CPI Meeting Agenda
December 11, 2013 (11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.)
Rudder Tower, room 701

(11:30 – 11:50) Lunch

Call to order/Opening remarks – Dr. Mary Bryk, CPI Vice Chair

Update on proposed changes to TAMUS policies 15.01, Research Agreements, and 15.04, Sponsored Research Services – Dr. Mary Bryk, CPI Vice Chair

Update on TAMUS IT Assessment – Dr. Pierce Cantrell, Vice President and Associate Provost for Information Technology and the Chief Information Officer at Texas A&M University

Other business – Dr. Mary Bryk, CPI Vice Chair

(1:15) Adjournment

Attachments: December CPI newsletter

2013-14 CPI roster: Chair — Niall Slowey, Geosciences • Vice Chair — Mary Bryk, COALS • Past Chair — Reza Langari, Engineering • AgriLife – Non-COALS — Jamie Foster, Ronald Randel, Travis Whitney • Architecture — Walter Peacock • BCD — Jay Groppe • Bush School — Lori Taylor • Business — Arun Sen • COALS — Clinton Allred, Joseph Awika, Bhimu Patil, Penny Riggs, Susanne Talcott, Heather Wilkinson • Education — Jeffrey Liew • Engineering — Jaime Grunlan, Ricardo Gutierrez-Osuna, Tony Hsieh, Daniel Jiménez, Lawrence Rauchwerger, Raffaella Righetti, Victor Ugaz • Geosciences — Steve DiMarco • IBT/PHARM/RCHI — Rod Dashwood • Liberal Arts — Mary Meagher, Richard Street, Teresa Wilcox • Medicine — Helene Andrews-Polimenis, Vytas Bankaitas • Science — Wolfgang Bangerth, Jean-Luc Guermond, Paul Hardin, Emil Straube, Terry Thomas • SRPH — Eva Shipp • TEES Non-COE — Richard Mercier • TAMU at Galveston — Joan Mileski • TAMU at Qatar — Anuj Gupta • TTI — Lance Bullard, Beverly Kuhn, Joe Zietsman • University Libraries — Sandy Tucker • Veterinary Medicine — Joe Arosh, Sanjay Reddy, Loren Skow

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

CPI Newsletter – December 2013

Included in this issue:

- Update on proposed revisions to A&M System Policy 15.01, Research Agreements, and new policy 15.04, Sponsored Research Services
- Summary of CPI EC meetings with administration
- Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) Comprehensive Administrative Review Advisory Committee
- Transportation Services Advisory Committee
- Laboratory Safety Sub-Committee
- Dr. Clifford Fry Appointed Associate Director of TIAS
- SRS December Winter Break Closure and Deadlines
- Letter from Texas AAU Presidents regarding sequestration
- Texas A&M Genomics Seed Grants
- Sigma Xi Call for Nominations
- THE Controller Connection eXtra
- Pending reports from CPI members serving on external committees
- Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities
Update on proposed revisions to A&M System Policy 15.01, Research Agreements, and new policy 15.04, Sponsored Research Services

A message was distributed to PIs through the CPI’s “Master PI Listserv” on November 27, 2013 (see goo.gl/TyMjN3), at the request of Dr. Jon Mogford, Vice Chancellor for Research. If you have not done so already, please read the message as it clears up misunderstandings and provides a summary of the most recent revisions to the proposed TAMU System Policies 15.01 (see goo.gl/207XRJ) and 15.04 (see goo.gl/JvmSQM).

Also distributed the same day were revised DRAFT versions of the System policies 15.01 and 15.04 that had been amended to address concerns raised by PIs and others throughout the A&M System. The CPI is appreciative of the efforts of Dr. Mogford and Mr. Leo Paterra of SRS, to listen to and address the concerns of PIs, faculty members and administrators regarding earlier versions of these policies. We also appreciate the extension of the deadline for comments on the proposed revisions to Friday, December 6, 2013.

The CPI leadership will continue to communicate with Dr. Mogford and Mr. Paterra on the status of these System policies and communicate back promptly to the PI community.

Summary of CPI EC meetings with administration

The CPI Executive Committee (EC) met with the Texas A&M President and Provost on November 13th, immediately after the full CPI meeting. Items discussed were IDC distribution to faculty; federally negotiated (F&A) indirect cost rate; taxes on graduate student reimbursements; update on the transition of the Texas A&M and HSC merger; and impacts of new campuses (Texas A&M University School of Law and Texas A&M University at Nazareth – Peace Campus).

During this meeting, the Provost reiterated that no decisions have been made to date with regards to changes to the distribution of IDC and the only activities occurring are open discussions with stakeholders across campus.

The CPI EC held its monthly coordination meeting on December 4th with invited research administration representatives from AgriLife, HSC, Texas A&M, TEES and TTI (see agenda at goo.gl/g2Wdtu).

Attendees discussed the fraction of IDC that is distributed to faculty; changes to the federally negotiated (F&A) indirect cost rate; TAMUS policies relating to research administration; the current status of The Texas A&M University System IT assessment; & reviewed the December 11th CPI meeting agenda.

Please feel free to submit any questions or issues for the CPI EC to consider through your elected CPI representatives (see goo.gl/BbOmyv) or send directly to cpi@tamu.edu.

Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) Comprehensive Administrative Review Advisory Committee

As announced by Chancellor Sharp, the Administrative Review for Universities and Agencies is currently underway. The purpose of the project is to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and provide additional resources for the core missions of instruction research and service. The consulting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) is assisting with the project that will include three phases. Phase I will take place during the remainder of 2013 and focuses on Texas A&M University (TAMU) and Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC).

At present, two surveys are being conducted. The first survey requested information from administrative supervisors in order to understand how TAMU and TAMHSC staff and faculty direct their effort. The second survey requested that faculty, staff, and students report on their level of satisfaction with available administrative services. The second and third phases, scheduled for 2014, will focus on the regional universities and agencies.
Chancellor Sharp appointed an Advisory Committee who will provide feedback about the review from the perspectives of administrators, faculty, staff, and students. Three CPI members are serving on this committee. If you have comments regarding the surveys or review, please contact one of the CPI members below or send them to cpi@tamu.edu.

Contact:
Dr. Eva Shipp (HSC) – eshipp@srph.tamhsc.edu
Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger (Engineering) – rwerger@cse.tamu.edu
Dr. Heather Wilkinson (COALS) – h-wilkinson@tamu.edu

Transportation Services Advisory Committee
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The TSAC met on Wednesday, December 4th, 2013. During the meeting, Transportation Services reports that they had been approached by and met with Gotcha (www.thegotcharide.com/) about possibly offering services on the TAMU campus. The company, which currently operates on several university campuses, operates street legal, 6-passenger, electric vehicles within a 10-mile radius of a campus. The vehicles offer point-to-point rides at no charge to users, and the services is funded through on-vehicle advertising. TS will work to gather additional information regarding the program, including getting feedback from other universities regarding their experiences. Additional discussion focused on the proposed parking garages. No decisions have been made regarding the Kyle Field garage, and the need for the west campus garage adjacent to the planned dorm is also part of the conversation.

The committee revisited a recommendation provided by a 2008 Bicycle Subcommittee to require students and others to register bikes. The intent would be to get a better handle on the number of bicycles that are on campus as well as to serve as a communication tool with bike owners regarding services, changes, theft, and recovery. The committee recommended moving forward with the policy.

Contact:
Dr. Beverly Kuhn – b-kuhn@tamu.edu

Laboratory Safety Sub-Committee
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Members reviewed the meeting notes from April 2013 and stated the notes were accurate. New members were introduced to the group: Dr. Rita Moyes, College of Science, Dr. Christopher Woodman, College of Education and Human Development, and Dr. Susanne Talcott, Council of Principal Investigators (not in attendance). Dr. Deb Banerjee invited a representative from Cloud SDS, Soumitra Banerjee, to give the committee a presentation on the company’s chemical inventory tracking tool. He showed the MSDS and chemical inventory modules. Dr. Musser suggested that the Laboratory Safety Committee make a recommendation to Dr. Watson that an online MSDS system be obtained.

Dr. Karin Loftin described the on-line process for the Office of Biosafety to receive IBC applications for teaching laboratories. Dr. Rita Moyes has recently completed the approval process for her teaching laboratories and described her experience with the committee.

A discussion was held about revising the rubric to eliminate redundancies. Ms. Robertson is to schedule a follow-up meeting with committee members to revise the rubric. In addition, Dr. Cobb has created an on-line evaluation tool for the members to use when reviewing course materials. The committee asked Dr. Cobb to serve as committee chair for FY14. The next committee meeting will be held on January 8, 2014.

Contact:
Dr. Susanne Talcott – smtalcott@tamu.edu
Dr. Clifford L. Fry Appointed Associate Director of TIAS

Dr. Clifford L. Fry (see photo goo.gl/S25lQg), Ph.D., C.V.A., recently joined the Texas A&M Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) as associate director. Dr. Fry will support Director Dr. John Junkins and Deputy Director Dr. Ed Fry with the administration and promotion of the Institute. Dr. Fry has supported numerous industry and private sector clients in economics and finance-related consulting for the past two decades. He began his academic career on the Washington State University faculty and served on the University of Houston faculty for 17 years. During his tenure with the University of Houston, he served as chairman of the Department of Finance in the College of Business Administration and also as director of academic programs for the College of Business. Dr. Fry graduated from Texas A&M with a bachelor’s in 1967 and received his doctorate in economics in 1972. He also has served as a visiting faculty member in the Department of Economics at Texas A&M. Dr. Fry’s experience and expertise will be an important component as TIAS continues to grow and prepare for the upcoming university-wide capital campaign.

Dr. John Junkins will be 50% with TIAS and 50% Aero Space Engineering, as he continues to manage complex research endeavors. Administrative Assistant Lisa Jordan is 75% TIAS and 25% Aero Space Engineering. If you need information from or about TIAS consider contacting its new Associate Director, Dr. Clifford L. Fry.

Contact:
Dr. Clifford Fry - cfry@tamu.edu or 979-458-5723

SRS December Winter Break Closure and Deadlines

In accordance with The Texas A&M University System’s winter break schedule, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will be closed starting 5:00pm, Friday, December 20, 2013 and will re-open for business at 8:00am, Thursday, January 2, 2014. The SRS 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 20, 2013 and Thursday, January 2, 2014, complete and final proposal packages need to be received by SRS before 5:00pm (CST), Monday, December 16, 2013.
- Purchasing requisitions and reimbursement requests need to be submitted to SRS as soon as possible and we will make every effort to meet your needs prior to the winter break.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact your SRS representative or call 979.862.6777.

Letter from Texas AAU Presidents regarding sequestration

A letter (see goo.gl/rm2bYm) from Presidents Leebron (Rice), Loftin (TAMU), and Powers (UT) was delivered on November 19 to targeted Congressional Members regarding the impact of sequestration. This is part of a larger advocacy and education strategy that the Office of the President and the Office of Government Relations are engaged in with the Association of American Universities.

The letter was forwarded on behalf of Dr. Diane Hurtado, Associate Vice President for Federal Relations at Texas A&M University

Texas A&M Genomic Seed Grants

There has been great interest in the Texas A&M Genomics Seed Grant RFP (see goo.gl/FgUj8q) and the AgriLife Plant/Water Genomics Seed Grant RFP (see goo.gl/ScFghq) programs. The due dates are quickly approaching (Dec 16th, 19th respectively). If you have not yet received a quote for services, please contact Dr.
Charles D. Johnson as soon as possible. Failure to include a quote for bioinformatics services from Dr. Johnson will disqualify the submission and his office wants to ensure this does not occur.

Contact:
Dr. Charles D. Johnson – Charlie@ag.tamu.edu, (office) 979-862-3287, (cell) 979-436-1485

Sigma Xi Call for Nominations
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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 2014 Outstanding Distinguished Scientist and the 2014 Outstanding Science Communicator Awards. Nominations are due Feb. 13, 2014. 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 2014. The recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award will present the 2014 Distinguished Scientist Lecture, hosted by Sigma Xi. For a nominee to be competitive, they should have credentials equivalent to those of previous recipients. See sigmaxi.tamu.edu/awards for information on the awards and previous winners.

Nominations may be submitted via email, campus mail, or U.S. mail to:
Sigma Xi Coordinator
Division of Research
1260 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-1260
Email: sigmaxi@tamu.edu

Please note that membership in Sigma Xi is not required for nominators or nominees. 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 sigmaxi.tamu.edu/.

THE Controller Connection eXtra
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The Financial Management Office (FMO) distributes a weekly newsletter called “THE Controller Connection” to accounting and business personnel across campus who subscribe to the FMO listserv. Information included in the newsletters may be of use to Principal Investigators as it relates to Concur. To subscribe or unsubscribe to “THE Controller Connection” newsletter listserv, visit: finance.tamu.edu/fmo/docs/listserv_signup.asp. Past issues of THE Controller Connection will be archived at the following URL: finance.tamu.edu/controller-connection/. The most recent issue is available at goo.gl/ejlZse.

For any questions, contact travel@tamu.edu or 458-8734.

Pending reports from CPI representatives serving on external committees (CPI representative)
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- Council for the Built Environment (Paul Hardin)
- Council for the Strategic Budgeting and Strategic Reallocation Sub-Council (Mary Bryk)
- Email Selection Advisory Committee (Terry Thomas)
- EPIK-Maestro Working Group (Beverly Kuhn, Terry Thomas, Victor Ugaz)
- Federal Demonstration Partnership (Wolfgang Bangerth)
- Graduate Student Copyright/IP Policies Review Task Force (Jean Luc-Guermond, Sandy Tucker)
- Intellectual Property Constituent Committee (Wolfgang Bangerth)
- SRS PI/Faculty Advisory Committee (Terry Thomas, Lawrence Rauchwerger, Niall Slowey)
- Texas A&M University Research Administration Committee (Terry Thomas)
- University Research Council (Clint Allred)

See the full list of CPI members serving on external committees and committee descriptions at goo.gl/rP41nF.

**Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities**

Up-to-date limited submission proposal opportunities, including deadlines for required letters of intent, are available on the website of the Division of Research at vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/funding/lsp/lsp/#limited-submission-proposal-opportunities.