

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

MINUTES

Attendees: Mark Besonen, Trent Thigpen, Jordan Greer, Erin Hill, Daniel Newmire, Tianxing Chu, Michael Starek, Joseph Mollick, Faye Bruun, Celil Ekici, Gina Glanc, Ruby Mehrubeoglu, Aaron Baxter, Alexa Hight, Heather DeGrande, Nandi Daru, Carmen Osier, Patricia Spaniol-Mathews, Patrick Crowley, Devon Steffan, Feiqin Xie, Deanna Crites, Xinping Hu, Kyoung Eun (Kelly) Lee, Jennifer Epley-Sanders

Absent:

Alternates: Jeffrey Turner (Keisha Bahr), Mike Wetz (Amie West)

Guests: Dr. Ahmed Mahdy, Vice-President for Research & Innovation, TAMU-CC

Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker:** Dr. Ahmed Mahdy, Vice-President for Research & Innovation, TAMU-CC. 20-minute presentation with 10- minute Q/A
 - No visual presentation, only questions and discussion with the CPIRA representatives.
 - Dr. Mahdy thanked CPIRA for their service.
 - Questions and Discussion
 1. Insight on Research Week, Spring 2022?
 - Research Week is a great way to showcase TAMU-CC research.
 - CPIRA Forum will be held during Research Week.
 2. Background on how to support new faculty hires with their questions and research needs?
 - R&I is now more involved with new faculty hire start-ups. There is a need across campus with start-ups.
 - TAMU-CC started a process to see where they need to invest on campus.
 3. Discussion about increasing release time for faculty who conduct research.
 - Currently, work release can't be more than 10%. This percentage differs among colleges.
 - Discussed including release time for faculty during proposal development as well as post-award.
 - Suggestion is to emphasize this in the Strategic Plan.
 - COSE is splitting into two colleges, (1) Science (2) Engineering.
 4. CPIRA gave kudos to R&I (Matthew and SRS) for their help with grant writing.
 5. Has TAMU-CC dropped its efforts towards achieving 'Emerging Research Institution' status?
 - No.
 - Emerging Research Institution status is only a Texas thing at the state level.
 - R1 and R2 are Carnegie Classifications of institutions of higher education used to indicate engagement in the highest levels of research activity.
 - It will be challenging to reach because we don't graduate enough PhD students. Only PhD degrees count. No other terminal degree counts toward this number of students.

- 6. Internal TAMU-CC research money availability.
 - Suggestion- Have R&I provide a flow chart showing the R&I grant processes. (Proposal submittal resources are on R&I's website)
 - a. Include the grant process steps and stages with a timeline.
 - b. This will be helpful for new faculty.
 - c. Maybe wrap this into annual evaluations and tie it back to merit pay for those who receive internal money.
- 7. Annual Evaluations and P&T Discussion.
 - Suggestion- include faculty who are trying and writing for grants but don't get awarded in their evaluations and P&T packet.
 - Many differences among colleges in how annual evaluations and P&T are assessed.

2. Meeting called to order by Mike at 11:44 am.

3. Approve Meeting Agenda

- **MOTION: All in favor, with the addition of 'update on COVID survey'.**

4. Approve August 2021 Meeting Minutes

- **MOTION: All in favor after name spelling edits were made.**

5. Alternates/Guests introduced.

- Keisha Bahr for Jeffrey Turner.
- Amie West for Mike Wetz.

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

- 350 million dollars awarded to A&M system from legislature.
- Chancellor Sharpe visited 10/15/2021.
- TAMU-K merger with TAMU-CC is dead.
- Merit pay is available up to 3%
- Budget Tank Report
- P&T discussion

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

- Library will hold virtual workshops next week.
- Alexa will send the links for the predator publishers faculty survey.

8. CPIRA Committee Updates

1. Research Administration Development & Training

- Research Week is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2022.

2. Facilities

- No specific updates.
- Patricia asked CPIRA if you have a STEM learning area that needs upgraded to contact her.

3. Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects

- Trent is communicating with Gina.
- No major update.

4. Graduate Recruitment & Retention

- Mike wants one CPIRA rep. to sit on this committee, so all colleges are represented.
- In-depth discussion about TA's and overloads.
- Committee wants to revisit tuition stipend support for graduate students.

- Discussion about SAGE Fellowships.
- 5. Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures
 - No update.
- 6. Roles and Responsibilities
 - Deanna sent council a link to a new R&R matrix.
 - Committee is exploring this new matrix from Michigan.
 - The new matrix describes clearly who is responsible for 'what job'.
 - Suggestion- Include additional columns in the matrix that are tailored to each college.

9. Other Business

1. R&I Updates
 - I. R&I Staff
 - CCCR Director:
 - Position will be reopened.
 - Grants & Contract Analyst
 - No update.
 - AVP for Research
 - Position is open.
 - II. Strategic Plan Review
 - CPIRA provided comments to the plan.
2. Compliance
 - Discussion of current compliance issues impacting researchers.
 - Please send detailed cases to Mark.
3. Impact of COVID-19 Survey
 - Survey is in Qualtrics.
 - Committee hopes to have it finalized by next meeting to get CPIRA's feedback.
 - Survey Committee is meeting Monday at 0900.
4. Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting
 - Ruby gave a summary of the FDP meeting that took place 9/20/21-9/24/21.
 - She will send her summary to council.
5. Scientific Diving Safety & Maintenance
 - Final report is pending approval from dive board.
6. Intellectual Property
 - In-depth discussion about IP.
 - Timelines on campus with IP and PT are not linked.
 - Ruby is working with Sharmeen on IP issues.
7. SRS Guidelines
 - SRS is getting frustrated with late submissions.
 - Notify SRS three weeks in advance of submission.
 - Budget preparation have completed 5 days minimum to submission.

I. Adjourn: 12:36 pm.

- MOTION: All in favor.