

# CPI

## Agenda

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

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

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- I. Call to order            Jim Sacchetti, Chair
- II. Approval of September 8, 2004 minutes  
(*Attachment*)
- III. International Programs Update  
Dr. Emily Ashworth, Assistant Provost - International Programs Office
- IV. International Student Services Update  
Dr. Suzanne Droleskey, Executive Director, International Programs for Students  
(*Attachment*)
- V. VPR Update  
Dr. Jim Calvin, Executive Associate Vice President for Research
- VI. Continued Discussions of 2004-2005 CPI Issues:
  - a.) University Rules and State Legislative Initiatives
  - b.) Discussion of Potential CPI Issues for this year
    - 1) Tuition remission for graduate students on stipends
    - 2) A system policy on P.I. rights and responsibilities
    - 3) University research infrastructure
    - 4) Position of Research Asst. Professor
    - 5) Out of cycle raises and promotions for people paid on grants – 5G form
    - 6) Regulations for grant paid employees pay for extended sick leave (pool)
    - 7) Define a mechanism for faculty research commercialization
    - 8) Other suggestions
- VII. Actions to be taken on the following:
  - a.) Mission Statement amendment (*Attachment*)
  - b.) Annual Report consideration (*Attachment*)
- VIII. Adjourn

**COUNCIL OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS  
OCTOBER 6, 2004  
MINUTES**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS NOT PRESENT</b>	<b>GUESTS PRESENT</b>	<b>INVITED GUESTS PRESENT</b>
Blasingame, Tom Burnett, Dave Campbell, Lisa (Debbie Thomas) Chen, Jeff Delp, Michael Derr, James Eisele, Bill Ficht, Tom Gould, Jean Hall, Tim – Past-Chair Kaplan, Howard Love, Alan Meagher, Mary Sacchettini, Jim – Chair Scholtz, Marty Shippen, Dorothy Weimer, Michael	Anderson, Evan Andrews, Malcolm Gibson, Richard Gregory, Steve House, Donald Kapler, Geoffrey Kennicutt, Mahlon Russell, David Russell, Don Sevick-Muraca, Eva Turnbull, Katherine	Buckley, Mike Calvin, Jim Droleskey, Suzanne Giardino, Rick Smock, Mark	Dr. Dean Bresciani

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	The meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators was called to order at 12:00 p.m.
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<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Minutes of the September 8, 2004 meeting were approved.	
<b>WELCOME – JIM SACCHETTINI, CHAIR</b>	<p>CPI Chair, Jim Sacchettini, welcomed guests and members and announced that after a hard fought race, Drs. Lisa Campbell and Jim Derr were elected to the CPI Executive Committee.</p> <p>Sacchettini informed the group that the CPI website has been updated with the minutes and content and asked the council for feedback on the site. Suggestions can be sent via e-mail.</p> <p>Slated for the November meeting is Dr. Emily Ashworth, Assistant Provost, International Programs. For the December meeting the CPI has invited Guy Diedrich, Managing Director of the TCC. In addition, Mike O’Quinn is negotiating with the State Representative offices to invite Representative’s Steve Ogden or Fred Brown.</p>	

	<p>Sacchettini requested input from the council regarding possible future speakers for these meetings. He then introduced Dr. Dean Bresciani.</p>	
<p><b>DR. DEAN L. BRESCIANI, VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bresciani thanked the council for the invitation to speak. Since coming to Texas A&amp;M University, Bresciani has been asked on numerous occasions what his agenda is regarding student affairs. He answered that he has been excited by Texas A&amp;M and at the same time challenged to integrate the strong academic influence along with the equally strong out of class experiences. The challenge lies in promoting the out of class experience as a complement to the actual A&amp;M education and not as a “replacement” for. This message alone has taken a lot of work to shape. While the out of class experiences are exceptional, Texas A&amp;M has not taken the best advantage of promoting other educational experiences. It has been a grand effort to change the perception that the out of class experiences are in competition with or bigger than the actual educational experiences. These need to be integrated.</p> <p>Bresciani has asked the student affairs staff to ask the faculty what they can do for them, rather than what the faculty can do. He would like to educate the staff as to what is important to faculty and what they need. He iterated to the council he wants to hear how he’s doing and to get their perspective on what will help students to connect. He then opened the floor to questions.</p> <p>He was asked if he could give an example of a current challenge that he has identified already. Bresciani shared that his immediate challenge is to change the perception by undergraduates that they are supposed to be here for 5-6 years. Their reasons do not sell well with him and he would like to start helping students to set a goal of graduating in four years.</p> <p>There was general discussion of this and questions as to how much is the result of pre-requisites or changing majors, and also how we compare to other universities.</p> <p>Another problem he is looking at is making the graduate students to feel more a part of the university. There is a need for them to be connected to their major fields, but they also need a life outside the classroom. Most graduate students desire a broad sense of community by seem to isolate themselves in small group.</p>	

<p><b>VPR UPDATE – JIM CALVIN, EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH</b></p>	<p>Jim Calvin noted that there is still quite a bit to be done regarding the 5G. Job descriptions need to be updated as well as payroll and FLSA data. It is still a work in progress, but Calvin wanted the CPI to know that the people involved have been re-energized to ensure that the issue does not die.</p> <p>Discussion ongoing with the Life Sciences Building. Still need to determine what the building should look like in terms of the different needs.</p> <p>An open meeting to discuss this building is scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00-5:00 in room 701 Rudder. They will discuss resources available and the user community. A small group of faculty has been identified to develop a plan to be the focal point for A.E. and they have begun constructing dialogue for what type of facilities will be needed.</p> <p>Sacchettini asked Calvin if the Life Sciences building project was still on schedule to wrap up in October. Calvin answered that it is on schedule and that it will be presented to the Board of Regents in January for an open A.E. search.</p>	
<p><b>GRADUATE STUDIES UPDATE – RICK GIARDINO</b></p>	<p>Rick Giardino gave an update on Qatar. They had 62 students this year and are in the process of developing two research centers.</p> <p>Next week, there is a meeting with the Resource Board in Qatar which will involve certain ministers as well as oil company heads. They are going to press them to expand the program and be the first to offer a masters in chemical engineering.</p>	
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENT - SUZANNE DROLESKEY – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS</b></p>	<p>Suzanne Droleskey distributed several handouts from the Office of International Programs for Students.</p> <p>A flyer announcing the Kyle R. Younts Presidential Forum on International Issues featuring Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian, the Founding Director of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Rice University. This presentation will take place on November 2, 2004 at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center. Begins with a lecture from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 and a benefit luncheon from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. The luncheon is to raise funds in support of the Ejaz family, who were victims of the July 31<sup>st</sup> fire at the University apartments. For more</p>	

information, contact Rebekah See-Hruska at 979-845-3086.

Droleskey made several announcements regarding graduate students and asked the council to encourage graduate students to sign up on the international student listserv so that they will get all up to date information.

Because of the current cost for insurance, some major changes are taking place. The way in which graduate students are paid from grant monies has to be recorded/listed as 9 month for tuition and fees, 12 month living expenses. This will help a student in obtaining a visa.

The \$100 SEVIS fee can now be made on behalf of an individual. They are coming up with a step-by-step process and should have something in writing by the next meeting.

Travel to EC Nations – Effective March 2002, some European Community countries began to require “airport transit visas” from the nationals of the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bangladesh, Rep. of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, India, Iraq, Iran, Liberia, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, and Palestinians holding travel documents for refugee status issued by Egypt, Lebanon or Syria. Regulation is still applicable even if individuals will not be leaving the airport. Transit visas should be obtained in the applicant’s country of residence/stay before traveling.

Two separate systems are in place. The original was NSEERS. The most recent is US-VISIT, an impacts all non-immigrants except some Canadians. US-VISIT requires individuals entering at certain land and air ports to be fingerprinted and photographed. By December 31, 2004, these individuals will also be required to register when they leave the U.S.

NSEERS – some nonresidents must also register with the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS). This went into effect Sept. 11, 2002, and subjected certain non-immigrants to special security screenings. Prior to the implementation of US-VISIT, these were the only individuals fingerprinted and photographed at the Port of Entry. A chart summarizing the specific countries impacted and registration dates may be found on the ISS website at

	<p><a href="http://international.tamu.edu/iss">http://international.tamu.edu/iss</a> .</p>	
<p><b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE – JIM SACCHETTINI, CHAIR</b></p>	<p>Sacchetti brought up some current issues to the CPI for potential discussions throughout the coming year.</p> <p>University Rules and State Legislative Initiatives. There are no current initiatives at this time but there will be later in the year.</p> <p>Tuition Remission - The CPI has plans to facilitate discussions on tuition remission for all graduate students with the Provost and the VPR. This issue is in need of fine tuning. It is possible that there may be exceptions to the rule, but it has yet to be determined what those <i>exceptions</i> will be. The CPI would like to be engaged in the discussions regarding this issue and these "rules".</p> <p>PI rights and responsibilities - There has been a long standing issue on what a "PI's" rights and responsibilities are regarding their research grants and research staff. An example of this is a graduate student who was recently put on bed rest. The PI was told that she would still have to pay the student but that they could use university sick leave pool. The problem is that neither the NIH nor the Research Foundation will allow a PI to pay employees from a grant when the employee is on "state funded" leave. It was suggested that the proper Human Resources people be included in the discussions regarding extended sick leave pool for graduate students and/or researchers.</p> <p>University research infrastructure - Questions include, is there a cohesive policy for the university? Who makes these decisions? How many years are these funds supposed to be allocated?</p> <p>Other possible discussion features include the Position of Research Assistant Professor in TAES and TEES, Out of cycle raises and promotions (5G), defining a mechanism for faculty research commercialization.</p> <p>Sacchetti asked for input or suggestions regarding these issues to be sent to him by e-mail.</p>	
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.</p>	