



Council of Principal Investigators

Mail Stop 1112 • College Station, TX 77843-1112 • (979) 458-1861 • cpi@tamu.edu • <http://cpi.tamu.edu>

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

CPI Meeting Agenda
June 8, 2011
11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Rudder Tower, room 701

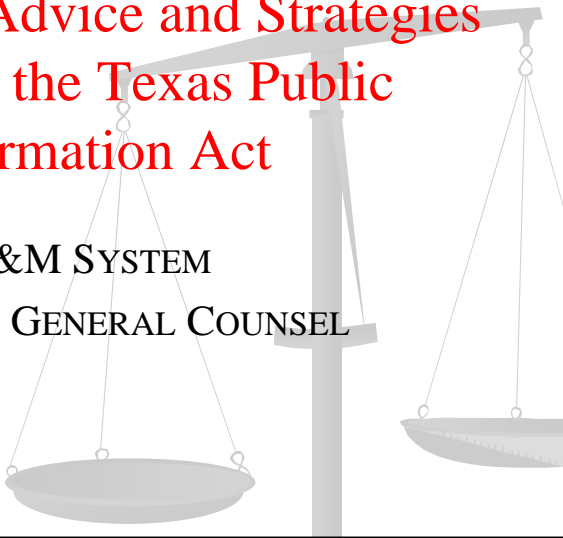
- (11:30 – 11:45) Lunch
- (11:45 – 11:50) Call to Order/Opening Remarks: (Moderated by T. Thomas)
- (11:50 – 12:00) Presentation: *Case Study, Advice and Strategies regarding the Texas Public Information Act* – Mr. Brooks Moore, Managing Counsel, Governance, The Texas A&M University System Office of General Counsel
- (12:00 – 12:10) Open Discussion: (Moderated by T. Thomas)
- (12:10 – 1:00) Open Forum Discussion: Promoting the Value of Teaching and Research
- (1:00 – 1:15) Other Business: (Moderated by T. Thomas)
- (1:15) Adjournment

Attachments:

- Presentation Slides: *Case Study, Advice and Strategies regarding the Texas Public Information Act* (pp. 2 – 4)
- June 2011 CPI Newsletter (pp. 5 – 8);
- May 17, 2011 CPI Executive Committee Letter to The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents Chairmen, Richard A. Box (pp. 9 – 10);
- May 24, 2011 CPI Chair Letter to Principal Investigators (p. 11)

2010-11 CPI roster: *Chair* — Terry Thomas, *Science* • *Vice Chair* — Lawrence Rauchwerger, *Engineering* • *Past Chair* — Nancy Amato, *Engineering* • *Architecture* — Michael Lindell • *BCD* — Lynne Opperman • *Bush School* — Lori Taylor • *Business* — Joobin Choobineh • *COALS* — Clinton Allred, Mary Bryk, Kim Dooley, Michael Kolomiets, Suresh Pillai, Gregory Reinhart, Scott Senseman • *Education* — Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Mladen Kezunovic, Dimitris Lagoudas, Reza Langari, J. N. Reddy, Chanan Singh, Ramesh Talreja, Steven Wright • *Geosciences* — Steve DiMarco, Mary Jo Richardson, Niall Slowey • *IBT* — James Martin • *Liberal Arts* — Chester Dunning, James Grau, Mary Meagher • *Medicine* — Julian Leibowitz • *Science* — Wolfgang Bangerth, Jean-Luc Guermond, Emil Straube, Michael Weimer • *SRPH* — Charles Phillips • *TEES Non-COE* — Richard Mercier • *TAMU at Galveston* — Douglas Klein • *TAMU at Qatar* — Hussein Al Nuweiri • *TTI* — Roger Bligh, Lance Bullard, Beverly Kuhn • *University Libraries* — Steven Smith • *Veterinary Medicine* — Bhanu Chowdhary, Noah Cohen, Jane Welsh

The CPI is sponsored annually through funding from Texas A&M University Division of Research and Graduate Studies, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, Texas Transportation Institute and the Texas A&M Research Foundation



**Case Study, Advice and Strategies
regarding the Texas Public
Information Act**

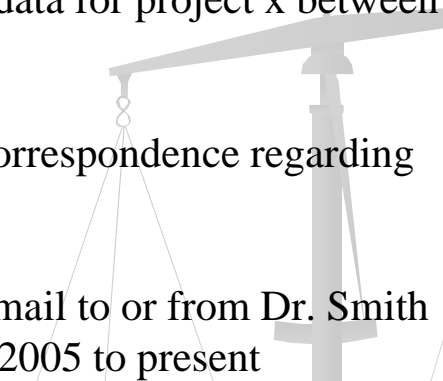
**A&M SYSTEM
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL**



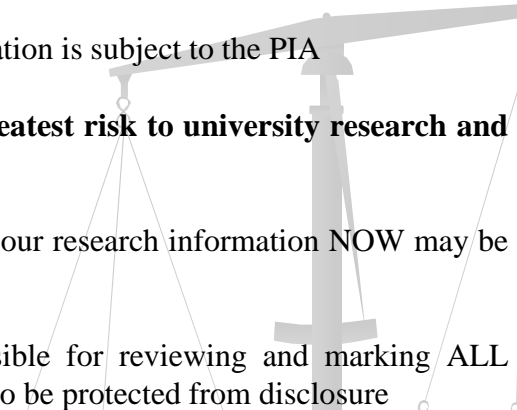
Agenda

- 1) Case Study
- 2) Advice to Remember
- 3) Strategies to Protect Research

Case Study

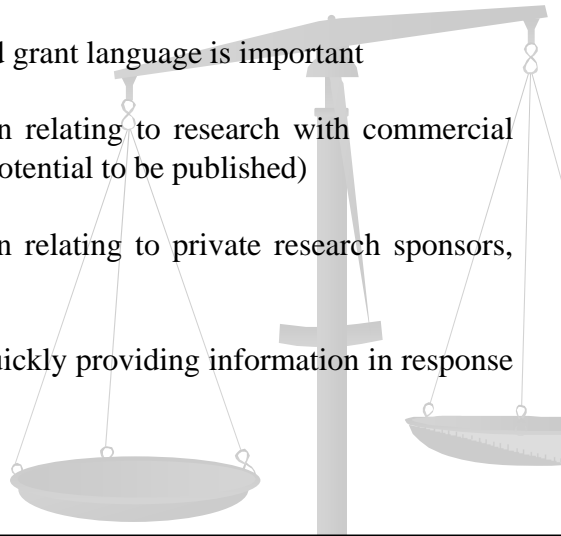
- 1) Request for raw data for project x between 1998-2005
 - 2) Request for all correspondence regarding Exxon
 - 3) Request for all email to or from Dr. Smith from January 1, 2005 to present
- 

5 Things to Remember

- 1) Compliance with the Public Information Act (PIA) is a part of every researcher's job
 - 2) ALL research information is subject to the PIA
 - 3) **Your email is the greatest risk to university research and system IP**
 - 4) A failure to manage your research information NOW may be painful later
 - 5) You may be responsible for reviewing and marking ALL research information to be protected from disclosure
- 

Key Strategies to Protect Research

- 1) Manage your email NOW
- 2) Research contract and grant language is important
- 3) Segregate information relating to research with commercial potential (including potential to be published)
- 4) Segregate information relating to private research sponsors, licensees, etc.
- 5) Develop a plan for quickly providing information in response to PIA request



Contact information

R. Brooks Moore
Managing Counsel, Governance
(979) 458-6144 (direct)
rbm@tamus.edu





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Principal Investigators,

The agenda and materials for the June 8, 2011 CPI meeting (Rudder 701; 11:30-1:15 pm) are available on the CPI website at http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_6.8.11.pdf.

The meeting will feature a presentation on Public Information Requests by Mr. Brooks Moore, Managing Counsel in The Texas A&M University System Office of General Counsel, followed by an open forum discussion on the promoting the value of teaching and research at Texas A&M University.

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://tvn.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

CPI Newsletter – June 2011

Included in this issue are updates/information on:

- Preview of July & August CPI Meetings
- Update on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)
- CPI Letter to the Chairman of the TAMUS Board of Regents
- Transportation Services Advisory Committee Update
- EPIK-MAESTRO Working Group Update
- New Appointments and Structure for TAMUS Office of Research
- Faculty Brown Bag Discussions on Strategic Plan
- Research Compliance and Biosafety Newsletter
- New University Rule on Export Controls
- PI-DISCUSS listserv to facilitate PI communication

CPI Newsletter
June 2011

Preview of July & August CPI Meetings

Unless issues arise that warrant a meeting, the July 13, 2011 CPI meeting will be canceled. 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 CPI activities during the 2010-11 academic year.

Contact:

Dr. Terry Thomas, tthomas@tamu.edu

Update on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS)

The development of the OSRS Organizational Chart and the identification of the final number of staff members to move into the OSRS is continuing. Middle management positions should be posted and filled shortly. We are still working towards our goal of having OSRS submit sponsored research proposals in the name of the system member July 1st. Nominations for the OSRS Oversight Committee are coming in and the committee should be set by the end of June. We will then work on establishing the PI/Faculty Advisory Committee. Work continues on finalizing the budget and determining the assessment methodology. The final report from the Human Resource working group has been received. The other work groups are close to producing their final reports and recommendations for best practices. These recommendations will be shared with the Oversight Committee before implementation. A FAQ section has been added to the OSRS website at www.tamus.edu/offices/cro/osrs/.

Contact:

Mr. Mark Smock, m-smock@tamu.edu

CPI Letter to the Chairman of the TAMUS Board of Regents

A letter to the Chairman of the TAMUS Board of Regents, Richard A. Box, sent on the behalf of the TAMUS CPI outlining requirements for a new Chancellor has been posted on the CPI website (http://cpi.tamu.edu/Regent_Box_CPI_chancellor.pdf). This letter is signed by Terry Thomas (CPI Chair), Nancy Amato (CPI Past-Chair) and Lawrence Rauchwerger (CPI Vice-Chair); the letter was drafted in consultation with the CPI Executive Committee. This letter has been copied to TAMUS CEOs and to State Senators Zaffirini and Ogden and State Representatives Branch and Brown. On May 24, 2011, a letter was distributed to the PI community, which included a link to the aforementioned letter, providing an update on issues affecting the Texas A&M research community. The letter has been posted on the CPI website (http://cpi.tamu.edu/5.24.11_Chair_Memo.pdf).

Transportation Services Advisory Committee Update

The Transportation Services Advisory Committee met on May 17, 2011 for its monthly meeting. The group received updates on a variety of issues, including permit registration, transit changes, and new visitor parking areas. Of note was an update on the license plate recognition software that will be deployed in the near future. The intent of this software will be to easily identify vehicles with multiple outstanding tickets as well as to conduct lot counts. Other discussions addressed engineering studies that are planned or underway for the General Services Complex, the Ireland Street drop-off area, West Lamar & Central Houston streets, campus handicap parking spaces, the Bizzell area (for safety improvements); and the Agronomy Road crosswalk. Construction updates were provided for the following projects: the Ross Street/Wellborn Road/University Drive Pedestrian Plan, Resident Housing – Parking and Transit, Garden Apartments and associated parking, Lot 10b, Garage Lighting Project, Reed Arena Drive, the Memorial Student Center, and Penberthy. The TSAC will suspend meetings until the fall semester begins.

Contact:

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

CPI Newsletter
June 2011

EPIK-MAESTRO Working Group Update

During May, the working group has held numerous week-long working meetings for participants to provide input to and identify best practices for the OSRS on several issues. Those groups that met during May were the Pre-Award Proposal Subcommittee team, and the Budget, Cost Sharing, and Subaward Subcommittee team. To date, each team has prepared detailed documents providing recommendations to Mark Smock, which will help guide the OSRS as it moves forward. Recommendations have been divided into three time frames: July 1 – August 31, 2011 (when OSRS is operational), August 31, 2011 and beyond (when the initial Maestro Pre-Award module is available), and the Future (when Maestro is more fully developed). More subcommittees will meet in June.

Contact:

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

New Appointments and Structure for TAMUS Office of Research

Click on the following link:

<http://www.tamus.edu/assets/files/cro/pdf/MemoCROSharedServicesNewApptsStructure03June2011.pdf>, to view the June 3, 2011 *Memorandum: New Appointments and Structure for A&M System Office of Research* from Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann, in his role as Chief Research Officer for The Texas A&M University System.

Faculty Brown Bag Discussions on Strategic Plan

The following announcement was sent through Distribution List A on June 2, 2011: Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Karan L. Watson announces a series of brown bag faculty discussions focused on approaches to achieving the goals of Texas A&M's current strategic plan, *Action 2015: Education First*. The three inaugural discussions on the topic of "faculty excellence" will be held at 12:00 noon–1:30 pm on Monday, June 6, in 701 Rudder; Thursday, June 9, in 701 Rudder; and Wednesday, June 15, in 183 Wehner (Cocanougher Center). Future discussion topics will vary, but may include evaluation of faculty, excellence in the classroom, and faculty awards and rewards. In the long-term, we intend to cover all topics related to the goals of *Action 2015*. Please join the provost on the sixth, ninth, or fifteenth of June. Bring your lunch and come for one or more sessions. Drinks will be provided. Everyone is welcome.

Research Compliance and Biosafety Newsletter

A copy of the May 2011 Research Compliance and Biosafety Newsletter can be found at the following link: <http://researchcompliance.tamu.edu/research-compliance-and-biosafety-newsletter>

Contact:

Ms. Tiffany Inbody, t-inbody@tamu.edu

New University Rule on Export Controls

University Rule 15.02.99.M1, Export Controls has been approved and can be found at the following link: <http://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.02.99.M1.pdf>. Additional information and resources on export controls can be found at <http://researchcompliance.tamu.edu/export-controls>.

Contact:

exportcontrols@tamu.edu

CPI Newsletter
June 2011

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



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May 17, 2011

Dr. Richard A. Box, Chairman
TAMUS Board of Regents
TAMU
College Station TX 77843-1123

Dear Chairman Box,

Following Chancellor McKinney's "retirement" announcement, we are writing on behalf of the Council of Principal Investigators (**CPI**) to provide you and the Board of Regents (**BOR**) the CPI's perspective regarding the necessary qualifications of the next chancellor of the Texas A&M University System. For your information, the CPI is an elected body that represents more than 2000 TAMUS Principal Investigators. It is the CPI's position that the new TAMUS Chancellor must have appropriate experience to lead the academic and research activities at a flagship research university.

The CPI is cognizant of the various constituencies that the TAMUS Chancellor represents. However, the majority of weighted SCHs and more than 90% of research funds are generated in the Bryan/College Station TAMUS corridor. Consequently, it is imperative that the new TAMUS Chancellor has relevant experience to represent the teaching, research and service activities of the Bryan/College Station TAMUS constituency.

It is incumbent on the BOR to identify a new Chancellor who will support and promote Texas A&M University in achieving its mission:

"Texas A&M University is dedicated to the discovery, development, communication, and application of knowledge in a wide range of academic and professional fields. Its mission of providing the highest quality undergraduate and graduate programs is inseparable from its mission of developing new understandings through research and creativity. It prepares students to assume roles in leadership, responsibility, and service to society. Texas A&M assumes as its historic trust the maintenance of freedom of inquiry and an intellectual environment nurturing the human mind and spirit. It welcomes and seeks to serve persons of all racial, ethnic, and geographic groups, women and men alike, as it addresses the needs of an increasingly diverse population and a global economy. In the twenty-first century, Texas A&M University seeks to assume a place of preeminence among public universities while respecting its history and traditions."

The new chancellor must be above the ongoing political fray involving the Texas Public Policy Foundation (**TPPF**) and other *ad hoc* special interest groups. These groups have no provenance with respect to Texas higher education and provide misinformation and simplistic ideas to "reform" higher education. This is especially relevant given the recent media revelation of the role of one member of the TPPF attempting to manipulate the policies of Texas A&M. This is highlighted by a quote from an article in the Dallas Morning News (12 May 2011) where Rep. Dan Branch (R-Dallas) has said that "he is concerned that one person with a narrow focus of education is suddenly dictating the policies at state universities." Moreover, State Senator Judith Zaffirini of Laredo has stated (Times of Texas; 13 May 2011), "What I understand from those emails, is that the Sandefers and the TPPF working through the staff of the Governor of Texas have been trying to dictate a change in the direction of higher education in Texas, and that will hurt A&M, hurt UT, and it will hurt higher education in Texas and I'm very perturbed about it."

Texas A&M University and its associated institutions, comprising TAMUS, are founded on sound academic and research principles consistent with other higher education institutions across the country.

These principles have led the United States from a primarily 19th century agrarian society to the technologically and information intensive 21st century. Across the U.S., university faculty led this incredible intellectual and technical transformation. This process continues cyclically. Faculty educate students; those students then continue to press the innovation envelope; and they in turn educate new students. **This is how we got where we are!** We must ensure that this educational environment remains vibrant and expands to meet the increasing needs of our students.

In closing, we urge you and the BOR to ensure that the next TAMUS Chancellor has appropriate qualifications to lead TAMUS toward our mission and the goal of achieving the objectives of Vision 2020 (see <http://vision2020.tamu.edu>). The CPI looks forward to participating in the search process, and we request that a CPI representative be included on the search committee.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Thomas, Ph.D.
Chair, Council of Principal Investigators
Professor, Department of Biology



Lawrence Rauchwerger, Ph.D.
Vice Chair, Council of Principal Investigators
Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering



Nancy Amato, Ph.D.
Past-Chair, Council of Principal Investigators
Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Cc: Regents
TAMUS CEOs
State Senator Judith Zaffirini
State Representative Dan Branch
State Senator Steve Ogden
State Representative Fred Brown



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May 24, 2011

Dear Fellow Pls,

I know you are aware of the turmoil here in College Station over the sudden “retirement” of Chancellor McKinney and the undue influence of the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) and other ad hoc special interest groups on the flagship Texas universities and other higher education institutions. These groups have no provenance with respect to Texas higher education and provide misinformation and simplistic ideas to “reform” higher education.

A letter to the Chairman of the TAMUS Board of Regents, Richard Box, sent on the behalf of the TAMUS CPI outlining requirements for a new Chancellor has been posted on the CPI website (http://cpi.tamu.edu/Regent_Box_CPI_chancellor.pdf). This letter is signed by myself, Nancy Amato (CPI Past-Chair) and Lawrence Rauchwerger (CPI Vice-Chair); the letter was drafted in consultation with the CPI Executive Committee. This letter has been copied to TAMUS CEOs and to State Senators Zaffirini and Ogden and State Representatives Branch and Brown.

Last Friday, I met with BOR Chairman Box and Regent White, along with the Speaker and Speaker elect of the Faculty Senate, the Chair of the DPs, and Dean of Faculties Antonio Cepeda-Benito. We made them aware of our concerns, and they expressed a desire to develop a more constructive dialog with TAMUS faculty that will move TAMU toward accomplishing the goals of Vision 2020! The exact mechanism of this dialog is yet to be determined, but we must see that it does occur.

Best regards,

Terry Thomas
Chair, Council Principal Investigators

2010-11 CPI roster: Chair — Terry Thomas, Science • Vice Chair — Lawrence Rauchwerger, Engineering • Past Chair — Nancy Amato, Engineering • Architecture — Michael Lindell • BCD — Lynne Opperman • Bush School — Lori Taylor • Business — Joobin Choobineh • COALS — Clinton Allred, Mary Bryk, Kim Dooley, Michael Kolomiets, Suresh Pillai, Gregory Reinhart, Scott Senseman • Education — Rafael Lara-Alecio • Engineering — Mladen Kezunovic, Dimitris Lagoudas, Reza Langari, J. N. Reddy, Chanan Singh, Ramesh Talreja, Steven Wright • Geosciences — Steve DiMarco, Mary Jo Richardson, Niall Slowey • IBT — James Martin • Liberal Arts — Chester Dunning, James Grau, Mary Meagher • Medicine — Julian Leibowitz • Science — Wolfgang Bangerth, Jean-Luc Guermond, Emil Straube, Michael Weimer • SRPH — Charles Phillips • TEES Non-COE — Richard Mercier • TAMU at Galveston — Douglas Klein • TAMU at Qatar — Hussein Al Nuweiri • TTI — Roger Bligh, Lance Bullard, Beverly Kuhn • University Libraries — Steven Smith • Veterinary Medicine — Bhanu Chowdhary, Noah Cohen, Jane Welsh

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