



Council of Principal Investigators

CPI Newsletter – April 2012

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Summary of March 7, 2012 CPI meeting

At the March 7, 2012 CPI meeting, Dr. Rodney P. McClendon, Vice President for Administration at Texas A&M University, provided an update and participated in discussions regarding the Division of Administration. The meeting was held from 11:30-1:15 p.m. in Rudder 601. The agenda, presentation slides, and video are available at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/2011-12meetingschedule/#3.7.12>.

Summary of March 7, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the President, Provost and VPR

The CPI EC held its coordination meeting with the President, Provost and VPR on March 7, 2012 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Attendees discussed the following: Update/Status of CONCUR implementation; discussion of RFPs/outsourcing of various units within the Division of Administration; update/status of Academic Master Plan and Research Roadmap; status of the reallocation of funds; and the Texas A&M framework for promotion of faculty to national service and awards.

Summary of April 4, 2012 CPI EC meeting with research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI

The CPI Executive Committee (EC) held its monthly coordination meeting on April 4, 2012 from 11:30-1:15 p.m. Research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI are invited to these coordination meetings. At the beginning of the meeting Dr. Charles Johnson discussed the draft status of the Division of Research Planning Grants for Extramural Funding program and provided an update on Interdisciplinary Research Programs. Dr. Johnson will be presenting on these items at the full CPI meeting on May 9, 2012. Attendees also discussed follow-up action items from the March 23, 2012 meeting between the executive committees of the Distinguished Professors, CPI and invited guests; recommendations for presentation or discussion topics for the April 11, 2012 full CPI meeting; recommendations for agenda items for the April 11, 2012 EC meeting with CEOs and Chief Research Officers (CROs) of Texas A&M, TEES, HSC, AgriLife Research and TTI; recommendations for agenda items for the April 23, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the Chancellor.

Preview of May 9, 2012 CPI meeting

At the May 9, 2012 CPI meeting, Dr. Charles A. Johnson, Senior Associate Vice President for Research at Texas A&M University, will present on the Division of Research Planning Grants of Extramural Funding program and provide an update and discussion on Interdisciplinary Research Programs.

March 27, 2012 CPI Officer letter to Chancellor; CPI participation in outsourcing initiative

On March 27, 2012, the CPI Officers sent a letter to The Texas A&M University System Chancellor, Mr. John Sharp regarding the current initiative to consider outsourcing some TAMUS services. The full letter can be found at http://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/officer_ltr_chancellor_3.27.12.pdf.

As a follow up to the aforementioned letter, the Chancellor has asked the CPI to provide a representative to participate in the initiative to consider outsourcing some TAMUS services. CPI member and Past Chair, Dr. Terry Thomas has agreed to represent the CPI in this initiative.

CPI Chair invited to Chancellor-hosted reception of Board of Regents prior to each meeting

Chancellor Sharp has asked several System member CEOs to name five faculty to be invited to a reception he will host for the Board of Regents prior to each of their meetings, including a chancellor and faculty-only breakfast. Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, President of Texas A&M University, asked Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, CPI Chair, to attend the first of these meetings on May 2 and May 3.

OSRS PI/Faculty Advisory Committee (PIFAC) Update

The OSRS PI/Faculty Advisory Committee (PIFAC) held its first meeting on March 2, 2012. Committee Chair, Dr. Terry Thomas, moderated the meeting. Agenda items included an overview of the OSRS organization and oversight; review of PIFAC's charge; critical issues to be addressed by the committee; review and discussion of the draft bylaws; and the meeting schedule. A list of PIFAC members with contact information is available at <http://www.tamus.edu/offices/cro/osrs/pifac/>. Once approved, the PIFAC meeting notes and bylaws will be posted to the PIFAC website above.

Contact:

Dr. Terry L. Thomas, tthomas@tamu.edu

Top Concur/eTravel FAQs; issues regarding Concur

A document regarding top Concur/eTravel Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is available at http://cpi.tamu.edu/resources/concur_faqs.pdf/. Additional travel resources are available at <https://www.tamus.edu/offices/travel>.

Issues regarding Concur can be sent directly to the CPI Chair at CONCUR-PI-ISSUES@listserv.tamu.edu. Only the CPI Chair will review messages to this email address.

CPI Elections

As stated in previous newsletters, the 2012 PI census was completed in late January 2012. Results from the census are used to determine the number of open seats allocated to each college/unit represented on the CPI each year. Seat allocations for 2012-13 can be found at http://cpi.tamu.edu/resources/2012-13_seats.

Information on colleges/units holding elections for open seats for the 2012-13 CPI session, beginning on September 1, 2012, can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/2012info>. Final election results will be announced on April 18, 2012 and will be posted on <http://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/nominationelectionresults/2012results> and announced in the May CPI newsletter. The 2012-13 CPI Vice Chair nomination and election period will begin on April 19, 2012, after the general elections have concluded, and will be completed on Thursday, May 3, 2012. Results will be posted on the CPI website above and also posted in the May 2012 CPI newsletter.

Proposed System Ethics and Compliance Program

The System is proposing the creation of a System Ethics and Compliance Program which will involve the Board's appointment of a System Ethics and Compliance Officer. The framework for the program is outlined in the draft policy 16.01 (http://cpi.tamu.edu/resources/draft_tamus_16.01/) and regulation 16.01.01 (http://cpi.tamu.edu/resources/draft_tamus_16.01.01/). The System plans to seek Board of Regents approval of the draft policy 16.01 at the May Board meeting and rescission of System Policy 15.03 Research Compliance. Please provide feedback and comments to the CPI Coordinator at CPI@tamu.edu by close of business on Monday, April 16, 2012.

Limited Submissions: Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT)

Information on the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT) limited submission funding opportunity for Texas A&M University is available at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/funding/lsp/2012/NSF-IGERT-2012>. The deadline for email of intent is April 12, 2012. Include names of the PI and Co-PIs, title of internal proposal and a 1-3 sentence description of the project. Send email of intent to limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu.

Contact:

Libby Pasciak, libbyp@tamu.edu or 979.845.1811

Policy and Rules Update

University rule 15.99.01.M1, Human Subjects in Research, was recently revised. This rule was modified to provide guidance on complying with federal laws and regulations relating to research involving human subjects including upholding the ethical principles and guidelines set forth in the Belmont Report, April 18, 1979, for the protection of human subjects in research. See <http://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.01.M1.pdf> for details.

NCURA TV Program – It Takes a Village to Manage Awards (April 13, 2012)

The first NCURA – National Council of University Research Administrators’ TV series for 2012 will be held on Friday, April 13, 2012 (10:30-2:30). The topic is “It Takes a Village to Manage Awards: Post-Award Issues for the Pre-Award Research Administrators & Departmental Administrators.” Additional information and registration instructions can be found at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/resources/researchadmin/resources/training/ncuraregistration>.

Contact:

Janet Killion, jkillion@tamu.edu or 979.862.2841

FACULTY-DISCUSS Listserv

A listserv (FACULTY-DISCUSS@listserv.tamu.edu) has been set up to facilitate communication among faculty and others. The list is not moderated, i.e., messages to the list are not approved by a moderator or editor. However, only people subscribed to the list can send to the list.

You can join or sign-off from the listserv by following this link:

<https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=faculty-discuss&A=1>

CPI calendar

CPI meetings can now be added electronically to your calendar. Go to http://calendar.tamu.edu/?calendar_id=1230&upcoming=upcoming&limit=100 to see the meeting schedule from January – August 2012.

TTVN contact information

If experiencing any issues with any TTVN videoconference or webcast, the TTVN video operations technical staff is always available to assist at 979-862-2241.