

**Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**April 16, 2020 11:00 am – 12:30 pm**  
**WEBEX**

**MINUTES**

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

**Absent:** Dugan Um

**Alternates:**

**Guests:** Clarendia Phillips (first virtual guest)

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Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker:** *Clarendia Phillips, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, TAMUCC (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A)*
  - Discussion: Fixed Term Faculty Task Force.
  - Discussion: Promotion and Tenure Recommendation Task Force.
  - Provost and Deans are still meeting 2-3 times weekly and being responsive to academic and research enterprises.
  - An informal discussion with Q&A centered around the impact of COVID-19 followed. Topics discussed:
    - Potential budget cuts and reductions in personnel due to COVID-19 and the Texas economy.
    - Distribution of CARES funding
    - PPE for graduate students working in research labs
    - Graduate student funding
    - Potential for extending the tenure clock for pre-tenure faculty
    - Travel funds for next fiscal year
    - Ways CPIRA can support research during COVID-19
2. **Meeting called to order by Sarah at 11:27 am.**
3. **Agenda was approved**
  - **MOTION: First-Gina G., Second-Phyllis, All in favor.**
4. **February 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved**
  - **MOTION: First- Brien, Second-Terrie, Heather abstain, All in favor.**
5. **Alternates introduced.**
  - None
6. **Ex-Officio Senate Updates**
  - Discussion: Discussion of extending the tenure clock for pre-tenure faculty.

- Discussion: There is concern that research productivity (and other metrics used for tenure) are impacted by staying home with children, teaching classes online, and the amount of time required to move classes (particularly large classes) online.

## 7. R&I Updates

- CPIRA/R&I social postponed.
- COVID-19
  - Laboratories will remain open unless additional orders come down from administration.
  - Administration is urging faculty and staff to work from home as much as possible.
  - Essential Personnel Document is not for TAMUCC PD but for CCPD if stay at home restrictions increase.
  - Some concerns are from students that do not want to be on campus, but their faculty/professor are compelling them to still come to the university.

## 8. CPIRA Committee Updates

- Research Administration Development & Training
  - Research Week. CPIRA Forum scheduled for 10/22/20, 5-7 pm.
  - Theme: COVID-19- Resiliency both locally and globally.
- Facilities
  - Committee is not meeting with Dawson at this time.
  - Working on facilities survey.
  - Discussion about past water issues in Tidal Hall.
  - No new issues were brought up.
- Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects
  - Trent is meeting regularly with Colleen.
  - Committee is working on an announcement of CPIRA highlights that can be distributed to colleges.
  - Trent is taking over the CPIRA website.
- Graduate Recruitment & Retention
  - None
- Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures
  - Elections for the three open seats will be held in May 2020.
- Open Access
  - **MOTION/VOTE: Extend OAC through summer 2020? All in favor.**

## 9. Other Business

- TAMUCC Internal Funding
  - If you need an extension with your College Research Enhancement Funds, contact your Dean.
  - If you need an extension with University Funds contact Dan R. and Colleen.
- R&I Lunch and Learn
  - Lunch and Learns are currently scheduled via WebEx through 4/21/2020.
  - Colleen plans to continue Lunch and Learns through the semester.
  - Sarah asked Council to send their professional development topics that would be helpful to Colleen.
- R&I Searches
  - Compliance Officer: An offer has been made and the new hire is currently working remotely.
  - Research Development Officer: Position is still open.
- CPIRA Committee Structure

- There will be changes to the OCSF charge. Committee charge will now include communication from CPIRA to constituents, maintaining CPIRA website, writing up CPIRA announcements for colleges/units at the beginning of each semester.
- IACUC/IRB
  - Lengthy discussion about current IACUC and IRB issues affecting student and faculty/staff research.
    - QMP: No operating money is available to implement a revised QMP.
    - Student Research Policies: There are questions about when student projects meet the definition of “research.”
    - IACUC: A new veterinarian is now serving on this committee.
    - Suggestion: Hold a Town Hall meeting with TAMUCC Compliance Staff and Committee Chairs. Consider opening to faculty/staff outside of CPIRA.
- CPIRA Budget
  - May be impacted by COVID-19.
- Research Center for Colleges of Nursing, Liberal Arts, and Education
  - There is work being done on the center.
  - There is a new name for the center.
- Blucher is working closely with local community to make decisions regarding COVID-19. Visit their website for more information.
- A Virtual Resource Page on Community Engagement is available via TAMUCC Outreach website.

**10. Adjourn: 12:24 pm.**

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