



# Council of Principal Investigators

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**CPI Newsletter – January 2013**  
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## **Preview of January 16, 2013 CPI meeting**

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At the January 16, 2012 in Rudder Tower, room 601 from 11:30 – 1:15 p.m. Dr. R. Bowen Loftin will provide an update on university research initiatives (see [Grand Challenges at Texas A&M University](#)); Dr. Theresa W. Fossum will provide an update on the Division of Research; and Dr. Sumana Datta and Dr. Duncan MacKenzie will provide an update on “Explorations” and Undergraduate Research at Texas A&M University. While most CPI meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, the January 2013 meeting will be held the third Wednesday of the month, to accommodate for the Winter Break.

## **Summary of December 17, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the President and Provost**

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The CPI EC met with the President and Provost on December 17, 2012 from 11-1 p.m. in the President's Conference Room, 10<sup>th</sup> floor Rudder. Agenda items included: the role and impact of the Vice President for Research on the Texas A&M research enterprise; use of funds for university research initiatives and opportunities to support existing faculty; and discussions regarding an RFP for online opportunities for Texas A&M.

## **Summary of January 9, 2013 CPI EC meeting with research administrators from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI**

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The CPI Executive Committee (EC) held its monthly coordination meeting on January 9, 2013 from 11:30-1:15 p.m. at the Williams Administration Building, room 310. Research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI are invited to these coordination meetings. Agenda items were as follows: Preview of OSRS Maestro Financial Conflict of Interest module by Mr. Tye Rougas and other OSRS representatives; update on “fiscal cliff” and subsequent federal budget issues by Mr. Michael O’Quinn and Ms. Diane Hurtado; and a demonstration of a research expertise database by Dr. Ann McGuigan.

Mr. O’Quinn and Ms. Hurtado provided hard copies of recent articles and memorandums relating to current federal budget issues. These documents are available at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/resources/fiscal-information-regarding-federal-funding>. The remaining 2013 CPI EC meeting schedule can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/EC>.

## **Upcoming CPI EC meetings with administration**

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The CPI EC will hold its next meeting with the President and Provost on March 6, 2013 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. in the President's conference room, 10<sup>th</sup> floor Rudder. The CPI EC holds its next meeting with the Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, on April 8, 2013 from 2-4 p.m. at the System headquarters at the John B. Connally Building. After this meeting, the CPI EC will report back to the full CPI membership at the monthly CPI meeting and to the PI community through the monthly newsletter.

## **Update on the VPR search**

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To date, the VPR Search Committee has received more than 20 nominations and has received application materials from at least 16 candidates. The Committee has begun reviewing application materials and is working on refining the final criteria by which to evaluate candidates.

Information about the position and how to apply can be found at <http://vprsearch.tamu.edu/>, and nominations can be sent to search advisory committee chair Dr. B. Don Russell at [bdrussell@tamu.edu](mailto:bdrussell@tamu.edu). Please note that self-nominations will be accepted.

Contact:

Dr. Jeffrey Liew, [Jeffrey.liew@tamu.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.liew@tamu.edu)

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## Update regarding OSRS issues

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CPI members were asked to email issues relating to OSRS, prior to the November 14, 2012 CPI meeting. These questions were forwarded to the OSRS Executive Director, Mr. Leo Paterra, to address during his update on OSRS activities at the November 14 meeting. At the meeting, Council members brought forward additional issues regarding OSRS ([click here](#) to see the meeting video). All of the CPI member OSRS-related issues (submitted prior to the meeting and voiced at the meeting), were collated and sent to the attention of Mr. Paterra, with a request from the CPI Chair to provide updates on the follow up action for each issue.

On January 9, 2013, Mr. Paterra provided an update to the CPI Chair regarding these issues. The list of CPI member-submitted OSRS issues and the full update from Mr. Paterra can be found at [http://cpi.tamu.edu/resources/cpi\\_osrs\\_issues\\_11.14.12](http://cpi.tamu.edu/resources/cpi_osrs_issues_11.14.12).

In the submitted update, Mr. Paterra noted that OSRS has been in contact with PIs regarding specific issues affecting their projects and service with OSRS. Many issues were general in nature and require long-term solutions. Improvements to OSRS operations are an ongoing process. All OSRS employees attended half-day training on communication and customer service on Nov. 29. The Maestro team is implementing a contract negotiation module. On Feb. 1, researchers can use the module to check the negotiation status of pending contracts. OSRS uses the [PI/Faculty Advisory Committee \(PIFAC\)](#) as a feedback tool. PIFAC's role is to represent the interests and concerns of the research community regarding sponsored research administration. OSRS is establishing the [OSRS Oversight Committee](#), consisting of representatives of System members using OSRS services. The Oversight Committee is another avenue to provide input to OSRS regarding its operations.

OSRS has also initiated discussions with other universities to compare best practices and operating procedures, with the goal of establishing performance measures.

Contact:

Reza Langari, [rlangari@tamu.edu](mailto:rlangari@tamu.edu) or 979.845.6918

## Contact information for questions or issues regarding e-Travel/Concur

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As a reminder, the PI community can submit Concur issues directly to Ms. Debbie Phair at [d-phair@tamu.edu](mailto:d-phair@tamu.edu) or 979-845-8119. Any additional e-Travel/Concur concerns can also be sent to the CPI Chair at [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu), or PIs may contact their CPI representative (see <http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/unit>) to submit concerns regarding these issues.

## "Explorations" proposal submission

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Proposals are being accepted for [Explorations](#), a student-run journal guided by faculty and administrators that selects and publishes student-authored articles of general interest in any area. *Explorations* provides an opportunity for undergraduates to publish articles of general interest based on their research findings or scholarly activity.

Who may submit proposals? Any undergraduate student at Texas A&M who is pursuing research, creative or scholarly work with a Texas A&M faculty member. Proposals are due by Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. Additional information can be found at <https://academicevents.tamu.edu/hur/event/explorations-proposal-submission>.

## Sigma Xi nominations due February 13, 2013

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The Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, has issued a call for nominations for the 2013 Distinguished Scientist and the 2013 Outstanding Science Communicator Awards.

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Nominations are due Feb. 13, 2013. Nominations should include a nomination letter, curriculum vitae, and letters of support. Recipients will receive a plaque and a \$750 cash prize at the Sigma Xi Induction and Awards Banquet in May 2013. The recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award will present the 2013 Distinguished Scientist Lecture, hosted by Sigma Xi. For a nominee to be competitive, they should have credentials equivalent to those of previous recipients. See [http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/Prizes\\_and\\_Awards](http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/Prizes_and_Awards) for information on the awards and previous winners. Please note that membership in Sigma Xi is not required for nominators or nominees.

Nominations may be submitted via email, campus mail, or U.S. mail to:

Sigma Xi Coordinator  
Division of Research  
1112 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-1112  
Email: [sigmaxi@tamu.edu](mailto:sigmaxi@tamu.edu)

Sigma Xi is an international, chapter-based organization dedicated to nurturing the research enterprise in all fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Unique among scientific honor societies, Sigma Xi has a broad outlook that scans the spectrum of science and technology and is committed to the core values that unite across disciplinary boundaries. For more information about Sigma Xi, visit <http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/>.

#### **Main contact number for SSC/Compass**

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At the December 12, 2012 CPI meeting, Mr. Bob Casagrande, Vice President for Operations at SCC/Compass, provided a main contact number for the PI community to use regarding inquiries about Texas A&M University service requests (Dining Services, Landscape, Facilities Services) that are now managed by SCC/Compass. The main number for SCC/Compass service inquiries is 979-458-5500.