

Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators
Monthly Meeting
October 15, 2020 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
WEBEX

MINUTES

Attendees: Mark Besonen, Sarah Scott, Trent Thigpen, Tianxing Chu, 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 Dugan Um, Mike Wetz, Judd Curtis, Jeffrey Turner

Absent: Theresa (Terrie) Garcia

Alternates: Luis Hernandez (Jordan Greer)

Guests:

Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker:** *President Miller rescheduled.*
2. **Meeting called to order by Mark at 11:01 am.**
3. **Approve Meeting Agenda.**
 - **MOTION: First-Heather, Second-Trent, All in favor.**
4. **Meeting Procedural Adjustments to Robert's Rules**
 - **MOTION: All in favor to use a simplified Robert's Rules to adjust for Webex meetings? Attached memo was sent to Council stating new rules for voting.**
 - **VOTE: All in favor.**
 - Discussion about how to handle representatives who call-in. Mark will get back to Council on how this will be dealt with.
5. **Approve September 2020 Meeting Minutes**
 - **MOTION: First- Heather, Second-Carmen, All in favor with two edits.**
6. **CPIRA New Representatives**
 - Jeffrey Turner, COSE, term through 2021, replaced Brandi Reese.
7. **Alternates/Guests introduced.**
 - Luis Hernandez alternate for Jordan Greer.
8. **Ex-Officio Faculty Senate Update(s)**
 - Discussion(s)
 - Budget Think Tank Survey.
 - Expand grant writing workshops.
 - Evaluation of Centers.
 - Safety cabinet inspections.
 - Program evaluations.
 - Budget transparency.
 - Policy of faculty scholarly activities is being reviewed.

- Jaclyn Mahlmann visiting Senate November 15, 2020.

9. Ad-hoc Scholarly Librarian Update(s)

- Open access fund has been fully funded at \$30K.
- Alexa will be hosting a virtual workshop next week on OA funds. She will send out workshop information to Council.

10. CPIRA Committee Updates

- Research Administration Development & Training
 - Carmen is the new Chair.
 - Forum moved to Spring 2021, but still uncertain if the event will take place.
 - Committee has met.
 - 10/24/2020- TAMUCC Outstanding Faculty Event. This event is in person but limited attendance.
- Facilities
 - Committee needs a new Chair.
 - No new updates.
- Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects
 - Trent is meeting regularly with Colleen.
 - Colleen sent out OSRA survey to researchers who have recently submitted proposals through OSRA.
 - **Federal Demonstration Program**
 - Colleen is asking for a faculty representative for this program. Rep. will attend three conferences/year.
 - Program will help improve grant cycles from submission to closeout.
 - CPIRA suggestion: Program should have a research administrator representative since they handle grant policies.
 - Contact Mark or Trent if you are interested.
- Graduate Recruitment & Retention
 - Mike W. is committee Chair.
 - Committee met this week.
 - Committee developing a graduate student survey to identify COVID impacts.
 - Discussion about tuition fellowships for terminal degrees.
 - Issue discussed: If not awarded the money will not be taken away and not available.
- Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures
 - Tianxing is the new committee Chair.
 - COSE special election was held last week.
 - Jeffrey Turner is the new COSE representative.
- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Committee is still waiting on R&R matrix from R&I to review changes.

11. Other Business

- R&I Lunch and Learn and Research Cafes
 - Fall 2020 schedule is posted.
- FY21 Research Enhancement Fall Competition
 - Competition has closed.
 - R&I asked CPIRA for input on revising the RE funding competition. Please send suggestions to Mark by Wednesday, 10/21/2020.
 - Suggestion: Open the competition to not only tenured and tenure track faculty.
- 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.
- No major update.
- R&I Staff
 - Two of the three positions open in R&I are posted.
 - Larissa Ford is the new hire in R&I.
- Policy on Residual Balances
 - This policy is for fixed sponsor grants that have large balances left over when the project closes.
- Communication
 - Concerns were shared with R&I about the (1) Policy on Residual Balances and (2) Strike Memo was only sent to select colleges. Not everyone received the emails.
- Compliance
 - CPIRA task force is planning a townhall with the compliance office.
 - CPIRA volunteers for task force: Jeff, Heather, and Faye.
 - Discussion on having separate townhalls for IRB and IACUC. This is still being decided.
 - System has delayed compliance software purchase.
 - Rebecca is currently using REDCap as a temporary alternative.
- Center for Collaborative Community Research (CCCR)
 - New TAMUCC Center among COLA, CONHS, COEDHD.
 - Specifics about Center are unknown.
- Digital Web Platforms/Tools Supported by TAMUCC
 - IT is reassessing platforms currently available to TAMUCC.
 - ZOOM and SLACK are not supported at TAMUCC.
 - Discussion with Senate Ex-Officio about collaborating on this issue to have more platforms supported on campus.
- International Student Visas
 - Discussion about new proposal from administration stating visas may have 2-3 year cap.
- Application of Tiered IDC Rates Under TAMUCC (NICRA)
 - OSRA is concerned IDC is not being used properly during the life of the award.
- NOAA “Do Not Pay Finding”
 - If you receive an email stating this, please contact Mark.
 - This was caused due to an accounting error in the Bursar’s office regarding drawdowns and the CARES Act with Veterans.
- Distribution of CPIRA Council Meeting Documents
 - All Council meeting material will now be available on OneDrive.
- CPIRA Budget
 - No update.

12. Adjourn: 12:18 p.m.

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