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CPI Newsletter - October 2010
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Summary of September 8, 2010 CPI Meeting

At the September 8, 2010 CPI meeting, Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, President of Texas A&M University, provided the inaugural address for the 2010-11 CPI session. The September 8, 2010 meeting agenda and materials, including a video recording, can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings>.

Contact:

Dr. Terry Thomas, tlthomas@tamu.edu

Preview of November 10, 2010 CPI Meeting

At the November 10, 2010 CPI meeting, a discussion will be centered on undergraduate research opportunities. The meeting will take place in Rudder, room 601.

Contact:

Dr. Terry Thomas, tlthomas@tamu.edu

Verification of Degrees for Hiring of Postdocs

Although recent changes to hiring practices now require verification of degrees, it is still sufficient to accept a letter of completion when hiring Postdocs. If, at the time an applicant applies for a Postdoc position, the degree has not been conferred, a letter needs to be obtained from the school's official Graduate Office and/or Registrar's Office, certifying that all requirements for the degree have been met and stating the degree conferral date. If the degree is acquired from a foreign university, then the Postdoc must provide a certified transcript.

Research Administration Shared Services (RASS)

Schaefer & Company, the consultant selected to evaluate TAMUS research administration, has completed its collection of financial data from System members and the Research Foundation, data from benchmark institutions and a PI satisfaction survey. Schaefer is now evaluating alternative

organizational structures for managing research administration based on varying operational and timing scenarios. Schaefer will be meeting throughout October with System member and Research Foundation representatives to evaluate key assumptions and develop recommendations. A report to the Board of Regents is expected at the December Board meeting.

Contact:

Dr. Terry Thomas, tlthomas@tamu.edu

Budget Reallocation Working Group

Recently, R. Bowen Loftin, President of Texas A&M University, charged a working group (**WG**) to address the next phase in the budget reallocation process. Specifically, the WG was charged to recommend strategic university fiscal investment priorities. The WG was urged to consider these issues from a perspective that benefits the entire university. The WG will provide recommendations to the President by November 19, 2010. The WG represents a broad cross-section of students, faculty and staff, including CPI members Dr. Mary Bryk, Dr. Mary Jo Richardson, and Dr. Terry Thomas. The group is co-chaired by Dr. Pamela Matthews, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies, and Dr. Karen Butler-Purry, Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies.

Contact:

Dr. Mary Bryk, bryk@tamu.edu

Dr. Mary Jo Richardson, mrichardson@ocean.tamu.edu

Dr. Terry Thomas, tlthomas@tamu.edu

EPIK-MAESTRO Working Group

The subcommittees established at the September 2nd EPIK-MAESTRO Working Group meeting have begun scheduled meetings during the month of October. These include the pre-award subcommittees for Funding Opportunity, Proposal, and Key Personnel. The subcommittees will formulate needs and requirements for these pre-award modules and requirements that will be vetted with the Working Group and then forwarded to the Steering Committee. For more information on the Working Group's activities or to provide input for the pre-award modules under development, please contact Dr. Beverly Kuhn at b-kuhn@tamu.edu or 979-862-3558.

Contact:

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

Biosafety Advisory Committee

The Biosafety Advisory Committee met on Thursday, September 30, 2010 and discussed a draft report summarizing current concerns and needs of the PIs with respect to biosafety and compliance. The committee also discussed recommendations that will potentially improve services. The discussions will continue during the next meeting when the report will be finalized for presentation to Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, in December. The committee welcomes any new PI experiences with the BSO or IBC.

Contact:

Dr. Bhanu Chowdhary, bchowdhary@cvm.tamu.edu

Dr. Greg Reinhart, gdr@tamu.edu

Dr. Terry Thomas, tlthomas@tamu.edu

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

The Transportation Services Advisory Committee met on September 22, 2010. The group received updates on lot construction projects slated for the summer of 2011. They were also updated on the Lot 57 Customer Survey as well as the west campus visitor parking status and the CHP construction project. The next meeting of the TSAC will take place on Tuesday, October 19, 2010. Information on the TSAC can be found on the TSAC website at <http://transport.tamu.edu/tsac.aspx>.

Contact:

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

Vice President for Administration Search Advisory Committee

The search for the Vice President for Administration is in full swing. The search committee, Chaired by Dr. Jerry R. Strawser, Professor and Dean of Mays Business School, has advertised the position at a national and international level using a variety of electronic and printed media channels. So far more than 60 applications have been received. The evaluation of the materials is in progress and interviews will be scheduled soon. Additional nominations are still encouraged. Additional information on the Vice President for Administration search, including nomination instructions, can be found at <http://vpadminsearch.tamu.edu/>.

Contact:

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Provost Search Advisory Committee

The 18 person provost search advisory committee, co-chaired by Eleanor Green, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, and John Crompton, Distinguished Professor of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, met regularly during the summer and less often since the semester began. During the summer the committee weighed the pros and cons of using a search firm, ultimately deciding that a search firm would increase our chances of recruiting a large pool of qualified applicants. Several search firms were suggested and reviewed by the committee. In the end we selected Spencer Stuart. We now have more than 60 nominations; however we are striving to increase the pool of qualified applicants. We encourage TAMU faculty and administrators to use their connections to help us recruit top applicants. We will meet with the search firm next week to discuss their findings. Our goal is to begin to narrow the applicant pool within the next month. We plan to conduct airport interviews before the winter break and then on-campus interviews after the break. We hope to provide a list of finalists to Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, President of Texas A&M University, early in the next semester. Nominations and applications may be submitted to provostsearch@tamu.edu.

Contact:

Dr. Mary Meagher, m-meagher@tamu.edu

Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities Proposals

Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, invites proposals for the 2011 Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities. Details regarding the program and application criteria are available at <http://rgs.tamu.edu/s&c>. All proposals must be submitted electronically at: <https://eproposal.tamu.edu>. Deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 8, 2010. Questions about the Scholarly and Creative Program should be directed to Dr. Charles A. Johnson, Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, at cjohnson@tamu.edu.

Professional Development Workshops for Postdocs

The Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) is presenting professional development workshops for Postdocs on Friday, October 15, 2010 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Mitchell Institute Building, room M108. To receive more information about individual workshops/dates/times, please subscribe to the TAMUCIRTL-POSTDOC listserv via email to listserv@listserv.tamu.edu and in the body put “SUBSCRIBE tamucirtl-postdoc firstname lastname”.

Contact:

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Foreign Travel Rule Updated

The Foreign Travel rule has been updated and finalized and was broadly distributed in August. The link to the revised rule is http://finance.tamu.edu/contracts/travel_abroad.asp.