

Council of Principal Investigators  
Questions for Provost Fierke  
October 11<sup>th</sup> 2017

- As the Director of Scholarly Communications in the University Libraries, one of my tasks is to work with the University and advance open access. I am interested in her opinion or interest in open access and expanding the public access to Texas A&M scholarly and creative works.
- How can those in engineering and in the physical and life sciences most successfully ensure that they are addressing issues of importance to the public good and that what they are doing is having the social impact of so much importance to citizens as well as to funding agencies?
- What do you see as the role of liberal arts in a university largely focused on engineering and on the physical and life sciences?
- How can those in research management most effectively support collaborations between those in the social sciences and humanities and those in engineering and the physical and life sciences, to mutual theoretical, applied, and civic benefit?
- What is your position concerning joint appointments (non-zero and courtesy appointments) across departments and colleges? Should faculty members be encouraged to have joint appointments?
- PhD students completion rate and time to graduation: What are your plans to increase and decrease the PhD students' completion rate and time-to-graduation, respectively?
- In your opinion, what are the main obstacles we should overcome to make Texas A&M a top 10 (or perhaps a top 5) public university (R-1) in the country from the academics standpoint?
- What is your vision for elevating TAMU's stature as a research university?
- Please address the changes to the proposed graduate engineering fee structure.
- Please discuss your thoughts on communication, especially with PIs, faculty, and other researchers at TAMU and across the agencies.

- The Libraries provides extensive support for researchers but receives no portion of indirect cost even though the rationale used by the feds to compute the IDC includes costs for library materials. Shouldn't the Library receive some modest ratio of all IDC?
- How will the Provost support my research on topics that white supremacist organizations are actively seeking to erase through hate messages and death threats?
- Morale continues to be low among researchers in many colleges. How do you plan to address this?
- Research productivity does not seem to be taken into account in budgeting of units. Can this be changed?