

Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators
Monthly Meeting
September 17, 2020 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
WEBEX

MINUTES

Attendees: Mark Besonen, Sarah Scott, Trent Thigpen, Tianxing Chu, Theresa (Terrie) Garcia, Toyin Ajisafe, Jordan Greer, Faye Bruun, Erin Hill, Gina Concannon, Gina Glanc, Jocelyn Gutierrez, Heather DeGrande, Nandi Daru, Carmen Osier, Aaron Baxter, Michael Starek, Dorina Murgulet, Joseph Mollick, Ruby Mehrubeoglu, Alexa Hight

Absent: Dugan Um, Mike Wetz, Judd Curtis

Alternates: Devon Steffan (James Rizzo)

Guests:

Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker:** *Ahmed Mahdy, Vice-President of Research & Innovation, TAMU-CC (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A).*
 - Dr. Mahdy thanked CPIRA for their effort in supporting research.
 - Presentation included vision and goals of R&I.
 - Vision of unparalleled commitment to student's success.
 - Situating TAMU-CC as the intellectual capital.
 - Building TAMU-CC's research enterprise.
 - Discussion about COVID-19.
 - Thanked CBI in their role as the COVID Task Force for the City of Corpus Christi and Coastal Bend.
 - Thanked the Engineering Program with their support to the community in closing beaches and drone work.
 - Discussion about R&I Webinars and Workshops that were offered during the university shut down and their success.
 - Dr. Mahdy is working with system to get TAMU-CC's voice heard in Washington DC. Most of the funds coming from DC are for student aid.
 - Encouraged CPIRA to continue interdisciplinary programs and student mentor programs.
 - Questions included: budget cuts, program cuts, and impacts to tenured and tenure track faculty. All of which are uncertain at this time.
2. **Meeting called to order by Mark at 11:34 am.**
3. **Agenda was approved.**
 - **MOTION: First-Heather, Second-Carmen, All in favor.**
4. **August 2020 meeting minutes were approved with one edit.**
 - **MOTION: First- Heather, Second-Carmen, All in favor.**
5. **CPIRA new representatives**
 - Aaron Baxter, CCS, term through 2023, replaced Brien Nicolau.
 - Joseph Mollick, COB, term through 2021, replaced Jim Lee.
 - Faye Bruun, COEHD, term through 2023, replaced Phyllis Robertson.

- Ruby Mehrubeoglu, COSE, term through 2023, replaced Riccardo Mozzachiodi.
- Alexa Hight, Ad-hoc Scholarly Communications Librarian, term through 2021.
- Dorina Murgulet, Ex-officio Faculty Senate, term through 2021.

6. Alternates/Guests introduced.

- Devon Steffan alternate for James Rizzo.

7. CPIRA Vice-Chair

- VOTE: All in favor of electing Michael Starek as the new CPIRA Vice-Chair?
- Yes, All in favor

8. Ex-Officio Faculty Senate Updates

- Faculty Senate had their first meeting.
- Senate sent Post Doc document to CPIRA for comment. Document focused on Post Doc's position and if they are able to have PI status.
- Discussion about university budget and need for more transparency.
- Discussion about Provost continuing to help fund PhD students.
- Discussion about the campus announcement pertaining to no overarching merit pay will be given. However, pay increases can be done on a case by case situation.

9. CPIRA Committee Updates

- Research Administration Development & Training
 - Carmen is the new Chair.
 - Forum moved to Spring 2021.
- Facilities
 - Committee needs a new Chair.
 - EHS has an online form to request disinfectant supplies.
- Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects
 - Trent is meeting regularly with Colleen.
 - Memo on Residual Balances sent to committee for their review.
 - Discussions on setting quarterly meetings with R&I to visit with CPIRA during Council meetings. Schedule has not yet been set.
 - Trent has the CPIRA website up-to-date.
- Graduate Recruitment & Retention
 - Mike W. is committee Chair.
 - Committee is working with Karen McCaleb on a survey how COVID has impacted Graduate Student Research.
- Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures
 - Committee needs a new Chair.
 - One seat open in COSE. A special election will take place before 10/2020 meeting.
 - Nandi and Joseph agreed to serve on this committee.
- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Committee is waiting on R&R matrix from R&I to review changes.

10. Other Business

- R&I Lunch and Learn and Research Cafes
 - Grant Writing Workshop with Lucy Deckard was held August 2020.
 - Send workshop suggestions to Colleen.
 - Fall 2020 schedule is not yet posted.
- FY21 Research Enhancement Fall Competition
 - Mark asked CPIRA to encourage your colleagues to apply.
 - Most applications are from COSE and COLA.

- Impact of COVID-19 on Research Productivity
 - Full TAMU system survey report has not yet been released for public review.
 - Sarah is working with R&I on a campus survey to identify impacts of COVID on research.
- R&I Staff
 - Dan Reichers leaving R&I.
- Policy on Residual Balances
 - Discussion about how IDC is determined on the residual balance.
- Compliance
 - System has delayed compliance software purchase.
 - Rebecca is currently using REDCap as a temporary alternative.
- PRA Procedure Review/Feedback
 - Post Doc Research Associates issue-whether or not Post Docs can have PI status.
 - CPIRA recommends: Not to change the verbiage in the document. Recommendations were sent to R&I.
- CPIRA Budget
 - No update.

11. Adjourn: 12:30 p.m.

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