

Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators
Monthly Meeting
January 21, 2021 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
WEBEX

MINUTES

Attendees: Mark Besonen, Sarah Scott, Trent Thigpen, Jordan Greer, Faye Bruun, Erin Hill, Gina Concannon, Gina Glanc, Heather DeGrande, Nandi Daru, Carmen Osier, Dorina Murgulet, Joseph Mollick, Ruby Mehrubeoglu, Alexa Hight, Judd Curtis, Theresa (Terrie) Garcia, Daniel Newmire, Jeffrey Turner, Jocelyn Gutierrez

Absent: Dugan Um, Mike Wetz

Alternates: Erin Hill (Aaron Baxter), Devon Steffon (Tianxing Chu), Son Nguyen (Michael Starek)

Guests: Provost Clarenda Phillips, John Dawson

Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker:** *Clarenda Phillips, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, TAMU-CC (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A).*
 - I. Provost Phillips' presentation/discussion included:
 - Transitioning to web/virtual teaching.
 - Keeping student education a priority.
 - Funds will be reallocated to support a new director for CCCR.
 - This position will report Ahmed Mahdy.
 - This position will be a fixed term faculty or staff employee.
 - Position will be filled by national and internal search.
 - CPIRA budget has been solidified and money will run through R&I.
 - II. Questions/Continued Discussion
 - The form for faculty to document impacts of COVID on their research is being developed.
 - This form will be used during evaluations to help discussion between faculty and chairs to show impacts and opportunities during COVID.
 - Form will be a part of their P&T packet.
 - COVID impact form will also be developed for staff.
 - Teaching style for Fall 2021 will be 50% blended, 25% in person, and 25% remote.
 - Graduate enrollment is up especially in MBA program (~1500 students).
 - Undergraduate enrollment is down.
 - 40 new first year students enrolled Fall 2020.
 - 80 new first year students enrolled January 2021.
 - COVID vaccines are being given to 1A and 1B people.
 - 100 vaccines were given on campus.
 - TAMU-CC Health Services is managing paperwork for employees to receive the vaccine.
 - COVID vaccine form will be sent out next week via email.
 - Essential workers that are research staff, that may be exposed to COVID due to travel will be prioritized.
2. **Meeting called to order by Mark at 11:34 am.**

3. Approve Meeting Agenda.

- I. **MOTION: All in favor.**

4. Approve October 2020 Meeting Minutes

- I. **MOTION: All in favor with one edit.**

5. CPIRA New Representatives

- I. Daniel Newmire is the new COEHD rep with term through 2022, replaced Toyin Ajisafe.

6. Alternates/Guests introduced.

- I. Erin Hill (Aaron Baxter)
- II. Devon Steffon (Tianxing Chu),
- III. Son Nguyen (Michael Starek)

7. Ex-Officio Faculty Senate Update(s)

- I. Discussion(s)
 - Faculty Senate supported library's Elsevier contract.
 - TAMU-CC mascot is offensive and racially insensitive, and the use of Iggy will be stopped immediately.
 - Faculty survey on impacts of COVID-data has not been made public.

8. Ad-hoc Scholarly Librarian Update(s)

- I. Open access funds are now available, \$30K.
- II. Two articles have been published bringing the total available funds to \$24,850.
- III. Library continues to negotiate agreements with Elsevier and Cambridge University Press.

9. CPIRA Committee Updates

- I. Research Administration Development & Training
 - CPIRA Research Forum may be postponed if it is conducted virtual.
- II. Facilities
 - Jeffrey is scheduling quarterly meetings with Dawson.
- III. Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects
 - Trent continues to update CPIRA website.
- IV. Graduate Recruitment & Retention
 - Committee developed Graduate Student Survey and received ~700 responses. Huge success.
 - Data is being worked up and will be presented at next council meeting tentatively.
- V. Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures
 - No update
- VI. Roles and Responsibilities
 - Committee is still waiting on R&R matrix from R&I to review changes.

10. Other Business

- I. R&I Updates
 - OSRA Open House, February 2, 2021, 2-3 pm, Webex.
 - Opportunity to meet new R&I staff.
 - R&I Staff
 - Two grant positions have been filled.
 - RDO candidate accepted position.
- II. Compliance Town Hall
 - Town Hall is scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2021 (morning, Time TBD).

- Will include IACUC and IRB staff.
- III. FY2021 Call Outs
 - Please encourage your colleagues to apply.
 - Town Hall is scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2021 (morning, Time TBD).
 - Will include IACUC and IRB staff.
- IV. Digital Web Platforms
 - Suggestion to create a CPIRA taskforce to provide feedback on IT platforms approved by TAMU-CC to use.
- V. FDP
 - Ruby M. is faculty representative on this committee. She attended a four-day meeting.
 - Federal effort to reduce burdens to PI's.
- VI. Impact of COVID-19 Survey
 - CPIRA is working with R&I faculty survey.
- VII. CPIRA Budget
 - Budget has been approved and will go through R&I

11. Guest Speaker: *John Dawson, Associate Vice President for Operations, TAMU-CC (15-minute presentation).*

- I. Dr. Dawson's presentation/discussion included:
 - Hot water supply was lost to campus due to a major break on Ocean Dr. Water has been restored.
 - Lighting on campus is being converted to LED.
 - Crosswalks are being installed on campus.
 - Transformers have been changed out due to a major unbalance of electricity on campus.
 - Please notify Dawson when you hook up new equipment to keep electricity balanced.
- II. Continued Discussion/Questions
 - Is TAMU-CC building an animal biosafety 2 lab?
 - Yes, design is 90% finished.
 - BSL2 will be located in Science Lab 2.
 - Facilities is funding this BS2 lab.
 - Has the NRC been updated?
 - Not yet. Buildings are on a schedule for upgrades.
 - Water fixtures in building are being changed out. Will reduce energy by 20-30%.
 - Electrical updates will be completed at night. Tentative date for completion is November 2021.
 - Bipolar ionization process has been added to AC units.
 - Discussion about recent power outages not being communicated with researchers resulting in equipment going down and losing samples.
 - Suggestion, create a facilities website communicating improvements that have been done and schedules.

12. Adjourn: 12:35 p.m.

- **MOTION: All in favor.**