

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

| MEMBERS PRESENT | MEMBERS NOT PRESENT | GUESTS PRESENT | INVITED GUESTS PRESENT |
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| Anderson, Evan Andrews, Malcolm Campbell, Lisa Chen, Jeff Delp, Michael Eisele, Bill Gibson, Richard Gould, Jean Hall, Tim – Past-Chair House, Donald Kapler, Geoffrey Kennicutt, Mahlon Love, Alan Meagher, Mary Russell, Don Sacchettini, Jim – Chair Scholtz, Marty Sevick-Muraca, Eva Shippen, Dorothy Turnbull, Katherine Weimer, Michael | Blasingame, Tom Burnett, Dave Derr, James Ficht, Tom Kaplan, Howard Gregory, Steve Russell, David | Buckley, Mike Droleskey, Suzanne Nemcik, Henry O’Quinn, Mike Rojo del Busto, Mario Rutherford, Cassandra Smock, Mark | Dr. Melanie Ihrig |

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| CALL TO ORDER | The meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators was called to order at 12:00 p.m. |
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| AGENDA ITEM | COMMENTS | RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP |
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| APPROVAL OF MINUTES | Minutes of the August 11, 2004 meeting were approved. | |
| WELCOME – JIM SACCHETTINI, CHAIR | <p>CPI Chair, Jim Sacchettini, welcomed newly elected CPI members and invited guests to the meeting.</p> <p>Sacchettini then presented Tim Hall, Immediate Past Chair, with a gift for his service as Chair for the past year. He commented on the positive changes that Hall has made, and new policies now in place. He also commended Hall opening up the CPI by inviting administrators to present on new issues of importance and shared that he plans to continue this process.</p> <p>Hall thanked Sacchettini for the gift and for the kind words of appreciation and expressed his hope that the CPI will continue</p> | |

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| | <p>to work on behalf of PI's and graduate students.</p> <p>Sacchetti informed the council that, according to the CPI by-laws, Hall will remain on the CPI for an additional year as the Immediate Past-Chair.</p> <p>As the incoming chair, he hopes to get minutes and agendas out to the CPI at least five days prior to meetings so that members would have a chance to review them.</p> | |
| <p>VPR UPDATE – JIM CALVIN, EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH</p> | <p>Calvin shared three things from the Vice President for Research Office, noting that one would be discussed later in the meeting with the presentation by guest speaker Dr. Melanie Ihrig.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) CVM and HSC collaborating on a NIH construction grant for a research animal building. 2) Life Sciences Building process is continuing with an open forum scheduled for later that day. He encouraged the council to attend. 3) The VPR is looking for CPI feedback regarding what is going on throughout the campus regarding the community. There has been talk of developing a Life Sciences Colloquium on campus. This is currently in the testing stages and they are looking for suggestions on other groups that would like to take part. <p>Sacchetti asked Calvin if he could outline a timeline for occupancy of the Life Sciences Building and Calvin said that the goal is occupancy by December of 2008.</p> <p>The group continued to discuss the process of building and the fact that the plans have to go through before construction can begin. There was general discussion about the system and committees making the decisions in planning.</p> <p>Calvin explained [in regards to committees] that the real purpose of the committee was to get people who can competently bring and identify the quality of architecture that will be needed. He expressed that he trusts the selection will be smart enough to make it through.</p> | |
| <p>INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENT - SUZANNE DROLESKEY – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS</p> | <p>Sacchetti asked Suzanne Droleskey for an update regarding international student enrollment. Droleskey distributed a handout with a breakdown of percentages. While these figures showed a drop in the number of students, the capture rate is higher.</p> | |

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| | <p>Rick Giardino commented that he has communicated with graduate student deans from other universities and they have all experienced the same trend with a drop in international graduate students. He felt that this shows that the students applying to A&M are the ones who are truly interested in attending.</p> <p>Droleskey explained that some of the reasons numbers are down could be the SEVIS fee that is now required or students having their documents cancelled for some reason.</p> <p>Another trend is that some students are committing a lot earlier. The question was asked if this trend was because of funding; or the ability to attract students?</p> <p>Giardino explained that the APC shows a variation in colleges referring to diversity fellowships. Some are able to offer diversity fellowships with multiple year commitments; i.e. 1-2 years for masters students and up to five years for PhD students [referring to domestic or permanent residents only].</p> <p>Another question was posed as to the plans to continue getting additional funding.</p> <p>Giardino said that he was trying, but there were no guarantees other than the current fiscal year. He went on to add that he has had to find a way to implement the rules of the FLSA to make sure that Research Assistants and Teaching Assistants are protected. GANT students absolutely must be treated as hourly employees – time sheets are required. GAR is not the same as GANT – but both are restricted to 20 hours per week.</p> | |
| <p>BEI ANNOUNCEMENT - MIKE BUCKLEY, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH COMPLIANCE</p> | <p>Mike Buckley shared information about a visit from BEI Resources (Biodefense and Emerging Infections Research Resources Repository), a group that was established by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to provide scientists with the tools necessary to carry out basic and translational research. The mission of BEI Resources is to acquire, authenticate, store, and distribute state-of-the-art research and reference reagents to the scientific community and to provide current information to facilitate research and product development for biodefense and emerging infectious diseases. Buckley announced that company representatives would be on campus, Thursday, September 9 to give presentations. They</p> | |

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| | <p>were planning for three presentations: 11:00 – 1:20 in the Mark Francis Room at the College of Veterinary Medicine; 1:30 – 3:00 at the College of Medicine and 3:30 – 5:00 in room 310 Administration Building. Interested PI's and Faculty were encouraged to attend.</p> | |
| <p>CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE - HENRY NEMCIK, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR</p> | <p>Henry Nemicik Shared a Capital Campaign update with the council and distributed a "University Leadership Report." This report included a variety of information regarding this campaign, which was initiated in 2000. Nemicik mentioned the 12 imperatives that were first outlined in Vision 20/20 and shared that most of the colleges are close to achieving their goals, with many just one gift away from OVER achieving their goals.</p> <p>He shared that the Foundation has made many adjustments; change of president, chance of chancellor and a change of focus. He indicated that \$600 million are endowed funds and there are very few that are not dedicated. Also, there are not very many discretionary funds. He encouraged departments to look at accounts as there may be progressive changes, etc, and accounts that are not being used. He also encouraged PI's to search for endowed funds.</p> <p>Gifts to the university are managed differently than foundation funds, as they manage their own monies.</p> | |
| <p>SEARCH COMMITTEE TRAINING – JIM SACCHETTINI, CHAIR</p> | <p>Sacchettini referred the council to the maroon folder distributed at the beginning of the meeting. He shared that he had attended a meeting on September 1, hosted by James Anderson, Karen Watson and Christine Stanley, and that the information distributed was very interesting. It gave a good understating of where a search committee should go in terms of diversity and retention. He asked the council to look over the information, share with departments and if there were comments to please contact Anderson, Watson or Stanley. He is hoping to get Christine to attend a future CPI meeting. He added that the handout is still a work in progress and that it has not yet been made available to department heads and is not yet publicized.</p> | |
| <p>FACILITIES GRANT FOR LARR EXPANSION FACILITY – MELANIE IHRIG-DIRECTOR OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE</p> | <p>Sacchettini then introduced Dr. Melanie Ihrig, Director of Comparative Medicine and Professor of Veterinary Pathobiology. Ihrig thanked the CPI for the chance to speak to them and explained that she was there to notify them of a</p> | |

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| | <p>current collaborative NIH construction grant proposal between the College of Medicine and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Much of the information that is being requested from the NIH is going to prompt contacts to many PI's, for information or to serve in an advisory capacity.</p> <p>She shared some slides and information regarding the number of people who use animal housing facilities and explained that there are over 600 AUP's approved currently at the university. With this many users on campus, more animal facilities are clearly needed. The NIH proposal requires details of this information, including Biographical Sketches and CV's of researchers, etc. They are proposing a 22,000 square foot facility that would serve as clean housing, storage, mouse MRI facilities and even cage washing.</p> <p>The CPI is needed so that they can encourage PI's to share this information when requested. Ihrig explained that there is really no other way to retrieve the kind of information that the NIH is requesting and there is a December deadline for this proposal. She expressed that the OPD and OSP are working to help get information to all grant funding agencies and they may be contacting individual researchers as this information is really scrutinized. The data requested makes a big difference to making a case for these funds.</p> | |
| <p>CPI MISSION STATEMENT AMENDMENT - JIM SACCHETTINI, CHAIR</p> | <p>Sacchettini referred members to a copy of the current CPI Mission Statement, as well as a revised addition. He explained that the mission statement needs to be re-written to better reflect the role of the CPI. He asked the council to please look over. There will not be a vote until the meeting on October 6.</p> | |
| <p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE – JIM SACCHETTINI, CHAIR</p> | <p>Sacchettini referred the council to the 5G form and mentioned the work that had began under Bob Webb and the Executive Committee and had seemingly “disappeared”. This form is now available on the VPR Website,</p> <p>http://vpr.tamu.edu/forms/forms.doc</p> <p>Another topic that the Executive Committee has plans for is to look at University Rules and State Legislative Initiatives. They hope to circulate these initiatives as they come in. A lot of the initial bills that come down through the legislature are “bad” and need input from the people that they will affect. They</p> | <p>Angela will check with the VPR Business Office to be sure this is the “newly revised” form.</p> |

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| | <p>anticipate starting to see them in November, post-election. The plan is to get all of the CPI involved in the process.</p> <p>Tim Hall explained that we want to make sure that they get feedback.</p> <p>Mike O’Quinn offered to arrange some legislative staff to attend a future CPI meeting.</p> <p>Sacchettini shared with the council that the previous “standing committees” of the CPI did not seem to work well in the past. He suggested that he would like to form ad-hoc committees as they are needed for added flexibility.</p> <p>The CPI needs to elect two new executive committee members to serve for two years. Angela will be sending an e-mail that will allow for some time to nominate and then we will hold an election with the new members to be announced at the October 6 meeting.</p> | <p>Angela will send O’Quinn meeting information to share with legislators.</p> |
| ADJOURNMENT | The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. | |