments are made based on months of service with the University and space availability.* Customers who are mandated to move office locations mid-year will be inserted into wait lists based on their months of service with the university. This will cause other customers' positions on the lists to fluctuate during the permit year. Related to this, Lot 39 next to Cain Hall will be closing on November 15. The parking garage being built on that location (related to the hotel and office building) will be semi-operational in Fall 2016 and fully operation December 16. Also in Fall 2016, parking in the West Campus Garage will be at the regular garage rate rather than the surface lot rate that has been in place for the last 10 years.

With the addition of 15 new full size buses, fewer students are having to wait for the next bus due to overcrowding on popular routes/times. Additionally Transportation Services are planning for new routes/buses for the ongoing construction of student housing south of George Bush Dr. along Jones-Butler Rd.

The Bike Action Plan has been completed, and new marking and signage will be coming in the next months. Key areas identified for action include Old Main at Texas, Olsen at University, New Main at Houston, and Penberthy at Chandler. Additionally, new signage/markings will be placed at Ross and Houston to encourage bicyclists to use the bike lane on Houston and to stay off Military Walk when traveling toward the MSC.

Hertz has ended its car share contract since they have completely discontinued this service in the US. Zip Car is on state contract and will be replacing the service offered by Hertz.

## Upcoming Agency Deadlines from Sponsored Research Services (SRS)

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Fall 2015 Upcoming Agency Deadlines:

In preparation for a busy fall 2015, SRS would like to update you on upcoming agency deadlines:

NIH

- November 16 – Renewal and Revised R21/R03 Submissions

NSF

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- Mathematics – November 1-15

### NIH Notice regarding ASSIST

NIH Announces New Policies Regarding 1) Inclusion of Sex as a Biological Variable and 2) Improvement of Reproducibility in applications and progress reports:

Beginning with applications due January 25, 2016, PIs will have to demonstrate strong scientific premise, rigorous experimental design, and consideration of sex and other biological variables in the Research Strategy

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section of their applications. Reviewers will factor this information into their overall impact scores. [Click here](#) for more information.

Contact:

Dr. Jim Joyce, Associate Executive Director – [jrjoyce@tamu.edu](mailto:jrjoyce@tamu.edu), 979-458-5852

### **Sign up for notifications about Limited Submission Proposal opportunities**

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The list of current Limited Submission Proposal (LSP) opportunities, maintained by the Division of Research, is available at <https://u.tamu.edu/LSP>.

To receive notifications about new LSP opportunities as soon as they are announced, email Ms. Shelly Martin at [shelly.martin@tamu.edu](mailto:shelly.martin@tamu.edu).

### **Bulletin for Principal Investigators – Issued weekly by the Division of Research, Texas A&M University**

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The Division of Research at Texas A&M University issues a brief weekly bulletin for Principal Investigators that highlights research accomplishments and projects, funding opportunities, honors and promotions, workshops, and other items that may be of interest to the PI community.

[Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the bulletin. [Click here](#) to submit items for consideration for an upcoming bulletin.

### **Upcoming Seminars and Workshops for Texas A&M Researchers**

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The Division of Research (DOR) offers seminars and workshops throughout the year relating to professional development in research proposal planning and writing. All of these events are coordinated by [Research Development Services \(RDS\)](#), a DOR unit providing a wide range of support to Texas A&M researchers. The new RDS calendar can be found at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/calendars>.

### **2015 Core Curriculum Technology Enhancement Grant – Request for Proposals**

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The Core Curriculum Technology Enhancement Grant Committee seeks proposals to develop or revise high-quality, high-enrollment core curriculum courses utilizing technology to achieve Texas A&M University's undergraduate learning outcomes as stated in the Provost's Student Learning Outcomes. As specified in [Action 2015: Activity 3](#), the new versions of the courses may be technology mediated, blended/hybrid, or fully online.

Proposals are due to Instructional Technology Services (Mail Stop 3002, 004 Heldenfels Hall) by close of business **Tuesday, December 1, 2015**. The committee plans to announce grant awards prior to the start of the spring semester.

View <http://its.tamu.edu/grants> to get the RFP and find additional information.

Note\*: Only courses offered at the College Station campus are eligible for the grant program.

Contact J R (Jim) Snell, Director of Instructional Technology Services for additional information at Tel. 979.862.3977, [j-snell@tamu.edu](mailto:j-snell@tamu.edu)

