

# CPI

## Agenda

Wednesday, July 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. Comments on May 11, 2005 Minutes  
(*Attachment*)
- III. Election Update/Vice Chair Nominations  
(*Attachment*)
- IV. Update on 2005 Legislative Session – 20 minutes  
Mr. Michael O’Quinn, Vice President for Governmental Affairs
- V. Galveston Representation Request on CPI – Council Vote
- VI. Development Update  
Mr. Henry Nemcik, Assistant Vice President for Development & Campaign Director
- VII. Compliance Update  
Ms. Angelia Raines, Director of Compliance
- VIII. International Programs Office Update  
Dr. Suzanne Droleskey, Executive Director, International Programs for Students
- IX. International Services Update  
Mr. Mario Rojo del Busto, Director of International Services
- X. International Programs Update  
Dr. Tim Hall, IPPEC Representative
- XI. VPR Update  
Dr. Jim Calvin, Executive Associate Vice President for Research
- XII. Graduate Studies Update  
Dr. Rick Giardino, Dean of Graduate Studies
- XII. Adjourn

## **CPI Election Results - 2005**

### **COALS**

Rosana Moreira, Bio & Ag Engineering

David Stelly, Soil & Crop Sciences

Alan Love, Ag Eco & Soc.

### **Science**

Deb Bell-Pedersen, Biology

Keith Maggert, Biology

### **Geosciences**

Sarah Bednarz, Geography

### **Veterinary Medicine**

Jim Derr, Veterinary Pathobiology

Bhanu Chowdhary, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences

### **TEES**

David Boyle, Commercial Space Center for Engineering

### **Business**

Joobin Choobineh, Information & Operations Management

**COUNCIL OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS  
MAY 11, 2005  
MINUTES**

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

<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>	Dr. Sacchettini asked members to review the April minutes and approve via e-mail.	
<b>ELECTION UPDATE</b>	Dr. Sacchettini distributed a list of candidates for the upcoming membership election. He informed everyone that Angela Degelman would send an announcement with ballot and voting information. Voting will be done via the CPI Web site. The election will end May 27 and elected members will be notified by June 1.	
<b>INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE UPDATE – DR. SUZANNE DROLESKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS</b>	Dr. Suzanne Droleskey distributed an article from the Boston Globe, written by the president of the Council of Graduate Schools in Washington, D.C. The article addressed student affairs and foreign graduate student recruitment and reminds us of the decline in A&M applicants and the additional 5% decline recently. Dr. Droleskey stated that there is a strong possibility of additional decline of graduate applications in the fall.	

	<p>CPI is concerned about the possibility of lowering the standards to get the application numbers up. They are also concerned about tuition and better benefits that are offered at other schools. Dr. Droleskey also commented that the system health insurance premiums for students increased 15%. Dr. Sacchetti stated that the CPI would meet with the Provost soon and ask him to inform the legislature of these problems.</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, as a reminder, that effective March 8, the H-1B application will have an additional \$500 fee (to be paid by the employer). If this fee is not paid by the employer, the petition will be rejected. If it is not possible for the employer to pay this fee, the employee must pay but a letter must be written stating why and that the employee will be reimbursed. He stated that a system needs to be developed that will help with this process. There have not been any reported problems to date, but the university must be proactive.</p> <p>Dr. Bazer agreed to check with Compliance about possible grant monies to pay H-1B fees. Dr. Buckley commented that TEES currently has a process in place to apply for these monies, though application fees are not usually allowable on a grant.</p> <p>Based on a distribution handout from Dr. Rojo del Busto, on March 28, 2005, new Alien Labor Certification (ALC) regulations were implemented for foreign nationals who do not qualify as outstanding professors or researchers.</p>	
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS UPDATE – DR. TIM HALL, IPPEC REPRESENTATIVE</b></p>	<p>Dr. Hall reported that the International Programs at Texas A&amp;M is an excellent program overall and has a very informative Web site.</p> <p>He also reported IPO will not be moving off of the main campus.</p> <p>Dr. Hall commented on Dr. Droleskey’s earlier statement regarding the 15% rise in health insurance premiums. This number, he felt, did not represent what the cost will be for additional family members. Graduate students should be able to compete for better insurance. It was suggested that the CPI, or Dr. Giardino, contact the director of the Health Center, Dr. Linda McCowskey, to discuss this situation.</p> <p>A member commented that some students have been able to go online and find better rates (cheaper premiums) although they have higher deductibles. Another member asked if it would be possible to investigate what other institutions are paying,</p>	

	<p>regarding tuition and insurance. Dr. Sacchetti commented that one institute at the University of Texas pays all tuitions and fees, but in general, the University of Texas operates like Texas A&amp;M.</p> <p>Dr. Hall said that Dr. Droleskey’s office is working very hard to address international students’ concerns, and he asked all CPI members to take a close look at any handouts that she distributes..</p>	
<p><b>20/20 ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE – DR. JIM SACCHETTINI</b></p>	<p>Dr. Sacchetti attended a recent meeting that was held by the President and Provost to discuss progress on the imperatives related to Vision 2020. Imperative 10 was discussed at this meeting with Dr. Martin Gunn and Head Librarian Pauline Melgoza. Imperative 10 “Demand Enlightened Governance and Leadership” encourages faculty to be part of the decision making processes. Dr. Sacchetti shared with the CPI, the four Precepts of Imperative 10.</p> <p><b>Precept: Lead with Courage and Vision.</b> Dr. Sacchetti felt we were doing this, especially with the Life Sciences Building and the faculty reinvestment program. Some of the goals for this precept include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. selection process for regents should be seen as the most thoughtful in the nation,</li> <li>2. recruiting should be targeted to academic excellence, and</li> <li>3. faculty should be encouraged and rewarded for participation in campus governance.</li> </ol> <p>There was some discussion regarding the goal of faculty participation in decision making. Many faculty feel that they are being asked for input after decisions have already been made. There is a general consensus that faculty should be asked for participation much earlier. An example of this is the faculty reinvestment program, which never made it to the faculty for input. President Gates had hoped that when the colleges were asked, that faculty would also be asked and was disappointed that this was not the case. He plans to speak with the deans about this.</p> <p><b>Precept: Encourage the Entrepreneurial spirit of Students, Faculty, and Staff and Promote Informed Risk-taking.</b> The goals of this precept are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to establish an incentive and reward system that</li> </ol>	

- acknowledges and encourages risk-taking
2. create and implement a comprehensive pay, benefits, and recognition plan for all faculty and staff at Texas A&M University that encourages informed risk-taking,
  3. Encourage entrepreneurial action that leads to improvements in the university through an incentive and reward structure that recognizes entrepreneurial activity among faculty, staff, and administrators. Establish a competitive, entrepreneurial fund equal to 10 percent of the education and general budget to support faculty/staff entrepreneurial ideas and activities.

**Precept: Make Academic Leadership Development Central**  
Texas A&M University must focus attention on producing more scholar leaders for itself and for the knowledge industry of the United States and world.

A goal of this precept is to make a four-fold increase in the number of graduate students who are acknowledged as academic leaders in the state and nation.

It was stated that there is too much focus on quantity of graduate students and not enough on quality professors.

It was noted that the university will never come close to its graduate goal until it deals with the tuition issue. This will enable us to be more competitive for our graduate students.

**Precept: Enhance Administrative Leadership and Management**

Increasing competition from private, for-profit universities and our changing goals mean our university must become even more effective from an administrative standpoint. Necessary bureaucratic procedures should be transparent and easy to negotiate, not an obstacle to success. People, rather than organizations, should be responsible for making decisions. We should do all that we can to create funnels of responsibility with decisions made by people at the lowest, most appropriate level that adds value. The best universities will be responsive to change, adaptable, agile, and able to provide support and assistance for the knowledge work of the institution.

Some members felt that although faculty are always involved in

	<p>the process through input, they are not a part of the actual decision. Texas A&amp;M has a culture that develops excellence, but does not reward it. For instance, as one CPI member noted, the Faculty Fellows Program has now ended, which will now punish top level faculty. About 30 people throughout the university are affected by this. So many “rewards” have disappeared.</p> <p>It was also suggested that many graduate students do not feel rewarded. The quality of students needs to be looked at, and Texas A&amp;M needs to be more competitive in order to obtain the “best” students.</p> <p>Instead of asking “what are our peers doing” – instead ask what the TOP universities are doing.</p> <p>Dr. Sacchetti did note that Dr. Gates said a top priority has to be how to pay for graduate students. There has been a change in graduate student tuition. The required six hours for summer has been dropped to three.</p> <p>There was a discussion of GAT and GANT tuition. GARS have to be put on grants, but there is a list of possible exemptions.</p> <p>Question from the council: Who makes the determination where the GANT funds come from?</p> <p><b>There is no current mechanism in place to include faculty input. There needs to be a long-term program to reward and nurture faculty.</b></p>	<p>Dr. Sacchetti:  <i>Is there a list? Or <u>Should</u> there be a list?</i></p> <p>Dr. Sacchetti:  <i>Would this be something to consider as an action item? Or something to add to the “to do list”?</i></p>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 1:30</p>	

**COUNCIL OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS  
JULY 13, 2005  
MINUTES**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS NOT PRESENT</b>	<b>GUESTS PRESENT</b>	<b>INVITED GUESTS PRESENT</b>
Burnett, Dave Campbell, Lisa Derr, James Eisele, William Ficht, Tom Gibson, Richard Gould, Jean Hall, Timothy (Past-Chair) Kapler, Geoffrey Sacchettini, Jim (Chair) Scholtz, Marty Tassinary, Louis (for Donald House) Weimer, Michael	Anderson, Evan Andrews, Malcolm Blasingame, Tom Chen, Jeff Delp, Michael House, Donald Kaplan, Howard Kennicutt, Mahlon Love, Alan Meagher, Mary Russell, David Russell, Don Sevick-Muraca, Eva Pillai, Suresh Shippen, Dorothy Turnbull, Katherine	Brewer, Russell Foxworth, Greg Kettleborough, C.F. Raines, Angelia Smock, Mark Walker, Jamie	

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	The meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators was called to order at 12:05 p.m.
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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>ELECTION RESULTS</b>	Dr. Sacchettini announced the 2005 CPI election results. Newly elected members include: <b>College of Agriculture and Life Sciences:</b> Rosana Moreira, David Stelly, and Alan Love; <b>College of Science:</b> Deb Bell-Pedersen and Keith Maggert; <b>College of Geosciences:</b> Sarah Bednarz; <b>College of Veterinary Medicine:</b> Jim Derr and Bhanu Chowdhary; <b>TEES:</b> David Boyle; <b>College of Business:</b> Joobin Choobineh	<i>Newly elected members will be invited to the August CPI meeting</i>
<b>UPDATE ON 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION</b>	Michael O'Quinn was scheduled to speak to the group and update on the 2005 Legislative Session, but he was called out of town at the last minute, so this agenda item was not discussed. Instead, Dr. Sacchettini used the time to update the group on several pending CPI issues.	
<b>CPI ISSUES</b>	Dr. Sacchettini announced that as his term comes to a close, there are several issues that he broached for discussion. These are issues for which the CPI has addressed or still needs to address:	

**1) Tuition remission for graduate students:** Progress has been made in tuition remission; Summer credit hours for graduate students has been reduced from 6 hours to 3 hours. The committee would like to see this number reduced further, to 1 hour, but it will take more time, possibly several more years, to pursue this possibility.

The Provost's Office, the Office of the VPR, and the deans are working to ensure that GANT/GAT tuition is reduced. There are several questions raised about how this can be done. Some options:

- a. Eliminate the graduate enhancement (excellence) fee. Currently, graduate students pay 50% higher tuition than undergraduates.
- b. Obtain grant money for tuition. The problem that one member proposed is that grants are already often smaller than originally requested. PIs may choose not to hire graduate students out of grant monies since non-grad technicians would be more cost effective.
- c. Obtain an exemption from the dean. There are several ways to obtain an exemption. The exemption process first goes through the dean. If the college does not have monies, then the Office of the VPR is the next channel for this request
- d. Dropping the number of research hours that are required for graduate students.

**2) System Policy on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities:** This Faculty handbook, in development by the VPR and TCC, will discuss rights/responsibilities relating to grants, technology licensing, intellectual property, and being a researcher at A&M. The University of Pittsburgh has developed a similar manual, which will be used as a template.

**3) University Research Infrastructure:** Institutions need to establish a stable research infrastructure fund which will allow the enhancement of current programs and also the creation of new, cutting-edge facilities. The most important question is: Where will the money come from? It is proposed that indirect costs from grants can be added to this fund, but often agencies within the university are not prone to wanting

*The exemption list to deans from Jim Calvin will be distributed to CPI members*

	<p>to reallocate indirect funds. There are also available funds in Prop 17, but these are mainly tied up in teaching positions as opposed to research enhancement</p> <p>4) <b>Research Assistant Professor:</b> This position does exist and has been utilized by TEES and TAES for some time.</p> <p>5) <b>Raises given out of cycle for salaries paid from grants:</b> Dr. Calvin has designated 3 committees to investigate how raises can be given out of cycle.</p> <p>6) <b>Sick leave pool for grant-paid employees:</b> Currently, workers paid on grant funds are not eligible for the TAMU-wide sick leave pool. Dr. Calvin's office is looking into this matter further to see how this policy can be updated to allow these employees accessibility to the sick leave pool.</p>	<p><i>Invite the new Human Resources Director to speak at the next CPI meeting regarding this issue.</i></p> <p><i>Follow up with Jim Calvin to see what progress has been made.</i></p>
<p><b>GALVESTON REPRESENTATION REQUEST ON CPI</b></p>	<p>Texas A&amp;M University at Galveston (TAMUG) has requested representation on CPI. Dr. Sacchetti consulted the bylaws which state that a CPI member must be, "Any full time member of Texas A&amp;M University in Brazos County [who is PI or co-PI on a Texas A&amp;M based research project]" Therefore, the current bylaws state that a CPI member must be physically based in College Station. Dr. Sacchetti opened this matter up for discussion to the CPI.</p> <p>Some members asked if it is considered a disservice not to include Galveston in the group. Other members asked if it would be a disservice to the CPI to invite Texas A&amp;M System entities to participate-would they want to focus on issues specific to their respective entities</p> <p>Another member asked who processes grant/funding requests for researchers at TAMUG. There is a TAMUG-based funding agency, but the Research Foundation processes some of these grants as well.</p> <p>A question was raised about whether other Texas A&amp;M System entities would follow suit in joining the CPI—Kingsville, Prairie View, Corpus Christi, etc.</p> <p>A recommendation was made to invite a non-voting member from TAMUG in the meantime.</p>	<p><i>Invite a TAMUG faculty member to the next meeting as a non voting guest.</i></p> <p><i>Contact the original drafters of the CPI bylaws to find out the history of the bylaws and why the rule was drafted to be inclusive only to College Station Texas A&amp;M faculty.</i></p>
<p><b>COMPLIANCE UPDATE-ANGELIA RAINES</b></p>	<p>Ms. Raines announced the implementation of a web-based training program that began this month. Modules are geared towards human</p>	

	<p>and animal research.</p> <p>Ms. Raines also explained that the definition of human research at Texas A&amp;M is being re-defined. A policy will be developed that changes some of the topics that have typically been considered a part of human research. Any suggestions or input from the CPI would be greatly appreciated.</p>	
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS UPDATE – DR. TIM HALL, IPPEC REPRESENTATIVE</b></p>	<p>The Office of the Vice President for Research and the George Bush School of Government and Public Service are currently planning the second U.S.-China Conference, taking place in Beijing, China, November 14-17, 2005. Currently there are no CPI members that are planning on attending due to funding, but hopefully funding can be raised for at least one member to attend.</p> <p>IPO website: Dr. Hall also urged the CPI to visit the International Programs Website. This is a very helpful resource for faculty dealing with any international issues</p>	<p><i>Send out U.S.-China conference 2005 website</i>  <a href="http://china-us-conference.org/">http://china-us-conference.org/</a></p> <p><i>Send out IPO website</i>  <a href="http://international.tamu.edu/ipo/ipostaffframe.html/">http://international.tamu.edu/ipo/ipostaffframe.html/</a></p>
<p><b>VPR UPDATE-GREGORY FOXWORTH (FOR JIM CALVIN)</b></p>	<p><b>Life Sciences Building:</b> The Life Sciences Building Steering committee is currently hosting six architecture firms to provide presentations on a plan for the future building. A final vote on the winning architecture firm will be made on September 22, 2005.</p> <p><b>Export Controls:</b> Conferences are being held on export control measures in the U.S. The focus of these conferences will be on environmental health and safety aspects.</p> <p><b>Federal Demonstration Project:</b> The FDP will be conducting a web-based survey of faculty who have federal grants awards. Mr. Foxworth urges any faculty who receive the survey to take the time to answer them as information gathered will ultimately benefit researchers with federal grants.</p>	
<p><b>OTHER ISSUES-JOANN TREAT RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD-MARK SMOCK</b></p>	<p>Mr. Smock announced that nominations are being accepted for the JoAnn Treat Research Excellence Award. This award, with a cash prize of \$10,000 is for research excellence conducted by a faculty member who has not yet attained professor status.</p>	
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.</p>	