



# Council of Principal Investigators

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**CPI Newsletter – November 2012**  
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## **Update from the CPI Chair**

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On October 24, 2012, the CPI Chair and Vice Chair were invited to meet with Dr. Theresa “Terry” Fossum, the Interim Vice President for Research. Dr. Fossum has been invited (and accepted) to present and participate in a Q&A with the CPI membership at the January 16, 2013 CPI meeting. We would like to thank Dr. Fossum for the invitation to meet with her and for accepting our invitation to participate in the January meeting.

Also on October 24, 2012, the CPI Chair and Vice Chair met with Mr. Michael O’Quinn, Vice President for Government Relations, and Ms. Diane Hurtado, Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations, to discuss various ways to achieve a means of communication with external groups, such as elected representatives at the local, state and national levels.

Mr. O’Quinn and Ms. Hurtado have been invited to attend an upcoming CPI meeting and we will keep the CPI and PI community up-to-date on efforts to engage elected officials. I would like to thank Mr. O’Quinn and Ms. Hurtado for their gracious assistance and great care in providing meaningful details about current issues facing public research universities and opportunities the CPI and PI community can have at the state and national levels. As a reminder, members of the PI community can contact their respective CPI representative (see <http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/unit>) with any research-related issues to bring to the attention of the Council of Principal Investigators.

Contact:

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

## **Summary of November 7, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the Executive Committee of the Distinguished Professors**

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The CPI Executive Committee (EC) held its biannual coordination meeting with the Executive Committee of the Distinguished Professors on November 7, 2012 from 11:30-1:15 p.m. at the Williams Administration Building. Agenda items were as follows: review working draft of 2012-13 CPI focus issues; opportunities to engage external groups (elected representatives at the local, state and national levels; Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education; Association of Former Students, etc.); discussion of recent changes to research administration; compliance issues (FCOI, etc.); and an update on the Research Data Stewardship Task Force. The CPI EC meeting schedule, agenda and materials can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/EC>.

## **Upcoming CPI EC meetings**

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The CPI EC will hold its biannual meeting with Mr. John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, on November 26, 2012 from 2-4 p.m. at the System headquarters at the John B. Connally Building. The spring meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 8, 2013 from 2-4 p.m. After each of these meetings, 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.

## **Teaching Laboratory Safety Committee**

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The Teaching Lab Safety Committee met on October 30, 2012. The focus of the main discussion was how to identify teaching labs that use biohazardous materials and how to ensure the safety of students enrolled in these lab courses. The cataloging of the teaching labs that use biohazardous materials is a step toward requiring each of these labs to apply for and obtain an appropriate Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) permit. The Office of Biosafety plans to facilitate the application process for these teaching labs and to provide training to instructors, teaching assistants and students in these labs. Contact Mary Bryk for more information.

Contact:

Dr. Mary Bryk, [bryk@tamu.edu](mailto:bryk@tamu.edu)

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## **Council for Strategic Budgeting and Strategic Reallocation Sub-Council**

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The charge to the Council for Strategic Budgeting is to make recommendations to the President on all aspects of the campus budgeting environment in support of the university's core missions of teaching, scholarship and research, and engagement, as well as to support the realization of the goals contained in Vision 2020. The full charge and additional information is available at <http://csb.tamu.edu/>. The Council for Strategic Budgeting met on October 15, 2012 to receive the full charge and on October 29, 2012 for a presentation on Budget and Academic Costs.

Contact:

Dr. Mary Bryk, [bryk@tamu.edu](mailto:bryk@tamu.edu)

Ms. Sandy Tucker, [s-tucker@library.tamu.edu](mailto:s-tucker@library.tamu.edu)

## **EPIK-Maestro Working Group**

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On October 11, 2012, The EPIK-Maestro Working Group met at the Office of Sponsored Research Services. Ms. Leonarda Horvat, Director, Research Information Systems, and representatives from her office presented updates and new developments. The major discussion was focused on the development of the FCOI application and its implications, including the scope of financial disclosures for required proposals/projects and the annual disclosure process. This is a federal issue that requires universities to guarantee transparency with different research projects. Several accomplishments regarding Maestro were discussed, including several enhancements to the proposal module and the negotiation module. The group was informed that training with OSRS negotiators is in progress and the full implementation will take place on November 1, 2012. PIs will be able to see all the negotiation steps on their contracts in their Researcher Portal, based on the negotiators input. The post-award design is progressing well, and the team, which consists of OSRS post-award administrators, agency representatives, and CPI members, is meeting regularly and providing valuable input.

The question was asked if Maestro can use the "Researcher" dashboard with all messages and approval items as the default home page instead of the "Current Account" list to improve navigation through the system. This will be discussed at a further meeting

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Dr. Beverly Kuhn, [b-kuhn@tamu.edu](mailto:b-kuhn@tamu.edu)

Dr. Jamie Foster, [jlfoster@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jlfoster@ag.tamu.edu)

## **Task Force on Research Data Stewardship at Texas A&M University**

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The Task Force on Research Data Stewardship at Texas A&M University met on November 9, 2012. Small groups are currently working on the following tasks: Faculty survey & assessment of current situation at Texas A&M; assessment of other institutions – research data services and support; and development of a Texas A&M University rule/SAP on research data stewardship. The task force plans to send a very brief survey to researchers who have submitted a proposal to NSF in the past year, to ask about their needs relating to data management.

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, [rwerger@tamu.edu](mailto:rwerger@tamu.edu)

Dr. Terry Thomas, [tlthomas@tamu.edu](mailto:tlthomas@tamu.edu)

Ms. Sandy Tucker, [s-tucker@library.tamu.edu](mailto:s-tucker@library.tamu.edu)

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## **Update on the Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS)**

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The Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) recently announced that six notable scholars accepted invitations to join Texas A&M during the 2012-13 academic year. Five of the scholars will serve as in-residence TIAS Faculty Fellows for three to 12 months, while another will visit campus for two several-week stays, during which he will present a series of lectures. The individuals include a Nobel Laureate and members of the National Academies of Engineering and of Science, as well as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and one Fellow of the Royal Society ([see more](#)). Nominations are currently being solicited for the next round of TIAS Faculty Fellows. Nomination forms should be completed and returned by November 30, 2012. Nomination forms and additional information can be found at <http://tias.tamu.edu/facultyfellows>.

Contact:

Dr. John L. Junkins, [junkins@tamu.edu](mailto:junkins@tamu.edu)

Dr. Nancy Amato, [amato@tamu.edu](mailto:amato@tamu.edu)

## **OSRS Executive Director appointed; OSRS Advisory Board appointed**

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In an [October 16, 2012 memo from Mr. John Sharp](#), Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, Mr. Leo Paterra was named the Executive Director of the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS). Mr. Mark Smock will continue to serve as the Chief Operating Officer for OSRS.

In addition, the memo stated that the Chancellor has formed an OSRS Advisory Board, comprised of Dr. M. Katherine Banks, Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering and Director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station; Dr. Mark Hussey, Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, President of Texas A&M University; and Dr. E.J. "Jere" Pederson, Acting President of the Texas A&M Health Science Center. The Advisory Board will meet on a regular basis to provide input to Mr. Paterra and Mr. Smock on issues facing OSRS and its stakeholders.

## **Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost Search Advisory Committee announces campus interviews**

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The Search Advisory Committee for the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost has announced that two individuals have been scheduled for campus interviews:

- Dr. John R. August is a Professor of Feline Internal Medicine and a former Department Head. A campus forum with Dr. August will be held on Friday, November 16 from 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Dr. Michael J. Benedik is a Professor of Biology and the Interim Dean of Faculties. A campus forum with Dr. Benedik will be held on Tuesday, November 20 from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Individuals can attend the campus forum with each candidate. Complete schedule information and open forum locations can be found at <http://dofsearch.tamu.edu> by clicking the 'Schedule' tab. There will also be a live streaming video webcast, which can be viewed by going to <http://ttvn.tamus.edu/webcasts> and selecting Channel 20.

Letters of application, curriculum vitae, and online feedback forms for the two candidates are available at <http://dofsearch.tamu.edu> by clicking the 'Evaluations' tab. To access this information, log in using a NetID and password. Note that only one evaluation for each candidate can be submitted per NetID. The Search Advisory Committee welcomes evaluations, comments, and questions.

Contact:

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