



Council of Principal
Investigators

Texas A&M University
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CPI Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, 10 May 2006
11:30-13:15 — 206 MSC

(11:45 – 11:50) Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Tom Blasingame (Chair), David Russell (Chair-Elect), Jim Sacchetti (Past-Chair)

(11:50 – 12:05) QEP Update — Martin Gunn

(12:05 – 12:10) Update on TAMUS IP/Commercialization Proposal — Alan Love/David Russell/Dick Ewing
(see VPR website (<http://vpr.tamu.edu/IPC/>) for periodic updates/data)

(12:10 – 12:20) Bridge Funding Concept Proposal — Keith Maggard

(12:20 – 12:50) Standing Committee Reports: (Moderated by Blasingame/Russell/Sacchetti)

VPR/TAMRF Reports:

- (VPR) Compliance — Angelia Raines
- (VPR) Undergraduate Research — Bob Webb
- (VPR) Executive Overview — Jim Calvin
- (TAMRF) Research Foundation — Mark Smock
- (Fac. Senate) Faculty Senate — Doug Slack
- (Dist. Prof.) Distinguished Prof. — Howard Kaplan

TAMU Reports:

- (TAMU) Legislative — Michael O'Quinn
- (TAMU) Human Resources — Jill Pollock
- (TAMU) Intl. Programs — Suzanne Droleskey
- (TAMU) Intl. Services — Mario Rojo del Busto
- (TAMU) Grad. Student Coun. — Jamie Rae Walker
- (TAMU) Int. V.P. Diversity — Karan Watson

Reports From CPI Working Groups: (Moderated by Blasingame/Russell/Sacchetti)

Internal Working Groups: (CPI)

- National Academies — B. Don Russell
- Graduate Studies — Michael Weimer
- Faculty Technology Pamphlet — Jim Sacchetti
- Undergraduate Research — Bob Webb

University Advisory Councils:

- Built Environment — Max Summers (informal)
- Research Environment — Blasingame/Russell
- Finance — (?)
- Education — Rick Giardino (informal)

(12:50 – 12:55) Other Business: (Moderated by Blasingame/Russell/Sacchetti)

- COALS — Nominations/Election
- Vice Chair — Nominations needed

(12:55) Adjournment:

Attachments: (distributed electronically)

- DRAFT Minutes from 12April 2006 CPI Meeting
- DRAFT TAMU IP/Commercialization Proposal (20 April 2006)
- DRAFT Bridge Funding Memorandum (K. Maggard) (03 May 2006)

cc: (distributed electronically, with attachments)

- Dr. Robert M. Gates, President (Texas A&M University)
- Dr. David M. Prior, Executive Vice-President and Provost (Texas A&M University)
- College Deans, Administrative Heads, and Department Heads (Texas A&M University)
- Dr. Doug Slack, Speaker of the Faculty Senate (Texas A&M University)
- Dr. Howard Kaplan, Chair of the Distinguished Professors (Texas A&M University)
- CPI Membership

Chair — Tom Blasingame, *Engineering* (845-2292, t-blasingame@tamu.edu) ● *Vice-Chair* — David Russell, *Science* ● *Past-Chair* — Jim Sacchetti, *COALS* ● *Architecture* — Donald House ● *Business* — Joobin Choobineh ● *COALS* — Alan Love, Rosana Moreira, Suresh Pillai, Dorothy Shippen, David Stelly ● *Education* — Susan Bloomfield ● *Engineering* — Dave Burnett, Don Russell ● *Geosciences* — Sarah Bednarz, Lisa Campbell, Mahlon Kennicutt ● *Health Science Center* — Geoffrey Kapler, Marty Scholtz ● *Liberal Arts* — Howard Kaplan, James Grau ● *Science* — Deb Bell-Pedersen, Keith Maggart, Michael Weimer ● *TEES* — David Boyle ● *TTI* — William Eisele, Katherine Turnbull ● *Veterinary Medicine* — Bhanu Chowdhary, James Derr

COUNCIL OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

APRIL 12, 2006

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS NOT PRESENT	GUESTS PRESENT	GUESTS NOT PRESENT
Bednarz, Sarah Bell-Pedersen, Deb Blasingame, Tom (Chair) Burnett, Dave Campbell, Lisa Choobineh, Joobin Eisele, William Grau, Jim House, Donald Kaplan, Howard Love, Alan Maggert, Keith Pillai, Suresh Russell, David (Vice-Chair) Stelly, David Weimer, Michael	Bloomfield, Susan Boyle, David Chowdhary, Bhanu Derr, James Kapler, Geoffrey Kennicutt, Mahlon Moreira, Rosana Russell, Don Sacchettini, Jim (Past-Chair) Scholtz, Marty Shippen, Dorothy Turnbull, Katherine	Cantrell, Carol Foxworth, Greg Gilliland, Diane Kettleborough, C.F. Pollock, Jill Raines, Angelia Smock, Mark Walker, Jamie Webb, Bob	Buckley, Mike Bresciani, Marilee Calvin, Jim Droleskey, Suzanne Ewing, Richard Giardino, Rick Hall, Tim O'Quinn, Mike Rojo del Busto, Mario Summers, Max Watson, Karan

CALL TO ORDER	The meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators was called to order at 11:45 a.m.
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AGENDA ITEM	COMMENTS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP
New Parking Plan for Texas A&M - Mr. Joe Powell, Associate Vice President for Finance	<p>Mr. Joe Powell updated the CPI on recent updates in the parking recommendations from the newly appointed Construction Committee. Dr. Gates has asked that a working group be formed to look at alternatives to eliminating reserved parking and has asked Dr. Joe Newton and himself to co-chair this committee.</p> <p>Parking area five will be eliminated and will displace approximately 600 staff. It is also anticipated that parking areas 54 and 55 will go away in the coming year. The Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building will also interfere with faculty and staff parking in lot 42.</p>	

RESEARCH FOUNDATION REPORT – MR. MARK SMOCK

details.

Progress is being made on reconstruction within the research foundation. Proposed by-laws have been drafted and delivered to President Bob Gates, Chancellor Bob McTeer, Dr. Nancy Dickey and Dr. Elsa Murano. They are moving on with their discussions but have made a timeline to adopt changes no later than May 22, 2006. A new board is scheduled to begin June 2, 2006, and a new cost structure will be in place to begin with the next fiscal year.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT – MS. JILL POLLOCK

Ms. Pollock requested volunteers to form a small working group to discuss background investigating; how they should be conducted, when not to conduct them.

She also announced that all performance evaluations must be completed by May as the merit pool would be decided within a month and half of then.

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT – MS. JAMIE RAE WALKER

Student Research Week was a resounding success. Over 500 participants with 189 undergraduates involved and 200 prizes awarded.

One hundred forty-four faculty, graduate students and staff served as judges. The next Student Research Week has already been scheduled for March 26 – 27, 2007. Please encourage your students to begin now.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS REPORT – DR. MICHAEL WEIMER

Potential good news with graduate hours. The Office of Graduate Studies has made progress in addressing the rules for graduate hours. A memo was sent by Dr. Giardino stating that, beginning Summer 2006, the Texas A&M University approach to the 99 hour cap will be changed. Doctoral students will be allowed to pursue their programs for seven calendar years before a charge of out-of-state tuition is initiated. More than 99 hours can be taken during seven years at the in-state tuition rate.

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NEW BUSINESS	Dr. Keith Maggert took the floor to bring up the possibility of offering “Bridge funding.” This would be interim-funding that would available on a short-term basis to cover PIs with suspended funding sources or who are a short time away from getting the funding for an awarded project. With CPI approval, Dr. Maggert requested to create a white paper to obtain CPI feedback on how this bridge funding could be assimilated.	
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.	

DRAFT

17.01 Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization

Proposed for Approval March __, 2006 (MO -06)

1. GENERAL POLICY STATEMENTS

1.1 Purpose

The Texas A&M University System (System) and its members are committed to the development and utilization of new knowledge. The creative ideas, discoveries, and new technologies developed by faculty, researchers and professional staff of the System are critical aspects of the teaching, research and service missions of the System and its members. The research being conducted within the System regularly leads to the development of intellectual property with potential benefit to the public. It is therefore necessary to have a policy on intellectual property that addresses the issues of academic freedom, rights and obligations of all parties concerned and various paths to development and commercialization.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- 1.1.1 encourage the discovery and development of new knowledge and its transfer for the best interest of the public; and
- 1.1.2 allow employees optimum academic freedom with respect to the method of disclosure and publication of their findings, consistent with their employment and/or other obligations under this policy or sponsored research; and
- 1.1.3 provide the necessary protections for intellectual property; and
- 1.1.4 enhance the generation of revenue for System members and the inventor/author(s); and
- 1.1.5 establish the System Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) as a single point of contact for matters relating to the evaluation, protection and commercialization of intellectual property for the System.

1.2 Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following terms are defined as follows:

- 1.2.1 Patent: A grant issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office giving an inventor the right to exclude all others from making, using, or selling the invention within the United States, its territories and possessions, for a period which expires 20 years after the filing date.

Patents may also be granted in foreign countries, with varying terms and requirements. To be patentable in most countries, an invention must be new, useful, and non-obvious.

1.2.2 Invention - A process, method, discovery, device, plant, composition of matter, or other invention that reasonably appears to qualify for protection under the United States patent law (utility patent, plant patent, design patent, certificate of plant variety protection, etc.), whether or not actually patentable. An invention may be the product of a single inventor or a group of inventors who have collaborated on a project.

1.2.3 Copyrightable Work - An original work of authorship which has been fixed in any tangible medium of expression from which it can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device, such as books, journals, software, computer programs, musical works, dramatic works, videos, multimedia products, sound recordings, pictorial and graphical works, etc. A copyrightable work may be the product of a single author or a group of authors who have collaborated on a project.

1.2.4 Trademark (including Service Mark) - A distinctive word, design or graphic symbol, or combination word and design, that distinguishes and identifies the goods and services of one party from those of another, such as names or symbols used in conjunction with plant varieties or computer programs.

1.2.5 Mask Works – A series of related images representing a predetermined, three dimensional pattern of metallic, insulating, or semiconducting layers of a semiconductor chip product. Mask works are registered with the United States Copyright Office.

1.2.6 Tangible Research Property (TRP) - Tangible items produced in the course of research including such items as biological materials, engineering drawings, integrated circuit chips, software, computer databases, prototype devices, circuit diagrams, and equipment. Individual items of tangible research property may be associated with one or more intangible properties, such as inventions, copyrightable works and trademarks.

1.2.7 Trade Secret – A secret of any nature which is used in business and provides the owner of the trade secret a competitive advantage over others. Legal protection for trade secrets exists only as long as the trade secret is maintained.

1.2.8 Intellectual Property: Collectively, all forms of intellectual property including but not limited to patents, inventions, copyrightable works, trademarks, and mask works, TRP and trade secrets.

1.3 Applicability

This policy applies to all employees of the System and its members, including, but not limited to, full and part-time faculty and staff; and all persons using the System facilities under the supervision of System personnel, including visiting and adjunct faculty and researchers, undergraduate students, candidates for master's and doctoral degrees, post-doctoral students, and non-degree seeking graduate students, unless excluded in a written agreement negotiated by the System or its member in advance of employment or visitation.

This policy applies to all System members equally.

2. OWNERSHIP OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Rights in inventions, copyrightable works (including software), mask works, and tangible research property made or created by individuals covered by this policy are as follows:

2.1 Inventor/Author Owned

2.1.1 Intellectual property which is unrelated to an individual's employment responsibilities and developed on his or her own time without the support of the System or any of its members or significant use of their facilities as defined in Section 2.4 of this policy is owned by the inventor/author.

2.1.2 Unless required by a funding or research contract, the System does not claim copyright to pedagogical, scholarly or artistic works, regardless of their form of expression. Such works include but are not limited to faculty-prepared works such as textbooks, course materials and refereed literature. Such works include those of students created in the course of their education, such as dissertations, papers and journal articles. Furthermore, the System claims no ownership in popular nonfiction, novels, poems, musical compositions, or other works of artistic imagination that are not "work for hire" as defined in Section 2.5 of this policy.

2.1.3 The System may assert ownership in software as an invention; however, original software that is also pedagogical, scholarly or artistic or that is integral to the presentation of such may be owned by the creator in accordance with this policy.

2.1.4 If an author retains title to copyright in teaching or course materials that are not works for hire, such as class notes, curriculum guides and laboratory notebooks, the System will retain a royalty-free right to use the materials for educational purposes.

2.1.5 Authors of copyrightable works that are not owned by the System, its members, or another party such as a research sponsor, own the copyright in their works and are free to publish them, register the copyright, and to receive any revenues which may result there from.

2.2 System Owned

2.2.1 Intellectual property conceived or developed as a result of activities (1) related to an individual's employment responsibilities and/or (2) with support from the System or any of its members in the form of administered funds and/or (3) with significant use of resources as defined in Section 2.4 of this policy will be owned by the System.

2.2.2 Intellectual property that is developed in the course of or resulting from research supported by a grant or contract with the federal government (or an agency thereof) or a nonprofit or for-profit nongovernmental entity, or by a private gift or grant to the System or its members, shall be determined in accordance with the terms of the sponsored grant or contract, or in the absence of such terms and to the extent consistent with applicable law, shall be owned by the System.

2.2.3 Individuals covered by this policy should not enter into any agreement, consulting or otherwise, without affirmative notice to the prospective contracting entity of their obligations under this policy and that System intellectual property rights cannot be subordinated.

2.3 Intellectual Property Involving Sponsored Research

2.3.1 Intellectual property conceived or developed in the course of or resulting from research supported by a grant, sponsorship or contract with the federal government (or an agency thereof) or a nonprofit or for-profit nongovernmental entity shall be owned by the System. The research sponsor or third party should be offered an option to acquire license rights to develop and commercialize any intellectual property resulting from the project, subject to System policy and in accordance with the Licensing Guidelines in Section 4.4 of this policy.

- 2.3.2 The OTC, in coordination with the sponsored research offices of the System members, and the Texas A&M Research Foundation, shall coordinate reporting requirements and other obligations to research sponsors regarding intellectual property developed under a research contract or grant, including but not limited to obligations to the US Government under 37CFR401. Intellectual property developed under sponsored research should be promptly disclosed to the OTC through the relevant member CEO so all sponsor requirements and obligations can be met.
- 2.3.3 In certain cases the acceptance of a contract, grant or agreement which does not require ownership by the System of intellectual property, may be approved by the System member CEO, or designee, with notification to the OTC. The benefit from the level of funding for proposed research and/or other consideration from a sponsor, licensee, or other party should outweigh the potential value of System ownership.

2.4 Significant Use of Resources

Intellectual property that is not institutional work or work for hire as defined in Section 2.5 of this policy, but are works that are developed with integral and significant use of funds, space, hardware, or facilities administered by a System member institution, where use was essential and substantial rather than incidental shall be owned by the System.

The System recognizes and affirms the traditional academic freedom of its faculty and staff to publish pedagogical, scholarly or artistic works without restriction. In keeping with this philosophy, the System will not construe the provision of salaries, offices, or library facilities as constituting significant use of System resources, except for those instances where the resources were furnished specifically to support the development of such intellectual property.

2.5 Institutional Works or “Work for Hire”

Intellectual property that is either: (1) created by an employee who was hired specifically or required as part of their employment to produce intellectual property for institutional purposes; or (2) commissioned or contracted by the System or any of its members will be owned by the System member on whose behalf the work was performed. For example, work assigned to programmers is “institutional work” or “work for hire” as defined by law, as is software developed for the System or System member by staff working collaboratively. Brochures, training programs, CD-ROMs, videos, and manuals for which staff members are hired to develop are other examples of institutional works, or work for hire.

2.6 Trade and Service Marks

Trade and service marks relating to goods and services developed within the System will be owned by the System member from whom the goods and services originated.

2.7 Tangible Research Property

The System owns all right, title and interest in TRP related to an individual's employment responsibilities and/or developed with support from System-administered funds, facilities, equipment or personnel, as further specified in Section 2.2 above. Prior to the transfer, distribution and/or sale of TRP, the creator of the TRP must notify the System member and the OTC to review the developmental history of the TRP to assess any System obligations and to review the conditions of such proposed transfer, distribution or sale.

If the TRP is determined to have commercial value, it will be managed by the OTC as other System intellectual property, including distribution of income from commercialization in accordance with Section 4.11.1 and 4.11.2.

If the Tangible Research Property is to be distributed outside of the System for non-commercial research purposes with no financial consideration beyond the recovery of costs associated with shipping and handling, the System member will manage and facilitate the distribution, with assistance from the OTC as needed. Any distribution of TRP for commercial or non-commercial purposes must include a written agreement between the System or member and the intended recipient of the TRP.

2.8 Multiple Inventor/Author(s)

In the event of multiple inventor/author(s), the inventor/author(s) will agree among themselves as to the ownership rights and benefits accruing to the inventor/author(s); determination of the inventor/author(s)' share shall be made only upon receipt by the OTC of a signed agreement between the inventor/author(s). In the event that the inventor/author(s) cannot agree upon an appropriate sharing arrangement as evidenced by a clear and unequivocal written agreement within three (3) months of the first receipt of royalties or license fees, that portion of income to which the inventor/author(s) are entitled under Section 4.11 of this policy will be distributed as the CEO of the System member may deem appropriate under the circumstances. Such a decision shall be binding on the inventor/author(s).

2.9 Joint Employment

In the event that an inventor/author is a joint employee of two or more System members, or in the event that multiple inventor/author(s) represent two or more System members, the member CEOs will agree as to the ownership rights and benefits accruing to the members and the inventor/author(s), considering such factors as annualized FTE by member, relative contributions of the inventor/author(s) to the work and level of financial support by the member. If the member CEOs cannot agree upon the appropriate sharing arrangement, the Chancellor or designee will make the decision as deemed appropriate under the circumstances and such decision shall be binding on the members and the inventor/author(s).

2.10 Offers of Intellectual Property

- 2.10.1 If an individual chooses to offer to the System intellectual property in which the System has no claim, the System may accept ownership of the intellectual property provided that: (1) the individual makes the offer through one of the System members as if the intellectual property had been created within the System; (2) the individual agrees to all provisions (including distribution of income provisions) of this policy (3) the individual warrants that he or she owns all right, title and interest to the intellectual property, and that to the best of his or her knowledge, the intellectual property does not infringe upon any existing copyright or other legal rights.
- 2.10.2 The CEOs of the System members shall advise the OTC of all such offers.
- 2.10.3 Should the System member agree to accept the offer of intellectual property, the individual will execute an assignment agreement transferring all right, title and interest in the intellectual property to the System, and acknowledging that the individual agrees to all provisions of this policy. In cases in which the individual has already expended funds toward obtaining patent or other legal protection for the invention, the individual and the System may negotiate terms to allow recovery of legal and/or patent expenses from license fees and/or royalty income. Such an agreement would modify normal royalty sharing provisions until such expenses are recovered by the party entitled to recovery of the expenses.
- 2.10.4 The System member may accept charitable donations of intellectual property from governmental or private organizations. Upon the transfer of title in the intellectual property to the System, the intellectual property will be managed in accordance with this policy.

3. EVALUATION AND PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

3.1 Responsibility

The OTC is administratively responsible for determining the System's rights and obligations, evaluating the commercial potential, obtaining the necessary legal protection, and for taking the required actions to maximize the benefits of any invention to the public, the System and its members, and the inventor/author.

3.2 Disclosure

Individuals subject to this policy are required to promptly disclose intellectual property in which the System has an ownership interest under the provisions of this policy or for which disclosure is required by contract or law to the OTC, through their CEO.

The disclosure will constitute a full and complete disclosure of the subject matter of the discovery or development and identify all contributing participants and will initiate the evaluation process.

Disclosure shall be made in a form prescribed by and available from the OTC. Individuals subject to this policy shall assist the OTC in protecting rights in the intellectual property.

3.3 Disclosure Evaluation Process

The OTC will conduct a review of the disclosure to determine rights and obligations of all parties concerned and determine the significance of the discovery. The first step in this process is typically a meeting with the inventor/author to better understand the disclosures scientific and commercial merit and if necessary, devise strategies for protection, development and commercialization. It is the obligation of the inventor/author(s) to make available to the OTC additional information as needed in all stages of this process.

System members are encouraged to perform preliminary screening of all disclosures for scientific and commercial merit and to forward the results to the OTC to assist in the management of intellectual property owned by the System.

3.3 Assignment of Rights

Present and prospective employees of the System shall, upon request by the Chancellor, the CEO of the respective member, or the OTC execute an invention assignment agreement in a form prescribed by and available from the OTC to set forth effectively the ownership and rights to intellectual property.

3.4 Protection of Intellectual Property

The System will not seek legal protection for inventions and discoveries that the OTC and the System member determine are without commercial promise unless required by the sponsor in which case the sponsor will pay all related costs associated with protecting and managing the intellectual property.

The System member, in cooperation with the OTC, will determine whether the System member desires fund the protection of the intellectual property and will subsequently notify the inventor of its decision.

All costs associated with the protection of the intellectual property will be recovered for the funding party before making distributions of royalties or other proceeds as outlined in Sections 4.3 and 4.4.

4. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Inventor/Author Assistance

With few exceptions, the inventor/author's involvement in the commercialization process is critical to success. The inventor's subject matter expertise, industry contacts, and ongoing research are often what facilitate commercialization. Successful commercialization requires that the OTC, System member and the inventor work in consultation with one another.

4.2 Commercialization of Patent and Copyrights

The OTC and the Office of General Counsel shall cooperatively develop a model license agreement for licensing System intellectual property which shall include, as a minimum, the guidelines set forth below. The model agreement shall be submitted to all potential licensees for System intellectual property and individuals involved in negotiation of license agreements shall endeavor to achieve utilization of the significant aspects of the model agreement for all licenses of intellectual property rights. Any exceptions to the model agreement must be approved by the Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization and the Office of General Counsel.

The System member from which copyrightable works or trademarks were developed has the primary responsibility and authority for negotiating with third parties having an interest in using, developing or otherwise commercializing copyrightable works or trademarks. The CEO of the System member may also request that the OTC conduct the evaluation, protection and commercialization of certain copyrightable works or trademarks.

4.3 Licensing Guidelines

The following guidelines are applicable to license agreements with private entities including those formed primarily for the purpose of developing and/or commercializing System intellectual property. The Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization may approve exceptions to these guidelines from time to time:

- 1) No entity shall be granted the exclusive right to the development and/or commercialization of all intellectual property created at a System member. Agreements should grant rights only under specified projects.
- 2) If an entity is granted the exclusive rights with respect to a particular invention, product, process or other item of intellectual property, the agreement should provide that such rights will revert to the System in the event the entity fails to develop and commercialize the property within a specified period of time that is appropriate to the particular circumstances as determined by the OTC.

- 3) An entity that is granted exclusive rights to develop or commercialize intellectual property that is patentable should be required to reimburse the System for all expenses incurred by the System in obtaining a patent or, if a patent has not been obtained, should be required to prosecute and bear the expense of obtaining patent protection for the benefit of the System and, in either event, the entity should be allowed to take all actions necessary, including litigation, to protect and preserve such patented rights from infringement.
- 4) The System, the member, and the employees of each should be protected and indemnified from all liability arising from the development, marketing, or use of the particular intellectual property.
- 5) Restrictions on use by the member for research and teaching purposes and the publication rights of inventor/author(s) should be minimized during the licensing process.
- 6) An entity that grants a license or sublicense to some other entity for property or technology that is in whole or in part derived from or based on that which is licensed to the entity by the System, should be required to share with the System a minimum of: 50% of any royalty received by the entity and 50% of any equity position to which the entity may be entitled.
- 7) Commitments should not be made for future inventions even when improvements are expected.
- 8) License agreements should contain such other provisions as may be determined by the System OTC, and the Office of General Counsel, to be in the best interest of the System.

4.4 Licensing of System Rights to Inventors/Authors

Individuals subject to this policy may also request a license to commercially develop System owned intellectual property they conceived where such licensing would best achieve the transfer of technology, is consistent with System obligation to third parties, and does not involve a conflict of interest and follows the licensing guidelines set forth above. For additional information on conflicts of interest see System policy Section 7.01 and System regulation Section 31.05.01.

4.5 Waiver of System Rights to Inventor/Author

Subject to any federal research or industrial sponsorship agreements and with appropriate approval from the sponsor, the System at its discretion may release to the inventor/author, development rights for specified intellectual property. OTC will notify the System member, the inventor/author(s) and research sponsor if applicable of its decision. The following provisions will apply to any waiver of System rights:

- 4.6.1 The System shall retain a perpetual, royalty-free license to use the intellectual property and any corresponding patents, copyrights, service marks or trademarks for research, education and service purposes.
- 4.6.2 In the case of significant use of resources as defined in Section 2.4 of this policy, the System shall receive a share, to be negotiated at the time of waiver of System rights, of proceeds generated from commercialization of the intellectual property after the inventor/author(s) or author has recovered documented out-of-pocket costs for obtaining legal protection for the intellectual property.
- 4.6.3 In the case of a release of development rights to the inventor/author(s), the inventor/author(s) will not receive a share of proceeds received by the System as a condition of its release of development rights to the inventor/author(s).

4.7 Board of Regents Approval Requirement

Individuals subject to this policy that wish to participate as an employee, officer or member of the Board of Directors of a business entity that has agreements with the System relating to the research, development, licensing or exploitation of intellectual property in which the System has an ownership interest must be approved by the Board of Regents. See System Regulation 31.05.01, Section 4.3.1 for additional information.

4.8 Trade and Service Marks

Trade and service marks relating to goods and services developed within the System will be licensed through the System member from which the goods and services originated.

4.9 Mask Works

Mask works subject to ownership by the System will be licensed by the OTC as an invention with distribution of income made in accordance with Section 4.11 of this policy.

4.10 Tangible Research Property

Commercial distribution of System owned tangible research property will be managed by the OTC as an invention with distribution of income made in accordance with Section 4.11.1 and 4.11.2 of this policy.

4.11 Distribution of Royalties and License Fees

Royalty income and license fees received by the System from commercialization of intellectual property will be distributed at the end of each quarter in which they were accrued.

The Chancellor, subject to approval by the Board of Regents, may adjust the allocation of royalties set forth herein.

4.11.1 Distribution of Royalties and License Fees from Intellectual Property Licensed on or Before February 1, 2006

Step 1 - Deduct from gross royalties and license fees the cost of obtaining legal protection for the intellectual property to arrive at net income (when such costs are not already paid in full by another source at the time of distribution).

Step 2 - Deduct eighteen percent (18%) from net income. This deduction is directed toward covering the administrative costs associated with evaluating, protecting, marketing and managing intellectual property by the OTC.

Step 3 - Distribute the remaining net income as follows: fifty-two percent (52%) to the inventor and forty-eight percent (48%) to the System member supporting the research leading to the disclosure.

4.11.2 Distribution of Royalty Income and License Fees from Intellectual Property Licensed After February 1, 2006

Step 1 - Deduct from gross royalties and license fees the cost of obtaining legal protection for the intellectual property to arrive at net income (when such costs are not already paid in full by another source at the time of distribution).

Step 2 - Deduct twenty-five percent (25%) from net income. This deduction is directed toward covering the administrative costs associated with evaluating, protecting, marketing and managing intellectual property by the OTC.

Step 3 - Distribute the remaining net income as follows: fifty percent (50%) to the creator and fifty percent (50%) to the System member supporting the research from which the invention was developed.

4.11.3 Special Provision for Distribution of Royalty Income and License Fees from Copyrightable Works

1) In cases where the OTC manages the commercialization or distribution of the copyrightable work, the distribution of income shall be as follows: twenty percent (20%) to the OTC, thirty percent (30%) to the System Member and fifty percent (50%) to the author.

2) In cases where the System member conducts the commercialization or distribution of the copyrightable work, the distribution of income shall be as follows: fifty percent (50%) to the System member and fifty percent (50%) to the author.

3) Notwithstanding sections 1 and 2 above, the System member shall be entitled to all income from distribution or commercialization of

institutional works and works for hire as described in Section 2.5 of this policy.

4.12 Equity as a Consideration in Licensing

The OTC may negotiate an equity interest in lieu of or in addition to royalty and/or other monetary consideration as a part of an agreement relating to rights in intellectual property owned by the System. The System is not restricted in the percentage of equity it may take in a company as a part of an agreement relating to rights in intellectual property owned by the System.

The distribution of income from equity received as a consideration of a license agreement will be distributed in the same manner as royalties and license fees as described in Section 4.11 of this policy. The System may, at its own discretion, distribute shares of equity when appropriate. Should the System elect not to distribute shares, it shall control the liquidation of equity interest at its sole discretion. This may include agreeing to receive the equity interest under terms that restrict its ability to sell, distribute or otherwise deal with the equity interests.

As stated in Texas Education Code Section 153.007, neither the System nor any member thereof acts as a fiduciary for any individual concerning equity or other consideration received under the terms of this policy.

Individuals subject to this policy should refer to System Regulation 31.05.01 regarding System regulation and state law addressing equity ownership.

4.13 Revenue from Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

If the System receives revenue from third parties as a result of arbitration or litigation related to the enforcement of System rights in intellectual property, such revenue will be first used to reimburse the System (or the sponsor or licensee, if appropriate) for expenses related to such actions. The inventor/author(s) and the System member are entitled to the recovery of lost royalties from the remaining net revenue according to the distribution formula outlined in Section 4.11 of this policy.

4.14 Research Support as Consideration in Licensing

If the System accepts research support in the form of a sponsored research agreement or unrestricted grant as part of an agreement relating to rights in intellectual property owned by the System in addition to or in lieu of royalties, license fees, equity and/or other monetary consideration the inventor/author shall have no entitlement to receive a share as personal income.

4.15 Distribution of Income from Intellectual Property in Case of Death

In the case of death or incapacitation of an inventor, royalty distributions, including any equity to which the inventor/author was entitled, shall be made pursuant to the Texas Probate Code and the United States Internal Revenue Service.

5. FORMATION & INVESTMENT IN OR ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO VENTURES DEVELOPING OR COMMERCIALIZING SYSTEM INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1 General

Following disclosure, evaluation and protection of intellectual property, the OTC may elect to form a business venture or assist with the formation of a business venture, or enter into a business venture with an existing company for the purpose of developing and/or commercializing System intellectual property.

The commercialization process should include the means by which the OTC, System, and members will be able to receive a return on investment of OTC, System, and member resources. If monetary or non-monetary support is exchanged in part or in whole for equity, the exchange of equity must comply with this policy and Texas Education Code Chapter 153.

Inventor/author(s) of intellectual property covered by this policy or members from which the intellectual property originated may be offered equity in a company formed or venture entered into by the Office of Technology Commercialization or any of its centers based on their level of involvement in the formation and ongoing operations of the company. Offers of equity in OTC ventures will be recommended by the Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization and approved by the Chancellor.

5.2 Company Formation by the OTC

5.1.1 The OTC is responsible for determining the corporate structure and the financing strategy, executing a license agreement subject to the guidelines set forth in this policy between the company and the System, and other activities related to company formation, such as selection of a CEO, other corporate officers and board members.

5.1.2 Outside counsel services may be contracted to assist with the formation of a company, or to review and prepare documents associated with a venture whose purpose is to develop and commercialize System intellectual property with the consent of the Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization and the Office of General Counsel and, as required by law, the Attorney General of the State of Texas.

5.1.3 The OTC and the Office of General Counsel shall develop draft shareholder agreements for protection of System interest in the venture.

5.1.4 A license agreement will be executed with the venture following the licensing guidelines set forth in Section 4.3 of this policy.

5.1.5 The System is not restricted in the percentage of equity it may own in an entity formed for the purpose of developing and/or commercializing System intellectual property.

5.3 Assistance Programs Offered by the OTC

The OTC may operate programs to provide assistance to individual persons and companies in commercializing technology owned wholly or in part by the System or in which the System has an interest, including individuals covered by this policy. Assistance may include providing monetary support or non-monetary support, including the use of premises, computers, computer software, telecommunications terminal equipment, office equipment and supplies, machinery, utilities, or other services that are customarily treated as overhead expenses.

5.2 Due Diligence Process

Before the OTC elects to form a business venture or assist with the formation of a business venture, or enter into a business venture with an existing company for the purpose of developing and/or commercializing System intellectual property, the OTC will perform due diligence on the proposed business venture.

- 5.2.1 To guide in the consideration of OTC business ventures, the OTC will be responsible for development and maintenance of guidelines on the minimum requirements for OTC business ventures, subject to approval by the Chancellor. Business ventures may not be considered unless they meet the minimum requirements.
- 5.2.2 The OTC is responsible for review of the commercialization plan including analysis of the potential business venture's business model, financial plan, viability of succeeding in commercialization, and potential return to the System in terms of investment return or increased research revenue. The Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization, subject to approval of the Chancellor, will have authority for approving business venture's plans, consistent with the results of the review and analysis, and the responsibility for setting milestones for the business venture.
- 5.2.3 Due diligence for OTC business ventures will include: 1) conflicts of interest in regard to all parties concerned; 2) background checks on the CEO and other corporate officers; 3) evaluation of the competence of management to execute the business plan; and 4) the financial risk and reward profile of the participant.
- 5.2.4 The OTC is responsible for reviewing its business venture's progress every six months. If the participant receives a financial investment from the OTC, the initial review shall be conducted in three months. Review will focus on compliance with the commercialization plan and the achievement of milestones established. Results of all reviews will be provided to the Chancellor and the Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance.
- 5.2.6 OTC business ventures must include an exit strategy which indicates how any financial interest will be returned to investors. In the event a business venture distributes publicly traded securities to the OTC, securities will be immediately transferred to the System Office of the Treasurer for management.

5.2.7 The ongoing monitoring of conflicts of interest pertaining to business ventures formed or supported by the OTC is the responsibility of the OTC. This will include all individuals involved in the OTC process including but not limited to: employees of OTC, employees of the System and its members, staff of the participant companies, and other investors in the business venture. Potential conflicts will be disclosed to the Board of Regents and resolved to the satisfaction of the Board of Regents prior to any agreements being executed or immediately upon notice for those agreements already in place.

5.3 Technology Commercialization Investment Fund

5.3.1 The Technology Commercialization Investment Fund (the Fund) may be established at the System level to finance companies formed in whole or in part by the OTC or companies with which the OTC enters into a business venture. System members and their affiliates, at the discretion of the CEO or appropriate management, may invest in the Fund. Individuals and corporations outside of the A&M System may also invest in the Fund, subject to the approval of the Chancellor or his designee, and the Office of Finance. The OTC may solicit gifts to the System for the purpose of supporting commercialization efforts. The Chancellor may delegate to the Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization, or with the prior approval of the Board, may delegate to another employee of the System Offices management oversight responsibility of the Fund.

5.3.2 Any additional intellectual, administrative, and/or infrastructure support for the OTC endeavors related to company formation, may come from System members or affiliated entities, at the discretion of each respective CEO.

5.3.3 As provided in the Texas Education Code, each member of the Board of Regents has the legal responsibilities of a fiduciary in the management of funds under the control of the System on behalf of the System. All investments will be made in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations. All assets of the System will at all times be vested in the Board of Regents of the System, and such assets will be deemed to be held by the Board as a fiduciary regardless of the name in which the securities may be registered.

5.3.4 Investment of Fund assets into any single business venture will be limited to the greater of \$250,000 or 10% of the Fund's total value.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The OTC will interact with Board Members, faculty, the System, government employees, and private investors with wide-ranging business interest. The reporting requirements above are in addition to requirements of System Policy 07.01 Ethics, Conflicts of Interest.

7. ADMINISTRATION

7.1 Delegation of Authority

Chapter 153 of the Education Code authorizes institutions of higher education to engage in technology development and transfer activities under authority provided to governing boards by other State and Federal laws.

- 7.1.1 The Board of Regents delegates to the Chancellor, responsibility for the management of intellectual property subject to ownership by the System to include the authority to negotiate and execute, on behalf of the System, legal documents relating to the System's rights in intellectual property, including, but not limited to, license agreements, letter agreements, option agreements, inter-institutional agreements, corporate agreements, applications, declarations, affidavits, powers of attorney, disclaimers, non-disclosures agreements and other such documents related to patents, copyrights, and trademarks and the formation of companies for the commercialization of System technologies.
- 7.1.2 The Chancellor may delegate to the Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization or with the prior approval of the Board, may delegate to another employee of the System Offices, the authority to negotiate and execute, on behalf of the System, legal documents relating to the System's rights in intellectual property, including, but not limited to, license agreements, letter agreements, option agreements, inter-institutional agreements, corporate agreements, applications, declarations, affidavits, powers of attorney, disclaimers, non-disclosures agreements and other such documents related to patents, copyrights, and trademarks and the formation of companies for the commercialization of System technologies.
- 7.1.3 The Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization is responsible for the day to day operations of the OTC and reports directly to the Chancellor.
- 7.1.4 The Chancellor, or designee, is authorized to serve on the governing board or as an officer of corporate entities formed for the purpose of development and commercialization of technology owned by the System which have met the requirements of this policy. At the next regular meeting of the Board of Regents, following the date on which the Chancellor, or designee, becomes a member of the corporate board, the Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization will provide information concerning the corporation and the System's involvement to the Board of Regents with a request for authorization for the Chancellor, or designee, to continue serving as a member of the corporate board.

7.2 Intellectual Property Committee

A standing Intellectual Property Committee will chaired by the Chancellor and comprise the CEO from each System member and one faculty representative to be appointed annually by the Council of Principal Investigators. This committee shall advise the Chancellor on matters related to intellectual property.

7.3 Reporting Requirements

The Chancellor, or designee, will provide the Committee on Finance of the Board of Regents the following reports:

- 7.3.1 Annually, the Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization shall prepare for the Chancellor, the Board of Regents and the participating member CEOs a report listing the titles and a brief description of each disclosure received under Section 2.12 of this policy, since the last report.
- 7.3.2 The Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization shall prepare a semi-annual report on all license agreements and commercialization activities involving System intellectual property. The Vice Chancellor for Technology Commercialization shall present the semi-annual report to the advisory committee and the member CEO's principally involved in research and commercialization. For third party license agreements, the report should include an overview of each licensee's progress towards meeting development milestones, and resulting gains to the System through financial return or increased research funding. For commercialization activities in which an equity interest was received, the semi-annual report will include the following information: 1) total securities held and percentage of ownership in each venture; 2) any commitments which will result in additional ownership or investment in each participant; 3) the change in market value of the financial interest; and 4) any anticipated liquidity event which will realize the return on investment.
- 7.3.3 In compliance with Section 51.912 of the Texas Education Code, the Board of Regents must file a report identifying all employees who conceive, create, discover, invent, or develop intellectual property and has an equity interest in or serves as an employee, officer, or member of the Board of Directors of business entities that have agreements with the System relating to the research, development, licensing or exploitation of intellectual property in which the System has an ownership interest. The report will be filed in accordance with the requirements of Section 51.005 of the Texas Education Code.
- 7.3.4 The Office of the Treasurer will submit a quarterly report on technology commercialization investments. The investment report will include detailed investment holdings, transaction reports, valuation of holdings, and material events which will affect the value of the investments since the last report. The Office of the Treasurer is responsible for the calculation and monitoring of valuations on all holdings.

7.4 Dispute Resolution

Disputes related to this policy should be made in writing to the Office of General Counsel. Once the OGC has conducted its review of any dispute it will forward its recommendation on to the Intellectual Property Committee for consideration. The Intellectual Property Committee will be the final arbiter in matters relating to this policy.

CONTACT OFFICE: The System Office of Technology Commercialization

HISTORY: Replaces existing policy.

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

TO: Council of Principal Investigators

FROM: Keith A Maggert, Ph.D.
Council of Principal Investigators
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, College of Science
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SUBJECT: Bridge Funding

At the last meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators, I presented a plan to codify the administrative framework for Bridge Funding at Texas A&M University. With support of the CPI, I have enumerated a draft proposal below. I now solicit comments from members of the CPI, on behalf of their constituency, in order to alter or append these ideas to make Bridge Funding appropriate for all research faculty at Texas A&M, regardless of the source or style of their funding.

Once comments are collected, discussed, and incorporated, the CPI will take the proposal to the Vice President for Research for evaluation and potential adoption.

Summary

Bridge Funding is defined as a short-term, non-renewable source of internal funding whose purpose is to support research and research personnel during periods when external sources of funding have been *temporarily* suspended, or funding is *likely* and *imminent* yet has not been granted.

The recent negotiation of the Indirect Cost Return (ICR) contract with the Texas A&M Research Foundation has enhanced ICR to TAMU by approximately 10%. These funds have not been earmarked for specific purposes and, since they are ultimately of "research" origin, it is beneficial that they remain directed towards support of research within the University. Evaluation of research programs of peer Universities shows that Bridge Funding would be attainable and beneficial at Texas A&M University.

Definition and Purpose of Bridge Funding

Bridge Funding is internal funding provided to active research faculty during brief periods when competitive external funding has not been acquired or has been suspended, and available evidence suggests that funding will be acquired imminently. Award amounts are not meant to supplant external competitive grants, and are thus to be modest, limited in type of allowable expenditures, and non-renewable.

Bridge Funding would:

1. Provide a funding buffer against fluctuations in federal, state, and private funding of research
2. Decrease the probability of research faculty forced to abandon incipient or fruitful lines of research
3. Protect research programs from losing key support personnel due to temporary suspension of funding
4. Provide a mechanism for research faculty to do research when it is most required: when a large grant requires a modest amount of work in order to receive continued funding

Sufficient programs exist for seed funding, equipment funds, Program or Training Grants, and others, and Bridge Funding should stay entirely separate from these other funding mechanisms.

The spirit of Bridge Funding is to provide faculty who have a track-record of fundability to remain active in research, and acquire new grants on their merits, despite inevitable fluctuations in federal or private granting agency largess or research productivity. One may object that Bridge Funding appears as “research welfare,” and it will be important to administer the funds in such a way as to avoid both the appearance and possibility that Bridge Funding will be used for purposes other than those outlined above. Specifically, it is critically important that Bridge Funding be limited to individuals who have the need for such funding, and moreover to limit Funding to those who have a demonstrable ability to receive competitive funding.

Examples of Bridge Funding at other Universities

Bridge Funding is established and formalized at other state Universities in the United States, including some with enrollment and research programs of size similar to Texas A&M University. Two of these Universities – Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of California System – are specifically identified as “Peer” institutes to Texas A&M University. Although the processes for application and administration differ, the process and goal of Bridge Funding remains similar at these Universities (Table 1).

Universities with existing Bridge Funding Programs:

- University of Kentucky
- Drexel University College of Medicine
- Emory University School of Medicine
- Louisiana State University
- University of Connecticut
- San Diego State University
- University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- University of California (all campuses, but administered separately; includes satellite and associated Institutions)

Table 1. A selection of Universities where Bridge Funding exists, along with an indication of how many applicants, successfully-awarded Bridge Funding applications, and cost to the University. Starred campuses are identified as TAMU “Peer” Universities.

University	Typical Applications <i>per year</i>	Success Rate	Awarded Funds <i>per application</i>
University of California, San Diego* (includes School of Medicine and Scripps Institution of Oceanography)	6 – 8	~ 100%	\$25,000
Georgia Institute of Tech- nology*			
University of Texas*, MD Anderson Cancer Center	6 – 10	~ 95%	\$100,000 – \$150,000
University of Connecticut	0 – 3	100%	
University of California, Irvine	~ 20	80%	\$35,000 – \$50,000
Emory University School of Medicine	0 – 3	100%	\$50,000

Proposed Administration of Bridge Funding

Eligibility

- Bridge Funding will be limited to research faculty whose University title is Distinguished Professor, Full professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, or Visiting Professor
- Bridge Funding will be limited to individuals who have demonstrated the ability to acquire external funds, and should therefore be limited to Principle Investigators who have had active competitive research grants within the last five years
- Denied grants may be eligible for Bridge Funding if:
 - The priority score falls within 5 points of the payline
 - The priority score falls within 10 points of the payline and the Principal Investigator is an Assistant Professor
 - The priority score falls within 10 points of the payline and is the only source of funding for the Principal Investigator
 - The grant may be resubmitted according to the rules of the original funding agency

Comment [1]:
Consider active grants to include only external sources?

Should funding have been continuous?

Should this period be three years?

Comment [2]:
Apart from Paylines, what other types of feedback are given by granting agencies?

Application

- Bridge Funding must be requested within 6 months of official notification of denial of a grant
- Bridge Funding amounts should be limited to 50% of the direct cost requested for a 9-month period of the grant that has not been awarded, or 50% of that amount for a grant that has lapsed without renewal, to a maximum of \$50,000
- Application should include:
 - Cover letter explaining request

Comment [3]:
Are these fair amounts – too generous or too little?

Some Universities use matching funds between VPR, College, and/or Department.

- Biographical sketch of Principal Investigator, including past funding history and other grants under review or being prepared
- Original proposal of research
- List of potential funding sources for the research described
- Nine month budget
- Summary of Review from funding agency, including reasons for denial and recommended improvements
- Documentation of how shortcomings or concerns of the denied grant application will be addressed
- Memo of support from Department Head, including critical input and analysis of likelihood of funding
 - Review by the Departmental Head will be seriously considered during review and should be a fair and critical assessment
- Memo of support from Dean of College

Review and Granting

- Office of the Vice President for Research will form a 2 – 3 member Review Committee comprised of senior research faculty with knowledge in the area of the proposal, and at least one of whom should have received a competitive grant from the denying agency
- Committee will review the proposal, and make a recommendation to the VPR regarding quality, likelihood of success upon resubmission, and Bridge Funding budget request
- VPR will evaluate recommendation and make final decision regarding success and funding amount, and notify the Dean, Department Head, and Principal Investigator
- Since Bridge Funding is mean to provide “emergency” funds, funds should be made available immediately after the VPR’s decision

Comment [4]:
Obviously, these details are up to the VPR; these are merely recommendations based on Bridge Funding systems at other Universities

Administration

- Bridge Funding may only be used for salaries that could not be paid in another way (e.g., postdoctoral fellows who do not have fellowship awards of their own), and are limited to the level during previous periods of active granting, or the Departmental average for comparable positions
- Bridge Funding may pay for minor research equipment, consumable supplies, contracted services, animal care, and travel to research sites (e.g., museums, field sites)

- Bridge Funding will not pay for faculty or graduate student salary, travel to meetings, consultation services, large equipment ($\geq \$5000.00$), office equipment or supplies, computers or computer equipment
- Exceptions to these restrictions may be requested by inclusion of specific items in proposed budget and accompanying justification
- Should external funding be acquired or the investigator leaves Texas A&M University, the unused portion of the Bridge Funds will be returned to the VPR
- Bridge Funding may be granted for periods of nine months, and may not exceed 18 months
- Unused portion of Bridge Funding may be forwarded to the second Bridge Funding period, provided the application for extension is successful

Perspective

After the presentation to the CPI by Mark Smock on December 14, 2005, it became apparent that renegotiation of the Texas A&M Research Foundation contract for Indirect Cost Return would yield significant return of funds to Texas A&M University. Specifically, renegotiation would yield a decrease in RF indirect from 29.0% to approximately 20.0%, over four years.

According to Vice President for Research Richard Ewing, the increase in money returning to TAMU would be divided between Research Administration (approximately 25%), dispersal to Colleges (for administration by Deans), or held by the VPR. VPR allotment would be used, with input by Deans, principal investigators (including CPI), and Department Heads, for improving the research environment at Texas A&M. Potential uses include new faculty startup, large research equipment (e.g., magnets, microscopes), and other uses. Bridge Funding would be a beneficial use of VPR funds that would enhance the research environment for two reasons. First, Bridge Funding would be available to all existing programs on campus, and not just to Colleges or Departments engaged in hiring. Second, Bridge Funding would be a use of funds for all research faculty, and not limited to only those research programs that utilize large equipment.

In a 2001 report of the Task Force for Strengthening the Arts and Sciences at Texas A&M to Dr. Ronald Douglas, then-Executive Vice President and Provost of Texas A&M, the members reported that Bridge Funding should be instituted for the College of Geosciences, whose funding is "soft" and sees a very high level of uncertainty. This goal is laudable, and should be extended to all research funding, since many grants are currently as difficult to attain as the College of Geoscience's funds once were.

Progress Towards Bridge Funding

I request input from the CPI concerning this proposal to assure that it is simple, fair, and universally applicable to all research faculty at TAMU, regardless of discipline or College. Comments should be sent to me for inclusion. If possible, I ask that you send comments to me prior to the May 10 meeting of the CPI, or deliver them to me at that time. However, I acknowledge that not all relevant opinions may be heard by this time, and I encourage you to send me comments as you receive them.