CPI Meeting Agenda
October 10, 2012 (11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.)
Rudder Tower, room 601

(11:30 – 11:45) Lunch

(11:45 – 11:55) Call to order/Opening remarks: (Moderated by Dr. Reza Langari, CPI Chair)

(11:55 – 12:15) Update on Financial Conflict of Interest requirements— Mr. Ray Bonilla, General Counsel, The Texas A&M University System

(12:15 – 12:30) Open forum discussion: (Moderated by Dr. Reza Langari, CPI Chair)

(12:30 – 12:45) Update on Concur issues – Mr. John Crawford, Associate Vice President and Controller, Division of Finance and Ms. Deborah Phair, Executive Director, Division of Finance

(12:45 – 1:00) Open forum discussion: (Moderated by Dr. Reza Langari, CPI Chair)

(1:00 – 1:15) Other business: (Moderated by Dr. Reza Langari, CPI Chair)

(1:15) Adjournment

Attachments: October 2012 Newsletter……………………………………………………pp. 2 – 5

The Texas A&M University System Office of General Counsel – FCOI Talking Points……………………………………………………………………pp. 6 – 7
Principal Investigators,

The meeting materials for the October 10, 2012 CPI meeting (Rudder 601; 11:30-1:15 p.m.) are available at http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/CPI_10.10.12.pdf. The meeting will include the following agenda items:

- **Update on Financial Conflict of Interest requirements** - Mr. Ray Bonilla, General Counsel, The Texas A&M University System
- **Update on Concur issues** - Mr. John Crawford, Associate Vice President and Controller, Division of Finance and Ms. Deborah Phair, Executive Director, Division of Finance

CPI members were asked to communicate with their respective constituents to solicit questions for the presenters to address during the meeting. To submit post-meeting follow up questions to your CPI representative, go to http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/unit or email cpi@tamu.edu.

If you plan to attend in person as an observer (for planning purposes, lunch is only ordered CPI members and Guest members), please email cpi@tamu.edu. Meetings are open to the public and are webcast live at http://ttvn.tamu.edu/webcasts on Channel 20. Previous CPI meetings and materials can be found at http://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/meetingmaterials. The monthly electronic newsletter is included below and includes items of interest to the research community. To learn more about CPI membership, activities and initiatives, visit http://cpi.tamu.edu.

Sincerely,

Reza Langari
Chair, Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – October 2012

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Included in this issue are updates/information on:

- Update from the CPI Chair
- CPI sponsors
- Summary of October 3, 2012 CPI EC meeting with meeting research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI
- Summary of October 3, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the Texas A&M University President and Provost
- EPIK-Maestro Working Group report
- OSRS assistance with financial conflict of interest
- Update on Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS)
- Data Management Plans
- Proposals for 2013 PESCA grants due October 31, 2012 October 31, 2012, by 5:00 p.m. CDT
- Sigma Xi Undergraduate-Faculty Research Expo
Update from the CPI Chair

At the September 12, 2012 closed session CPI meeting, members discussed possible focus topics for the Council to address during 2012-13. These draft focus issues will be vetted through the CPI EC and presented accordingly to the full Council for review and comment.

As announced earlier this week, Dr. Jeffrey Seemann resigned as the VPR on October 1, 2012 and he will serve as a Special Assistant to the President before returning to his tenured faculty position. Personally, I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Seemann for his tremendous contributions to the research enterprise at Texas A&M and for his willingness to always provide meaningful insight on a wide-variety of research-related matters to the CPI.

Dr. Theresa (Terry) Fossum has been named the Interim Vice President for Research and the search process for selecting the next VPR will be announced soon. At the October 3, 2012 CPI Executive Committee with the President and Provost, we were told the CPI would be involved in the search process. As the search process develops for the next VPR, we will work to keep the PI community informed accordingly.

I would like to welcome Dr. Theresa (Terry) Fossum in her recent appointment as the Interim Vice President for Research. We look forward to working with Dr. Fossum to continue the growth and improvement of the Texas A&M University research enterprise.

Members of the PI community can contact their respective CPI representative (see http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/unit) with any research-related issues to bring to the attention of the Council of Principal Investigators.

Contact:
Reza Langari, rlangari@tamu.edu or 979.845.6918

CPI sponsors

The Council of Principal Investigators extends its gratitude to the Division of Research at Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, the Texas A&M Health Science Center, and Texas A&M AgriLife Research for the annual and equal funding contributions they provide the Council for its annual operating expenses, as well as the salary of the CPI support staff.

Summary of October 3, 2012 CPI EC meeting with meeting research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI

The CPI Executive Committee (EC) held its monthly coordination meeting on October 3, 2012 from 11:30-1:15 p.m. Research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI are invited to these coordination meetings. Agenda items were as follows: presentation on iRIS (Integrated Research Information Systems) by Dr. Robert Nobles; discussion of large interdisciplinary projects and services of the Office of Research Development by Dr. Ann McGuigan; an update on proposed revisions to System regulation 31.05.01, Faculty Consulting, External Employment and Conflicts of Interest; a review of the draft 2012-13 CPI focus issues and a summary of action items to date; and updates on issues affecting PIs at extension centers and the liability for students and volunteers in research labs at Texas A&M by EC member Dr. Mary Bryk.

Summary of October 3, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the Texas A&M University President and Provost

The CPI EC held its coordination meeting with the Texas A&M University President and Provost on October 3, 2012 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. in the President's Conference Room, 10th floor Rudder Tower. Attendees discussed the following: Next steps regarding the VPR vacancy and impact on the research enterprise; discussion of President’s Grand Challenges Initiative (PGCI); update on Texas A&M and Health Science Center merger process; faculty participation in newly established “bio-corridor” and similar entities; status of non-tenured
The next scheduled CPI EC quarterly meeting with the President and Provost is January 16, 2013.

**EPIK-Maestro Working Group report**

The EPIK-Maestro Working Group held its first fall semester meeting on September 13, 2012 at the OSRS headquarters. Ms. Leonarda Horvat, Chief Information Officer and Director of TEES Information Systems, and representatives from her office presented updates and new developments regarding the portal. Ms. Horvat informed the group that all of the equipment has been transferred to the new OSRS building and that many proposals have been moved to production. The financial conflict of interest design is in progress, as well as the post-award component. It is important to keep in mind that every single proposal prior to being moved forward requires a disclosure. For the successful implementation of the Maestro program, it is critical that each Principal Investigators and associated personnel be familiar with the entire process. Training is a key component to successful implementation and is available any time. The EPIK-Maestro Working Group will continue discussing all of the implications of the different components that represent the EPIK-Maestro program. It is expected that the entire project will be released by the end of December 2012.

The next EPIK-Maestro Working Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2012 at the OSRS headquarters.

Contact:
Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, a-lara@tamu.edu
Dr. Beverly Kuhn, b-kuhn@tamu.edu
Dr. Jamie Foster, jlfoster@ag.tamu.edu

**OSRS assistance with financial conflict of interest**

A link for the OSRS Assistance with Financial Conflict of Interest memorandum, distributed on September 18, 2021 can be found at [http://osrs.tamus.edu/forms/](http://osrs.tamus.edu/forms/).

**Update on Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS)**

The Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) anticipates the first class of TIAS Faculty Fellows to be announced soon. Nominations are currently being solicited for the next round of TIAS Faculty Fellows. Nomination forms should be completed and returned by November 30, 2012. Nomination forms and additional information can be found at [http://tias.tamu.edu/facultyfellows](http://tias.tamu.edu/facultyfellows).

Contact:
Dr. John L. Junkins, junkins@tamu.edu or 979.458.4992

**Data Management Plans**

The National Science Foundation and other federal research sponsors may require a Data Management Plans (DMP) in all research proposals. This requirement is discussed on an Office of Research Development web page ([http://vpr.tamu.edu/funding/devresources/nsf-data-management-plans](http://vpr.tamu.edu/funding/devresources/nsf-data-management-plans)). The scope and details of any DMP will be determined by the nature of the research conducted, the type and extent of data generated, and the accepted standards for data storage and dissemination in a given field. The ORD web page—in addition to providing links to other extensive online guides, discussions, FAQs, and examples—provides links to resources at the Texas A&M University libraries and to an online Data Management Plan Tool (via library subscription) that walks the user through creation of a DMP. Those links include:
Proposals for 2013 PESCA grants due October 31, 2012

The Division of Research is pleased to invite proposal submissions for the 2013 Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities (PESCA). The division established this competitive program to promote the scholarly and creative activities of Texas A&M University faculty, and specifically to support activities in disciplines such as the humanities, arts, social sciences, and related fields where external funding is limited. All Texas A&M University tenured or tenure-track faculty are eligible to apply for these grants as a single author or as co-authors of two or more. Proposed research or creative projects must show originality and the potential to advance a field or discipline. For full details regarding the program, proposal submission requirements, evaluation criteria and deadlines, please visit: http://vpr.tamu.edu/funding/scholarlycreative.

All proposals must be submitted electronically at: https://eproposal.tamu.edu. The deadline for completed proposal submissions is 5:00 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, October 31, 2012. No late proposals will be accepted.

Questions about the PESCA Program should be directed to Dr. Jim Izat, PESCA program coordinator, at jizat@tamu.edu. Questions regarding technical issues with the E-Proposal submissions system should be sent to webapp@vpr.tamu.edu.

Sigma Xi Undergraduate Student-Faculty Research Expo

The Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society invites faculty and undergraduate students to participate in an Undergraduate Student-Faculty Research Expo scheduled Wednesday, October 24, 2012, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the Rudder Exhibit Hall. The Expo will connect current research opportunities with students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields interested in making research part of their Texas A&M experience. The event will give students the opportunity to discuss current projects with faculty. Faculty who would like to have undergraduate students involved in their research projects are invited to exhibit at the event with displays and information. Sigma Xi is sponsoring the event in collaboration with Texas A&M’s Division of Research, Council of Principal Investigators, and Honors and Undergraduate Research.

Refreshments will be available at 5:00 p.m., and door prizes will be given away to undergraduates in attendance. The event is open to the public. STEM faculty interested in having a display at the expo should contact Larry Johnson in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at ljohson@cvm.tamu.edu, or 845-9279. General inquiries may be directed to Larry Johnson or Michelle Sullens in the Division of Research, at m-sullens@tamu.edu, or 458-4066.
Texas A&M University System amends System Regulation 15.01.03. Effective July 26, 2012, amendments to System Regulation 15.01.03 expanded the scope of financial disclosures and required training for all research activities on behalf of system members.

WHY?
- Federal agencies demand universities to guarantee transparency in research. National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH), among others, require PIs to disclose financial conflicts of interest and obligate universities to guarantee compliance.
- AAU, AAUP and top-tier research universities support transparency in research. MIT, University of Michigan, Purdue, Georgia Tech, University of Texas at Austin are among those universities requiring NIH-compliant financial disclosures by all faculty researchers.

Implementation. The System recognizes members have experienced problems with implementation.

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<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>SOLUTION</th>
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<td>Manual Disclosure and Routing Process</td>
<td>OGC working with OSRS and System members to provide electronic functionality:</td>
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<td>• OSRS working to update MAESTRO.</td>
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<td>• TEES working to implement an electronic fix in EPIK.</td>
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<td>Delays/Backlogs</td>
<td>• System proposes to postpone implementation for privately-funded research until backlogs eliminated, electronic upgrades are in place.</td>
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<td>• System members encouraged to devote more resources to FCOI compliance to eliminate backlogs relating to federal research.</td>
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<td>Training</td>
<td>• Revisions made: 1/3 shorter; more user friendly; further improvements being studied.</td>
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<td>• Users can now attempt assessment test w/o reviewing all slides.</td>
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<td>Students</td>
<td>• Students are NOT subject to training or disclosure requirements unless compensated by System member (e.g., tuition reimbursement, scholarship, salary).</td>
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<td>Adjunct Professors</td>
<td>• Adjunct Professors are NOT subject to training or disclosure requirements unless they perform research on behalf of a System member.</td>
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<td>Foreign Subcontractors/Subrecipients for Non-PHS-Funded Research</td>
<td>• System proposes to revise regulation to provide that foreign subcontractors or subrecipients are NOT subject to training or disclosure requirements for Non-PHS-funded research.</td>
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<td>Unfunded/Internally-Funded Research</td>
<td>• System proposes to exclude unfunded and/or internally-funded research from scope of regulation due to administrative burdens.</td>
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<td>7-25-2012</td>
<td>The Statesman</td>
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<td>7-16-2012</td>
<td>Houston Chronicle</td>
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<td>01-16-2012</td>
<td>The New York Times</td>
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<td>10-07-2011</td>
<td>The U.S. Attorney’s Office, Western District of WA</td>
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<td>5-18-2011</td>
<td>North County Times</td>
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<td>05-03-2011</td>
<td>The New York Times</td>
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<td>01-23-2010</td>
<td>The Baltimore Sun</td>
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<td>The Chronicle of Higher Education</td>
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