

Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators
Monthly Meeting
February 20, 2020 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
HRI 127

MINUTES

Attendees: Jim Lee, Carmen Osier, Sarah Scott, Trent Thigpen, Tianxing Chu, Theresa Garcia, Dorina Murgulet, Toyin Ajisafe, Jordan Greer, Gina Glanc; Riccardo Mozzachiodi, Nandi Daru, Phyllis Robertson, Dugan Um, Brien Nicolau, Brandi Reese, Jud Curtis, Heather DeGrande, Erin Hill, Mike Wetz, James Rizzo, Michael Starek, Gina Concannon, Mark Besonen

Absent: Gina Glanc, Nandi Daru

Alternates: Faye Bruun (Phyllis Robertson)

Guests: Norma Lozano

Quorum present

1. Guest Speaker: *Norma Lozano, HR Immigration Coordinator, TAMUCC (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A)*

- Ms. Lozano gave a PowerPoint presentation about immigration policies and regulations.
- Presentation included types of nonimmigrant employment status.
 - E3 Australian Visas, F1 Student Employees and New Grads, H1B Specialty Occupation, J1 Researchers Scholars, O1 Alien of Extraordinary Ability, and TN Canadian and Mexican Professionals.
 - Included an overview of system immigration regulations, Labor certification processes, 2nd Preference Immigrant Petition (EB2), National Interest Waiver.
- Questions and Discussion:
 - Promising sponsor immigration in the position offer letter to foreign faculty is not included. Reason, if administration changes, they may have different view on the foreign faculty member.
 - Are visas being denied to international students? Yes, it is the US government's decision.
 - Is there support of staff positions? Yes, but more justification is needed for these positions.
- Presentation was emailed to each council member.

Meeting called to order by Sarah at 11:41 am.

2. Agenda was approved

- **MOTION: First-Carmen, Second-Terrie, All in favor.**

3. January 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved

- **MOTION: First- Toyin, Second-Jordan, All in favor.**

4. Welcome new Vice Chair, Mark Besonen

5. Alternates introduced.

- Faye Bruun (Phyllis Robertson)

6. Senate Updates

- HEAF (Higher Education Assistant Funds) are available.

- Funds can be used for equipment, software, anything with a lifetime of 5 years.
- \$135K available.

7. R&I Social

- Erin and Criselda working on details.
- Tentative date 3/19/2020, D'Canter's, 5-7 pm.

8. Ex-Officio Senate Updates

- Senate has not met yet.
- EC meetings moved to Thursday so updates can be given to Senate.
- A proposal on spousal hires is in the works.
- Graduate tuition is still a high priority in Senate and CPIRA.

9. CPIRA Committee Updates

- Research Administration Development & Training
 - Research Week October 19-23, 2020.
 - CPIRA Forum Thursday, October 22, 2020, 5-7 pm.
 - Discussion of why CPIRA Reps were not at the Research Café.
 - Email calendar invitations/reminders would be helpful. Jim will relay this suggestion to R&I.
- Roles & Responsibilities
 - This committee will be removed from CPIRA agenda.
- Facilities
 - Gail is stepping down as Chair.
 - James Rizzo has accepted the Chair position.
 - Gina Concannon has accepted to join this committee.
- Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects
 - Trent has met with Colleen.
 - Microsoft Teams will be piloted during Research Week.
 - Discussion: Resources and effectiveness of CPIRA making lists of research issues/topics to take to College/Dept. Deans.
 - Suggestion to add Research Admins to Microsoft Teams for R&I and PI communications.
- Graduate Recruitment & Retention
 - Graduate Fellowship Voucher Program Plan has been announced.
 - Five vouchers for three years.
 - Sarah went over Dean McCaleb's answers to the questions CPIRA sent her about the voucher program.
 - More questions surfaced so Sarah will collect another set of questions to send to Dean McCaleb about the voucher program.
 - Mike will set up a committee meeting.
- Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures
 - PI Census data has been received.
 - Three seats are open, Brien, Phyllis, and Riccardo.
- Open Access
 - Waiting to hear if R&I will be able to sustain this service.
 - Available funds started at \$15K, and additional funds were added.
- Research Liaison
 - No update.

10. Other Business

- R&I Updates
 - Services for Maggie Salinas are on 2/23/2020.
 - College Research Plans
 - Plans have been submitted.
 - Foreign Influence on Research
 - A&M updated their policy.
 - TAMUCC will be sending an announcement soon.
 - Please familiarize yourself with this issue.
 - Compliance Coordinator Position
 - Matthew Gaynor is leaving.
 - Position announcement is out.
 - Sarah and Riccardo are on the Search Committee, not as CPIRA members though.
- **MOTION: Extend meeting 10 minutes. First-Riccardo, Second-Brien, All in favor.**
 - Summer Grants Fellows deadline for application is tomorrow.
 - Hanover Services
 - Six CPIRA Reps are aware of these services on campus.
 - They provide proposal and marketing services.
 - CPIRA suggests R&I post services on their website.
 - Deans and Directors have been informed about Hanover services.
 - Dan is including this service information in his new faculty presentations.
- IACUC/IRB
 - Lengthy discussion about current IACUC and IRB issues affecting Capstone classes on campus and other courses offered.
 - Discussion included environmental health and safety issues and the disconnect with research.
- CPIRA Budget
 - Budget request memo has been submitted to R&I and Provost.

11. Adjourn: 12:44 pm.

- **MOTION: First-Carmen, Second-Brien, All in favor.**