

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**  
Office of the Chancellor

December 3, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chief Executive Officers  
Administrators and Deans  
Council of Principal Investigators  
Faculty Senate  
Research Community

**SUBJECT:** The Texas A&M University System Integrated Research Administration Project

The working committee for The Texas A&M University System Integrated Research Administration Project presented its report and recommendations earlier this week. The other Chief Executive Officers in attendance at the presentation were Drs. Ed Davis (TAMU), Kem Bennett (Engineering Program), Elsa Murano (Ag and Life Sciences Program), Nancy Dickey (HSC), Lee Peddicord (TEES), and Dennis Christiansen (TTI). The attached packet includes the committee report, which reflects the following recommendations for consideration.

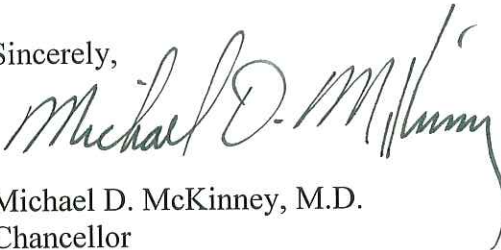
Discussions during the presentation showed an overwhelming acceptance of the development and implementation of an Integrated Research Information System (IRIS). The group requested the commitment of a funding source for the development of the IRIS. The CEOs and the working group committed to further development of the research administration project with the active participation of the research faculty and other stakeholders.

We concurred with the committee recommendations for the establishment of an Executive Council for Research Administration that is comprised of CEOs, the Research Foundation chair, and representation selected by the research community. As recommended by the committee, an Operating Council for Research Administration will also be created with membership that consists of multiple stakeholders including PIs, user groups, business officers, and others as appropriate. The Executive Council would set strategic focus for creating opportunities to promote research and advance collaborative research projects in the A&M System in addition to providing oversight for research administration related issues. The Operating Council will provide opportunities for stakeholders to develop and share best practices, network, discuss issues of mutual concern, and would review and make recommendations concerning the various issues in research administration that will undoubtedly arise as this initiative moves forward.

I want to emphasize that this is an evolving process. In keeping with the concept of shared governance, your input will be requested (and required) to ensure that the outcome of this process will enhance the research administration activities for all members of the A&M System.

You will be involved and informed of the progress with this research administration initiative. I appreciate and thank the members of the working committee for starting us on the path for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of research administration within the A&M System. Moreover, I thank and appreciate all those involved in providing excellent research administration services on a daily basis. Our common goal is in the spirit of seeking continuous improvement in research administration System-wide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. McKinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael D. McKinney, M.D.  
Chancellor

Attachment

cc: Dr. Kem Bennett  
Dr. Dennis Christiansen  
Dr. Ed Davis  
Dr. Nancy Dickey  
Mr. Jarrell Gibbs  
Dr. Elsa Murano  
Dr. Lee Peddicord  
Members of the Working Committee

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