

CPI

Agenda

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

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

- I. Call to order Dr. Jim Sacchetti, Chair
- II. Approval of November 10, 2004 and December 8, 2004 minutes
(*Attachments*)
- III. Student Research Week
Sara Jordan, Graduate Student Council Vice President
- IV. Technology and Commercialization Center Update
Mr. Guy Diedrich, Managing Director, Technology & Commercialization Center
- V. VPR Update
Dr. Jim Calvin, Executive Associate Vice President for Research
- VI. Graduate Studies Update
Dr. Rick Giardino, Dean of Graduate Studies
- VII. Development Foundation – Campaign Update
Mr. Henry Nemcik, Assistant Vice President for Development
- VIII. International Programs Office Update
Dr. Suzanne Droleskey, Executive Director, International Programs for Students
- IX. International Services Update
Mr. Mario Rojo del Busto, Director, International Faculty & Scholarly Services
- X. Continued Discussions of 2004-2005 CPI Issues
- XI. Adjourn

**COUNCIL OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS
DECEMBER 8, 2004
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS NOT PRESENT	GUESTS PRESENT	INVITED GUESTS PRESENT
Andrews, Malcolm Blasingame, Tom Campbell, Lisa (Sarah Bednarz) Chen, Jeff Delp, Michael Derr, James Eisele, Bill Ficht, Tom Gould, Jean Hall, Tim – Past-Chair Kaplan, Howard Kapler, Geoffrey Love, Alan Meagher, Mary Pillai, Suresh Russell, David Russell, Don Sacchettini, Jim – Chair Sevick-Muraca, Eva Scholtz, Marty Weimer, Michael	Anderson, Evan Burnett, Dave Gibson, Richard Gregory, Steve House, Donald Kennicutt, Mahlon Shippen, Dorothy Turnbull, Katherine	Buckley, Mike Calvin, Jim Droleskey, Suzanne Foxworth, Gregory Kettleborough, Fred O’Quinn, Mike Rojo-del Busto, Mario Rutherford, Cassandra Smock, Mark Miller, Rich	Guy Diedrich Senator Steve Ogden (8) Members of the Faculty Senate

CALL TO ORDER	The meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators was called to order at 12:00 p.m.
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AGENDA ITEM	COMMENTS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Minutes of the November 10, 2004 meeting were tabled until the January 12, 2005 meeting.	
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST – JIM SACCHETTINI, CHAIR	CPI Chair, Jim Sacchettini, welcomed guests, members and invited Distinguished Professors and Faculty Senate members to the December 8 CPI meeting. He then opened the meeting to Mike O’Quinn to introduce Senator Steve Ogden.	
SENATOR STEVE OGDEN	Mike O’Quinn gave brief highlights of Senator Ogden and shared with those present how the senator helped get the Texas A&M budget out of the hole at the end of the last legislative session. He then informed the group that the senator is now the chair of the Senate Finance Committee.	

The senator pointed out that the upcoming session should be substantially better than the last session. There will be a strong emphasis to promote K-12 education as well as healthcare.

He briefly described some of the things that the Texas government attempts to provide for its citizens, including ¼ of the total budget which will go for healthcare for state employees.

He said that a goal of the legislature is to improve research at universities. Senator Ogden opened the floor to field any questions and provide some definitive answers.

A CPI member stated that a current issue with some of the current funding agencies (NSF, NIH) is that many of these programs require matching funds be made available in order to have requested funding approved. In general, no funds are typically set aside for this in the legislature.

Senator Ogden stated that this is not entirely true. The Higher Education Coordinating Board has funding for peer reviewed research. They were, however, required to cut out \$100 million last year because of budgets. He also mentioned that the amount of money available from the State is constant. It has been recommended in the past that universities hire individuals who already have funding and access to funding. The senator also recommended that AUF funds be used for research match.

A member agreed that yes, this is one theory to use, but that to create a “home grown” research requires resources. A previously funded program, the ATP/ARP was a phenomenal program for growing our own investigators as it provided them the opportunity to do research.

Senator Ogden expressed his interest in taking forward the ATP/ARP concerns and the desire for its return, but iterated that money management is still a concern.

Another member expressed that most department funds are encumbered, so there is no money left over for matching purposes.

Senator Ogden responded to the group that he is very much for formula funding, and noted that Texas A&M receives 12.4% of

every dollar that goes into formula funding [which is based on semester credit hour]. Texas A&M currently average 3.6% fewer credit hours than last year.

Senator Ogden explained that, for new state allocation, the legislature must always be able to answer the question “What is the return for the taxpayer”, in other words what is the evidence of success and can it be shown in layman’s terms. He also specified that a previous policy had been reinstated. Half of indirect cost monies received from research grants went back to the state. Because Texas A&M was able to maneuver around this, when the law changed and stated that any IDC without state funding would be offset. This meant that Texas A&M only received 8% [compared to University of Texas, who received 25%]. He did want to state, on behalf of the legislature, that they do care about research and are interested in what they can do to help.

Another member then asked the question, what is Texas A&M doing wrong [when trying to get new funds].

Senator Ogden explained that Texas A&M has a lot to show for the dollars that it spends and the legislature definitely recognizes this.

There was more general discussion about state funding and the senator reiterated that the legislature still must have a response for what does Texas get in return. The money must be appropriated and there must be a rationalization of where it goes.

Discussion also centered on hiring more faculty to reduce the student to teacher ratio, credit hour caps, maintaining flagship funding and teaching initiatives to build bridge (i.e. bridge to doctorate/masters to PhD). The senator said that the legislature supports this because they understand the return on investment.

One member noted that graduates leave Texas A&M to do their graduate studies at a name brand university. This puts us at a disadvantage because most good schools waive graduate tuition.

This brought up the discussion of the 100 hour cap and the fact that students are offended that they are asked to pay out of state tuition once they reach that cap. It was explained that the

	<p>senator who wrote this bill had asked all the PhD academicians who took over 100 hours to stand up – and no one stood. It was felt that a 100 hour cap is much less important than losing students because of tuition. The situation is not just about keeping Texans in Texas, but training the best undergraduates to be able to compete on the national level.</p> <p>The senator responded with “two important insights.” Number one, if you want to increase your appropriation – the legislature wants to know the tangible benefits. Number two, Suggest the measure of value – communicate with the representatives in a way that makes sense in each district and work together with other campuses in Texas.</p> <p>He also expressed that the general legislature believes that a faculty’s job is “to teach.” This is a hard sell to tax payers, hard to quantify and it’s not quite clear as to the best way to get this message across. The legislature is currently being pressed for more research funding. The challenge lies in explaining why more money is needed. i.e. are there new discoveries, commercial applications? The legislature needs to see the proof and associate it with success. Governor Rick Perry stated in an address earlier in the month that Texas has the largest economic development budget in the nation. Senator Ogden gave an example of UT Dallas, and how they got into funding through a large corporation [Texas Instruments] to build the UT Dallas Engineering School.</p> <p>Senator Ogden closed by expressing the interest of the legislature and remarked that there is not a “competition” but a desire to work with them.</p>	
<p>VPR UPDATE – JIM CALVIN, EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH</p>	<p>Dr. Jim Calvin announced the following appointments:</p> <p>Dr. Robert Webb - Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research. Dr. Fuller Bazer – Associate Vice President for Research Dr. Mike Buckley - Assistant Agency Director at TEES</p> <p>Dr. Calvin stated to be on the lookout for an electronic copy of a year long calendar of grant opportunities in existing agencies. If you have questions about this document, you can contact Lucy Deckard in the Office of Proposal Development.</p> <p>Current discussions in the Vice President for Research office</p>	

	<p>include tuition remission, research professor position, engaging TEES and TAES in discussion regarding the 5G.</p>	
<p>INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS UPDATE - SUZANNE DROLESKEY – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS</p>	<p>Dr. Suzanne Droleskey announced that as a result of Dr. Emily Ashworth working jointly with the GOC, CPI and IPEC on enhancement coordination issues, recruiting and enrollment, there will be a recommendation going forward in January.</p> <p>This office has just conducted an online survey inquiring of the living expenses for international students which generated 1200 responses. The “other comments” section generated 200+ spontaneous responses. Some of the issues raised are serious and they hope to have data compiled by the next meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Sacchetti announced that more people are needed to serve on the graduate education advisory committee, which Dr. Tim Hall has agreed to chair. He asked for volunteers to please contact him or Dr. Hall.</p>	
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Dr. Sacchetti thanked everyone for attending this meeting with a special thanks to Dr. Arthur Hobbs and Mr. Mike O’Quinn for their work on keeping the university faculty abreast of legislative issues.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:30</p>	