

DRAFT

CPI Annual Summary Report on Activities During the 2006-2007 Academic Year

Issue 1: Intellectual Property and Commercialization

Overview: An intellectual property working group was formed by President Robert Gates in 2006 to collect “input and develop a consensus statement on the issues that are of concern to Texas A&M”. ([Ewing Memo, 2006](#))

Analysis: The CPI had multiple member and guest representatives on the IP working group. IP policy benefited from faculty input and reflects a success of shared governance. Steps taken to date include: policy objectives aligned with goals of the University; protection of academic freedom; and formation of two committees to institutionalize faculty participation in future decisions and policy formation in matter relations to IP at Texas A&M. ([Gates Memo, 2006](#))

Current Status: A guest invitation to CPI was issued to Mr. David Riddle, director of Licensing and Intellectual Property. ([Russell Memo, 2006](#))

Issue 2: Bridge Funding Initiative

Overview: A committee was formed by the CPI and chaired by Keith Maggert to investigate the possibility of providing short-term internal funding to support research during periods when external funding have been temporarily suspended or when external funding is likely and imminent yet has not been granted. The purpose and benefit would be to provide a buffer against fluctuations in research funding; decrease probability of faculty being forced to abandon incipient or fruitful research; protect research programs from losing key personnel due to temporary suspension of funding; provide mechanism for research faculty to concentrate on research when it is most required; increase stature of Texas A&M research environment. ([Bridge Funding Memo, 2006](#))

Analysis: The committee concluded that the most like source of funding would be increased indirect cost return from Texas A&M and the Research Foundation. The application and administration of bridge funding would be a formalized program to define eligibility, provide a mechanism for application, and standardize review. Guidelines for eligibility include: PIs with demonstrated granting history; short term duration ~ 6 months; and limited amount – 50% of absent grant funds or \$50K with limited expenditures. ([Bridge Funding Memo, 2006](#))

Current Status: The council supports the efforts and intentions of the bridge funding initiative; however, the council could not reach a consensus on the administration, application and funding of the initiative. Many units and departments already have some type of interim funding mechanism and were not convinced of the need for a common policy. The initiative was forwarded to Joe Newton and the Research Environment Council. ([CPI October minutes, 2006](#))

Issue 3: Promotion of Faculty to National Academies

Overview: A committee was formed by the CPI and chaired by Don Russell to investigate the current practices of Texas A&M University with respect to the promotion of Texas A&M faculty to The National Academies of Science and Engineering. This group was also asked to make recommendations as to how the activities of Texas A&M, in this area, could be improved. ([Blasingame Memo, 2006](#))

Analysis: In comparison to peer and aspirant institutions, Texas A&M is under represented

in the National Academies. A number of benefits are like to result from increased membership in the Academies including national visibility and increased presence of Texas A&M researchers on various review panels. Increasing membership on the Academies will require a coordinated effort by the faculty and increased resources for targeted efforts. ([B. Russell Memo, 2006](#))

Current Status: Don Russell presented this report, with the CPI Executive Committee, to Interim President Ed Davis and Interim Provost Jerry Strawser. The report received support from the Interim President and Interim Provost.

Issue 4: Purchasing and Procurement

Overview: TAMU initiated the Strategic Sourcing initiative to standardize purchasing and reduce cost. CPI members voiced a number of concerns over the new policy and efforts were made to rectify concerns. ([Purchasing Memo, 2006](#))

Analysis: Researchers have indicated a number of concerns with the new policy including: vendors selected will not provide the same level of service offered by current vendors; order times would be too long and impede research; the new procurement process would push important costs and (administrative) work load on to researchers and departments; and any cost savings would not necessarily be realized by researchers. The last concern was specifically addressed by a change in the initial policy. ([CPI November minutes, 2006](#))

Progress: Paul St. Amant, Executive Director of the Division of Finance, invited two CPI members to serve on an advisory committee to the sourcing initiative. David Stelly and Susan Bednarz have agreed to serve in that capacity. The executive committee recommends continued engagement with Paul St. Amant and the Strategic Sourcing Initiative.

Issue 5: Campus infrastructure and Academic master plan

Overview: Over the past couple of years the Council on Built Environment has developed a campus master plan to guide current and future campus expansion. ([Campus Master Plan, 2007](#))

Analysis: Concerns have been expressed that the campus master is too narrowly focused on the physical campus plan without regard to academics. The CPI recommends creation of an academic master plan to complement the campus master plan. The plan should consider “communities of science” aspects of current and future expansions. ([CPI April minutes, 2007](#))

Progress: The CPI has a representative on the District Planning Committee. The CPI Executive Committee recommended the pursuit and development of an academic master plan, led by faculty. The CPI will carry this issue over into its objectives for 2007-2008.

Issue 6: Workplace and lab safety

Overview: Chris Meyer, Assistant Vice President Environmental Health & Safety, and John Salsman, Director Environmental Health & Safety, met with the CPI Executive committee to present “The Process for Changing the Safety Environment at Texas A&M University” and to solicit two CPI representatives to serve on the Environmental Management System Committee. ([Meyers presentation, 2006](#))

Progress: Michael Weimer and Andreas Holzenburg accepted the nomination, from the CPI Executive Committee, to serve on the EMS committee. This issue will be carried over as an objective for CPI to address and make recommendations during the 2007-2008 term.