

**Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**February 18, 2021 11:00 am – 12:30 pm**  
**WEBEX**

**MINUTES**

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**Attendees:** Mark Besonen, Sarah Scott, Trent Thigpen, Jordan Greer, Faye Bruun, Erin Hill, Gina Concannon, Nandi Daru, Carmen Osier, Dorina Murgulet, , Ruby Mehrubeoglu, Judd Curtis, Theresa (Terrie) Garcia, Daniel Newmire, Jocelyn Gutierrez, Mike Wetz, Tianxing Chu

**Absent:** Dugan Um, Alexa Hight, Gina Glanc, Michael Starek, Joseph Mollick, Jeffrey Turner

**Alternates:** Erin Hill (Aaron Baxter), Christina Murphey (Heather DeGrande)

**Guests:** President Kelly Miller

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Quorum present

**1. Guest Speaker:** *Kelly Miller, President/ CEO, TAMU-CC (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A).*

- I. President Miller's presentation/discussion included:
  - Research Enterprise Updates
    - Local community values TAMU-CC research.
    - A new position will be added in International Compliance.
    - Discussion about strengthening the Promotion & Tenure process with regards to research.
  - Discussion about potential state budget cuts.
    - Legislature is in session.
  - Budget Think Tank
    - Working to increase graduate support.
    - Transparency on how/where money goes to on campus.
  - Deferred Maintenance Plan
    - Plan is to build needed labs.
    - Plan will set aside money to keep building maintenance up.
  - Strategic Plan
    - Mid-March 2021 PC will review the plan.
    - Plan is focusing on commercialization.
  - CPIRA budget has been solidified and money will run through R&I.
- II. Questions/Continued Discussion
  - Discussion about the role of CPIRA and if we report or fall under R&I.
    - CPIRA is independent and was created to improve research on campus.
  - Discussion about graduate student stipends.
  - Discussion about staff equity is still ongoing.
  - Discussion about CPIRA's student survey conducted last Fall 2020.
    - Student mental health is a major concern.
  - Discussion about Assistant/Associate Deans for Research.
    - If it is a college need, put this in your college strategic plan.

**2. Meeting called to order by Mark at 11:42 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. Alternates/Guests introduced.

- I. Erin Hill (Aaron Baxter)
- II. Christina Murphey (Heather DeGrande)

### 6. Ex-Officio Faculty Senate Update(s)

- I. Discussion(s)
  - Approved Enhancement Program

### 7. Ad-hoc Scholarly Librarian Update(s)

- I. No update
- II. Dean Rudowsky is our guest for March 2021.

### 8. CPIRA Committee Updates

- I. Research Administration Development & Training
  - CPIRA Research Forum and Research Week is postponed.
- II. Facilities
  - Jeffrey is scheduling quarterly meetings with Dawson.
- III. Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects
  - Trent and Erin are working on CPIRA data infrastructure on Teams.
  - Trent continues to update CPIRA website.
- IV. Graduate Recruitment & Retention
  - 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.

### 9. Other Business

- I. R&I Updates
  - R&I Humanity Funding Webinar is cancelled for tomorrow and will be rescheduled.
  - R&I Staff
    - Two grant positions have been filled.
    - RDO position has been filled.
    - OSRA Director position is open.
  - RE Internal Funding deadline is March 10, 2021.
- II. Compliance Town Hall
  - Town Hall was Friday, February 12, 2021.
  - 39 participants.
- III. FY2021 Call Outs
  - Please encourage your colleagues to apply.
  - Digital Web Platforms
    - A Tech Pilot Program is currently testing Zoom as a potential platform for TAMU-CC to use.
- IV. Impact of COVID-19 Survey
  - Campus will remain in the current COVID safety guidelines for the remainder of the year.
- V. Scientific Diving Safety & Maintenance

- Office started charging for scientific diving services.
- Charges are not consistent.
- A special taskforce has been created in R&I to review the changes.

VI. Electrical Car Stations

- If you have a need for an electrical charging station, please email Trent.

VII. Intellectual Property

- Discussion about who has the rights to products and teaching material.
- Mark will discuss with Mahdy.

10. Adjourn: 12:14 p.m.

- **MOTION: All in favor.**