

# CPI

## Agenda

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., **Rm. 230-231 MSC**

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- I. Call to order      Dr. Jim Sacchetti, Chair
- II. Approval of March 9, 2005 Minutes  
(Attachment)
- III. Chris Meyer, Director – Environmental Health & Safety
- IV. VPR Update  
Dr. Jim Calvin, Executive Associate Vice President for Research
- V. Graduate Studies Update  
Dr. Rick Giardino, Dean of Graduate Studies
- VI. Compliance Update  
Ms. Angelia Raines, Director of Compliance
- VII. International Programs Office Update  
Dr. Suzanne Droleskey, Executive Director, International Programs for Students
- VIII. International Services Update  
Mr. Mario Rojo del Busto, Director of International Services
- IX. Development Update  
Mr. Henry Nemcik, Assistant Vice President for Development & Campaign Director
- X. CPI Nomination/Election
- XI. Continued Discussions of 2004-2005 CPI Issues
- XII. Adjourn

**COUNCIL OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS  
MARCH 9, 2005  
MINUTES**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS NOT PRESENT</b>	<b>GUESTS PRESENT</b>	<b>INVITED GUESTS PRESENT</b>
Anderson, Evan Andrews, Malcolm Burnett, Dave Campbell, Lisa Delp, Michael Ficht, Tom Gould, Jean Gibson, Richard Hall, Timothy (Past-Chair) House, Donald Kaplan, Howard Pillai, Suresh Sacchettini, Jim (Chair) Scholtz, Marty Weimer, Michael	Blasingame, Tom (Vice-Chair) Chen, Jeff Derr, James Eisele, William Gregory, Steve Kapler, Geoffrey Kennicutt, Chuck Love, Alan Meagher, Mary Russell, David Russell, Don Sevick-Muraca, Eva Shippen, Dorothy Turnbull, Katherine	Bazer, Fuller Buckley, Mike Calvin, Jim Droleskey, Suzanne Kettleborough, C.F. Raines, Angelia Rojo-del Busto, Mario Smock, Mark Sara Jordan (for Cassandra Rutherford)	Robert Webb

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	The meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators was called to order at 12:00
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<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	CPI Chair Sacchettini asked members to review the minutes and approve these via e-mail.	
<b>STUDENT RESEARCH WEEK UPDATE – MS. SARA JORDAN, GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<p>Sara Jordan, Graduate Student Council Vice President attended the CPI meeting to update the council on the current progress of Student Research Week. This year, the week-long event will take place March 28 - April 1. The deadline for students to register was extended to March 11. Ms. Jordan stated that the undergraduate response is up from last year. There are currently 66 students registered from the physical sciences, 99 from life sciences, 22 from business, 103 from Engineering and 102 from the Humanities. She also expressed the need for judges and asked council members to please volunteer their time if they were able.</p> <p>A council member asked if there was a correlation with the percentages of students registered and how closely this reflects the amount of research actually taking place in those areas. Ms. Jordan stated that, following the wrap up of Student Research Week activities, they would be issuing a report that should</p>	

<p><b>ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH – DR. ROBERT WEBB</b></p>	<p>reflect this information.</p> <p>Dr. Robert Webb, former Chair of the CPI and newly appointed Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research attended this meeting to bring the council up to date on the activities in this new office. With the help and support of the CPI, EDP and Faculty Senate, this new office is serving to coordinate and expand various research opportunities available to undergraduate students.</p> <p>Since January, a task force has been working with Dr. Webb to determine how many students are currently involved in undergraduate research. Because there is no current database that includes what students might be conducting research, Dr. Webb’s office is currently trying to develop a way to measure these activities. There is also a matter of encouraging undergraduate students to get involved.</p> <p>This office has reorganized a website (located at <a href="http://ugr.tamu.edu/">http://ugr.tamu.edu/</a>) that is easily accessible, have begun coordination of summer '05 REU programs and have met with various constituents with interest in undergraduate research.</p> <p>Other task force activities include the discussion of making inquiry-guided learning the standard, requiring a thesis option for all majors and increasing the awareness of available information to undergraduate students.</p> <p>Future plans for undergraduate research scholars programs include the development of workshops to assist in proposal and grant writing and preparing students to submit proposals in the coming year for projects to begin in 2006.</p> <p>Dr. Webb reminded the council of Student Research Week and made one last appeal for judges. He iterated to the group that his office is open and that if anyone has suggestions or comments to please contact him.</p>	
<p><b>COMPLIANCE UPDATE AND INTRODUCTION – FULLER BAZER</b></p>	<p>Dr. Fuller Bazer introduced Angelia Raines as the new Director of Research Compliance. Ms. Raines thanked Dr. Bazer for the introduction and expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome she has received so far. She shared that although she only joined the university on March 1, she has been very busy but is looking forward to working with the council.</p>	
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE UPDATE – DR. SUZANNE DROLESKEY</b></p>	<p>Dr. Droleskey distributed and discussed two handouts. The first contained tables detailing the known visa denials and delays for the Spring of 2005. The second contained a copy of a Cost of Attendance survey recently conducted by the International Programs Office. The Cost of Living Survey also contained a</p>	

	<p>graph detailing over 341 comments received and distributed into eight categories.</p> <p>Dr. Droleskey shared information from a recent GAO report released, regarding visa issues that screen time has been reduced to 14 days.</p>	
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL FACULTY &amp; SCHOLARLY SERVICES UPDATE – MR. MARIO ROJO DEL BUSTO, DIRECTOR</b></p>	<p>Mr. Rojo del Busto reported to the council that effective March 8, the H-1B application will now have an additional \$500 fee to be paid by the employer. Also, effective March 8, 2005, we will have to comply with 100% of the prevailing wage. However, DOL has now issued four wage levels versus the two we had prior to the enactment of the law.</p> <p>On March 28, new Alien Labor Certification (ALC) regulations will be implemented for foreign nationals who do not qualify as outstanding professors or researchers and require going through the ALC regular or special handling process. It is important that departments inform us of their intent to support PR for tenure tract professors that otherwise do not qualify as outstanding so an ALC under special handling can be filed within 18 months of their hire.</p>	
<p><b>VPR UPDATE – JIM CALVIN, EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH</b></p>	<p>Dr. Calvin announced to the council an upcoming Border Governors meeting will be held in College Station. This group will be meeting to discuss ways of building partnerships. Gabriel Carranza is currently coordinating.</p> <p>Office of Proposal Development is holding several workshops on grant writing. They have recently posted a new position to hire an NIH grant writing assistant. This position is partly funded by the Health Science Center but will be located in the Office of Proposal Development along with the other grant writers.</p> <p>Life Sciences Building update – there have been some minor glitches in the timetable and plans to meet with the architects have been postponed until August.</p> <p>A meeting to discuss the 5G has been rescheduled for March 31.</p>	
<p><b>OLD/NEW BUSINESS</b></p>	<p>Dr. Sacchetti brought the council up to date on the ongoing CPI issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Tuition remission for graduate students on stipends – The CPI is working with Dr. Jim Calvin to develop a policy related to tuition on grants.</li> <li>2) System policy on faculty rights and responsibilities – Issue is coming together around a handbook or set of</li> </ol>	

	<p>guidelines for describing PI's rights and responsibilities. This could be done in conjunction with the technology licensing issue.</p> <p>3) The position of Research Assistant Professor has been approved as of December, 2005.</p> <p>Dr. Sacchettini then defined some possible <b>new</b> issues for the council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) There is a plan to consolidate and outsource chemical supplies on campus. Dr. Calvin is looking at this proposal to consolidate chemical supplies, which could free up approximately 7,000 square feet of space.</li><li>2) The Health Science Center recently decided to split their internet from Texas A&amp;M. This will create two firewalls between the university and the HSC. Dr. Sacchettini has been in contact with the Vice President for Research office to discuss the detrimental affect this will have on research and teaching for PI's who are responsible for joint projects. With CPI approval, Dr. Sacchettini would like to make this a CPI issue.</li><li>3) Current legislative bills in congress that will have an affect on the university and/or research will continue to be forwarded to CPI members. Dr. Sacchettini will request that bills requiring faculty input be forwarded sooner so that there is ample time for response.</li><li>4) Start-up funding for new faculty hires. The goals of the current faculty reinvestment plan might not be realized unless there is a drive to investigate the capability to offer start-up funds for new hires.</li></ol>	
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	The meeting adjourned at 1:30	