



Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – December 2012
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Update from the CPI Chair

OSRS Issues

The list of OSRS questions submitted by PIs prior to the November 14, 2012 CPI meeting with OSRS Executive Director Mr. Leo Paterra, were combined with those issues that were brought up during the meeting. After speaking with Mr. Leo Paterra (the Executive Director of OSRS), it is our understanding that he is working to resolve these issues. In fact he has been in contact with the specific CPI members who raised their concerns at the CPI meeting, in order to be able to take appropriate action in each case.

While we are confident that these issues will be resolved under Mr. Paterra's leadership, we have also communicated PI concerns directly to Chancellor Sharp at the recent CPI Executive Committee (EC) meeting with the Chancellor. It is clear that Mr. Paterra has a challenging period ahead in addressing a number of issues related to pre-award and post-award processing of research proposals and grants. The Chancellor, while reiterating his support for Mr. Paterra, has asked us to keep him posted on the progress of OSRS in addressing these issues. We will ensure that he remains aware of the concerns of the PI community.

Concur

At the October 12, 2012 general CPI meeting, we had Mr. John Crawford and Ms. Debbie Phair attend and address PI issues regarding Concur. After the general meeting, Mr. Crawford and Ms. Phair met with select CPI members and addressed a number of concerns related to Concur. I want to remind our CPI members to let their constituents know they can submit Concur issues directly to Ms. Phair at d-phair@tamu.edu or 979-845-8119. Any additional OSRS or Concur concerns can also be sent to cpi@tamu.edu, or you may contact your CPI representative (see <http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/unit>) to submit concerns regarding these issues.

Other Issues

The CPI EC held 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, located in the John B. Connally Building. In addition to OSRS related issues, the CPI EC discussed the potential opportunities and challenges in online delivery of education with Chancellor Sharp. The Chancellor indicated that no decision regarding this matter has been made at the System level and that any such decision will be made in a manner that is mindful of its impact on the University and its research enterprise.

The CPI EC and Chancellor Sharp also discussed the Chancellor's Research Initiative and its interrelationship with the President's Grand Challenges Initiative. The CPI EC will seek further clarification on the implementation details of these programs at its upcoming meeting with the President and the Provost on December 17, 2012, and we will inform the CPI membership of the outcome of these discussions at a later date.

Contact:

Reza Langari, rlangari@tamu.edu or 979.845.6918

Preview of January 16, 2013 CPI meeting

After the December 12 meeting, the next CPI meeting will be held on January 16, 2013 in Rudder Tower, room 601 from 11:30 – 1:15 p.m. At this meeting, the Interim Vice President for Research, Dr. Theresa Fossum, will provide an update on activities of the Division of Research. While most CPI meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month, the January 2013 meeting will be held the third Wednesday of the month, to accommodate for those returning from the winter break.

Preview of December 17, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the President and Provost

The CPI EC will meet with the President and Provost on December 17, 2012 from 11-1 p.m. in the President's Conference Room, 10th floor Rudder. Agenda items include: the role and impact of the Vice President for

Research on the Texas A&M research enterprise; funds for the President's Grand Challenge Initiative and opportunities to support existing faculty; and discussion of an RFP online opportunity for Texas A&M. The full CPI EC meeting schedule can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/EC>.

Summary of December 5, 2012 CPI EC coordination meeting

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

The CPI EC will hold its next biannual meeting with Mr. John Sharp, 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

The members of the Vice President for Research (VPR) Search Committee have had initial meetings to discuss processes and procedures for the search. Agenda of the initial meetings included addressing issues related to information and website security, the position description, and an application process.

The Committee arrived at a final version of the VPR position description on December 7, 2012, which is now publicly available. In regards to procedures for nominations of applicants and potential candidates, names will be accepted and nominees will be contacted via letter or electronic mail from the B. Don Russell (chair of the VPR Search Committee) stating that their name has been submitted for the position and asking if they want to apply. Please note that self-nominations will be accepted.

Contact:

Dr. Jeffrey Liew, Jeffrey.liew@tamu.edu

EPIK-Maestro Working Group

On November 8, 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 negotiation updates, post award updates and release notes. In the negotiation phase, we were informed that different groups have been trained, including project administrators and recipients. Training will continue for the next few weeks. Several challenges were presented, including challenges identified in the negotiation process as well as the inclusion of all the phases. Testing and implementation will continue taking place. PIs will be able to see all the negotiation steps on their contracts in their Researcher Portal. It was noted that on December 1, Maestro will be in full operation.

Contact:

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

Dr. Jamie Foster, jlfoster@ag.tamu.edu

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

The Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) recently announced that six notable scholars (see below) 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](#)). The scholars are as follows:

- [Jay Dunlap](#), Nathan Smith Professor and chair of the Department of Genetics at Dartmouth Medical School;
- [Peter Liss](#), Professorial Fellow in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England;
- [Alan Needleman](#), Professor of Materials Science and Engineering in the College of Engineering, University of North Texas;
- [Aleda Roth](#), Burlington Industries Distinguished Professor in Supply Chain Management, College of Business and Behavioral Science, Clemson University;
- [Vernon Smith](#), Professor of Economics and Law, George L. Argyros Endowed Chair in Finance and Economics, Economic Science Institute, Chapman University;
- [K.R. Sreenivasan](#), University Professor, Department of Physics and the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University.

Nominations have been submitted for the second (2013-2014) class of Faculty Fellows and the reviews will be initiated by the Advisory Board in the near future. Further information is available on the [TIAS web site](#).

Contact:

Dr. John L. Junkins, junkins@tamu.edu

Dr. Nancy Amato, amato@tamu.edu

OSRS December Winter Break closure and deadlines

In accordance with The Texas A&M University System 's Winter Break schedule, the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) will be closed starting 5:00pm, Friday, December 21, 2012 and will re-open for business at 8:00am, Wednesday, January 2, 2013. The OSRS staff will not be available during the closure.

To ensure timely processing of proposal and project requests, please note the following deadlines:

- For proposals with due dates between 5:00pm, Friday, December 21, 2012 and Tuesday, January 2, 2013, complete and final proposal packages need to be received by OSRS before 5:00pm (CST), Monday, December 17, 2012.
- Purchasing and reimbursement requests need to be submitted to OSRS as soon as possible so we can meet your needs prior to the winter break.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact your [OSRS representative](#) or call our office at 979.862.6777.

Contact:

Ms. Stacey Rugh, srugh@tamus.edu

Sigma Xi nominations due February 13, 2013

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.

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 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

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/>.