



Council of Principal
Investigators

Texas A&M University
1112 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-1112
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September 12, 2007 CPI Schedule:

(11:30 – 1:15) Council of Principal Investigators Monthly Meeting

Guest speaker:

Dr. Eddie J. Davis, interim president of Texas A&M University
University Club, 11th floor Rudder

Attendees: CPI Members and Guest Members

Distribution materials:

September 12, 2007 CPI agenda; meeting materials

Table of Contents

I. August 12, 2007 CPI Agenda.....3

II. DRAFT August 8, 2007 CPI minutes.....4 - 7



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CPI Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, 12 September 2007
11:30-1:15

(11:50-12:00) Call to Order/Opening Remarks: (Moderated by Love/Fitzpatrick/Russell)

- Welcome
- Introduction:
— Dr. Eddie J. Davis, interim president of Texas A&M University

(12:00-12:30) *Special Guest Presentation:*

Dr. Eddie J. Davis, interim president of Texas A&M University

(12:20-1:00) Facilitated Discussion: (Moderated Love/Fitzpatrick/Russell)

- Open forum discussion

(1:00-1:15) Adjournment:

Attachments: (Materials are available for download at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/>)

- Agenda, 12 September 2007
- DRAFT, 8 August 2007 Minutes (distributed electronically for approval)

cc: (distributed meeting resources)

- Dr. Eddie J. Davis, Interim President (Texas A&M)
- Dr. Jerry R. Strawser, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost (Texas A&M)
- College Deans, Administrative and Department Heads (Texas A&M, TAES, TEES, HSC, TTI)
- Dr. H. Joseph Newton, Chair of the Research Environment Council (Texas A&M)
- Dr. Angie Hill Price, Speaker of the Faculty Senate (Texas A&M)
- Dr. Howard Kaplan, Chair of the Distinguished Professors (Texas A&M)

Chair — Alan Love, *COALS* • *Chair Elect* — Paul Fitzpatrick, *COALS* • *Past Chair* — David Russell, *Science* • *Architecture* — Donald House • *Business* — Joobin Choobineh • *COALS* — Rosana Moreira, Suresh Pillai, Herman Scholthof, Dorothy Shippen, David Stelly • *Education* — Susan Bloomfield • *Engineering* — Nancy Amato, David Boyle, Sheng-Jen Hsieh, Don Russell • *Geosciences* — Sarah Bednarz, Lisa Campbell, Norman Guinasso • *Health Science Center* — Geoffrey Kapler, Marty Scholtz • *Liberal Arts* — Sarah Gatson, James Grau • *Science* — Deb Bell-Pedersen, Keith Maggert, Michael Weimer • *TTI* — William Eisele, Katherine Turnbull • *Veterinary Medicine* — Bhanu Chowdhary, James Derr

**Council of Principal Investigators
August 8, 2007
Minutes**

Members present	Members not present	Guests present	Guests not present
Bednarz, Sarah; Bell-Pedersen, Deb; Blasingame, Tom (Past-Chair); Bloomfield, Susan; Boyle, David; Campbell, Lisa; Derr, James; Eisele, William; Grau, Jim; Kapler, Geoffrey; Love, Alan (Chair Elect); Maggert, Keith; Pillai, Suresh; Scholthof, Herman Scholtz, Marty Shippen, Dorothy; Stelly, Dave; Turnbull, Katherine	Burnett, Dave; Choobineh, Joo bin; Chowdhary, Bhanu; Fitzpatrick, Paul; House, Donald; Kaplan, Howard; Kennicutt, Mahlon; Moreira, Rosana; Russell, David (Chair); Russell, Don; Weimer, Michael	Amato, Nancy; Bednarz, Robert; Calvin, Jim; Droleskey, Suzanne; Dugas, William Foxworth, Greg; Hsieh, Tony; Kettleborough, C.F.; Maldonado, Theresa; O'Quinn, Mike; Pattera, Leo Pollock, Jill; Riddle, David; Rojo del Busto, Katherine; Rojo del Busto, Mario; Smock, Mark; Watson, Karan; Webb, Bob	Cantrell, Carol; Carlson, David Ewing, Richard; Giardino, Rick; Gilliland, Diane; Hussey, Mark; Hilding-Kronforst, Shari; Miller, Charlene; Raines, Angie; Summers, Max

(11:50-12:00) Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Call to Order/Opening Remarks: (Moderated by A. Love)

- Recognition: CPI members with expiring terms and newly elected and re-elected members
- Bridge funding and National Academy reports
- CPI Chair and Executive Committee members
- Review of 2006-2007 issues
- 2007-2008 remarks
- Approval of June 20, 2007 minutes

Presentations:

- Susan Bloomfield, professor of Health and Kinesiology
Update: *AFS Distinguished Achievement Awards Committee*
- Michael O'Quinn, vice president for Governmental Affairs
Presentation: *Texas A&M University 80th Session Recap*

(11:50-12:00) Call to order/Opening Remarks: (Moderated by A. Love)

- Meeting called to order at 11:50 AM. Recognized newly elected CPI members and those with expiring terms and expressed appreciation for their service. Letters of appreciation will be sent to them, their department head and deans.
- Mark Smock recognized; announced his resignation from the Research Foundation and his appointment to TEES. Introduced interim President of the Research Foundation, Mr. Leo Pattera. Mr. Pattera requested continued support from PI community and looked forward to working with them in the future.
- Alan Love noted issues addressed by CPI in 2006-2007; IP Policy and Commercialization, workplace and lab safety, campus infrastructure with regards to an academic master plan, and purchasing and procurement issues.
- Recognition of Keith Maggert's bridge funding white paper, with acknowledgements to Susan Bloomfield for her input. Recognition of Don Russell's report on the National Academies.
- Noted successful CPI Executive Committee meetings with the President and Provost; expressed appreciation to the executive committee members.
- Thanked council members who served on outside committees as CPI representatives; thanked the guest membership for their support and input at the monthly meetings and in their respective administrative capacities.
- Lastly, noted former President Gates' promotion of shared governance and the progress made thus far, evidence of this is seen in the soliciting of Council members to serve on so many outside committees and the willingness of the administration to engage CPI on research issues.

- Acknowledged critical time for members to be present at the October 10, 2007 CPI strategic planning meeting, which will set the council's objectives and meeting initiatives for the year.
- Noted Dick Ewing's resignation as the Vice President for Research, cited his phenomenal work as VPR and his impact on the research community at Texas A&M University, in addition to his unwavering support of CPI.
- Reminded council about the September 12, 2007 CPI meeting with President Davis and importance of attendance for Dr. Davis' address and the opening of the new CPI session.
- Noted change in the monthly meeting format to be non-presentation style, topic-oriented on a single-issue and discussion-based. A working document will be generated from council feedback during the meeting, with follow up on council recommendations included in the document.
- Provided brief update about the development of the mission and history of CPI, citing current efforts to engage original CPI members and develop the historical archive and time line of the council.
- Motion for approval of June 20, 2007 minutes. Katherine Rojo del Busto noted modification on page three, paragraph two, to reflect Texas Engineering Experiment Station. Recognized Sue Bloomfield for report on committee service on AFS Distinguished Achievement Awards Committee.

(12:00-12:10) Susan Bloomfield, professor of Health and Kinesiology

Update: *AFS Distinguished Achievement Awards Committee*

- Noted service on the AFS Distinguished Achievement Awards Committee as one of the shorter CPI committee term commitments.
- As she was elected chair of the committee, acknowledged it was beneficial in seeing how the AFS Awards process worked. Thanked the Office of the Dean of Faculties for their streamline approach to review applications electronically, which proved beneficial and efficient.
- Noted the value of serving on this committee, from a PIs perspective, was learning what an investigator needs to submit for a competitive package. She encouraged other CPI members to serve on this and other committees if they have the opportunity to do so.

(12:10-1:00) Michael G. O'Quinn, vice president for Governmental Affairs

Presentation: *Texas A&M University 80th Session Recap*

The Texas A&M University – 80th Session Recap, provided by the Office of the Vice President for Governmental Affairs, has been inserted for appropriation details:

-Beginning of document insert-

Appropriations

- ❖ At the onset of the 80th Texas Legislature, expectations were high. Comptroller of Public Accounts Susan Combs projected a \$14 billion surplus available to finance the FY 2008-2009 state budget. Complicating the matter, however, was the reality of mitigating factors: a constitutional spending cap limiting appropriations to no greater than the state's increase in average personal income, uncertainty of revenue collections following a recent tax law revision, a desire to address (i.e. reduce) property taxes, a looming Medicaid/CHIP settlement and an effort to park funds for possible lean budget years. Not to mention the usual demands to fund K-12, public safety and higher education—state government.
- ❖ Texas A&M University was in the unusual position of entering the session with an increase in semester credit hours—the most significant factor in the general academic funding formula.
 - Formula funding is approximately 70% of the total general revenue appropriation to universities.
 - Last biennium, Texas A&M went into session with 4.4% fewer weighted semester credit hours (WSCH) than the previous biennium. Thus, help was needed via funding outside the formula to pay for the faculty reinvestment, the top university priority.
 - For the 80th session, SCH's/WSCH's were up 4%/1.2% respectively; A&M's "market share" of the formula pie had increased relative to other universities—the largest market share increase in the state in the *Instruction and Operations* formula. This placed the university in an advantageous position and lessened the pressure to seek non-formula support to continue our faculty reinvestment plus other priorities to keep our positive momentum.
 - **The bottom line: A&M General Revenue (GR) increase of \$50.89 million, an 11.6% increase over FY 06-07, 8.7% without TRB construction debt service, for a total of \$488,216,320.**

- Texas A&M's position during the process in HB 1, the appropriations bill, over FY 06-07 was:

	House (% change)	Senate (% change)	HB 1 Conference Committee (% change)
Texas A&M GR	\$31,495,505 (7.2%)	\$40,078,219 (9.2%)	\$50,893,325 (11.6%)

- Excluding debt service for tuition revenue bonds, the GR increases were:

	House (% change)	Senate (% change)	HB 1 Conference Committee (% change)
Texas A&M GR without TRB debt service	\$18,424,361 (4.2%)	\$27,007,075 (6.2%)	\$37,822,181 (8.7%)

- ❖ The statewide average increase for general academic institutions was 12% including TRB debt service funds, 6.7% without. In short, even though Texas A&M is not considered a “growing institution” it was able to keep up statewide with “growing” universities because of semester credit hour growth. This certainly begs the question why and how?

- Concerted efforts from deans, department heads and advisors to encourage students to take more hours.
- Flat-rate tuition—15 SCH flat-rate tuition motivated students, and parents, to enroll in more classes to where for the first time in years more students were taking 15 hours than of 12.
- A lesser reason was the slight increase in enrollment of freshmen students.

- ❖ Several appropriation policy issues were enacted affecting Texas A&M.

- The House proposed the Competitive Knowledge Fund (CKF), a supplemental non-formula general revenue allocation. For every \$10 million in research expenditures reported to the Coordinating Board, institutions would receive \$1 million. Although all general academic institutions were recipients in the House version of HB 1, the Conference Committee Report to HB 1 included, in addition to Texas A&M, only UT-Austin, UH and Texas Tech in the CKF. Moreover, and most importantly for Texas A&M, \$40 million of previously appropriated funds to A&M for faculty reinvestment were moved to finance the \$93.2 million total for the CKF. Texas A&M received \$40.5 million for the biennium, an net increase of \$527,466 thus preserving past appropriations but with an added amount. It also kept A&M from “sticking out” with a \$40 million special item no other university had.
- Also, \$3 million subvention is appropriated in Art. III Sec. 54 to for a pilot program to reduce tuition in hopes of increasing summer enrollment.
- Incentive Funding. Governor Perry's pushed and received \$100 million allocated for a “Higher Education Performance Incentive Initiative” to be allocated by the Coordinating Board, in consultation with the Governor's office, for “improvement in teaching and educational excellence at Texas public general academic teaching institution.” [sic]. The Coordinating Board will make an initial submission to the LBB by January 1, 2008.

-End of document insert-

- ❖ Federal issues:

- Discussed a House proposal to cap indirect costs of DoD 6.1 basic research to 20%. Their office is currently working to address this issue.

- ❖ Open forum discussion:

- Congratulatory remarks on behalf of the council to Mr. O'Quinn and those involved with the successful legislative session.
- It was stated that schools are rarely 100% funded through formula funding, although there are claims to the contrary. One member observed this thought (that formula funds at 100%) may come about through the way that units are multiplied and then the amount is adjusted to show 100% formula funding.
- It was noted that salaries are now covered for the faculty reinvestment; based on the recent funding received from the state, Texas A&M will be able to finish out the 447 faculty positions.
- Member commented that there is the hope that some of the indirect costs will be freed up due to the increase in appropriations, in addition to the increase in training grants from NIH and NSF.

- Anecdotes about successful research initiatives were solicited from PIs to convey to federal officials about the benefits and breakthroughs in science and medicine, serving as a reminder that these successes don't occur on their own, but through funded research programs.
- The Advanced Research Program for the State of Texas was addressed, specifically if the program was stable at the present time. Member identified an issue of ARP funding ceasing and then resuming again. Guest member acknowledged that the budget for ARP 2007 has been increased from \$8.3 million to \$16.4 million. *Figures verified through program announcement at <http://www.arpap.com>
- Mr. O'Quinn directed council members to submit queries or success stories to the Office of the Vice President of Governmental Relations at irishmike@tamu.edu.
- In closing, James Calvin announced an NIH biotechnology activities training on August 23-24, including sessions working with recombinant DNA. There will be an announcement coming in greater detail.
- CPI member requested an update on the presidential search. Rosana. Moreira, who is serving as the CPI representative on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, sent an update to the executive committee that the search was going well and there are good candidates. This note was shared with the council.

(1:00) Adjournment