

Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators
Monthly Meeting
March 24, 2022, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Zoom

MINUTES

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

Absent:

Alternates:

Guests: Joshua Gonzalez

Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker:** Dean Karen McCaleb, College of Graduate Studies, TAMU-CC. 20-minute presentation with 10- minute Q/A.
 - Dean McCaleb gave a presentation focused on student recruitment and retention.
 - Presentation included:
 1. Overview of Graduate Studies mission.
 2. Gave funding amounts available for recruitment for 2022 (see presentation).
 - 60K for stipends and scholarships.
 3. Went over funds available to students; including international and non-resident students.
 4. 130K was split among five TAMU-CC colleges for student support in FY22.
 5. Examples of how TAMU-CC recruit students.
 6. Strengths of the TAMU-CC alumni supporting TAMU-CC.
 7. Most of Graduate Studies focus on retention.
 8. New Graduate Student orientation overview.
 - During COVID orientation was online only.
 - Now, orientation is given on-campus.
 - Fall 2001- over 200 students attended online orientation.
 9. Goal is to strengthen student/advisor connections.
 10. Goal by Fall 2022 is to have seven (7) terminal degree programs.
 11. Overview of the GROW (Graduate Resource Opportunity Workspace) Program
 - This program offers nice quiet places for students to work, workshops, graduate student professional opportunities, and more.
 12. Overview of the SAGE (Scholar Achievement in Graduate Education) Program. This program started Fall 2020.
 - This program offers tuition support to first year graduate students.
 - Questions:
 1. Mark B. thanked Dean McCaleb for growing Graduate Studies and especially GROW.
 2. How do you advertise workshops?
 - Post on GROW website, Facebook, Instagram.

3. Question if the Graduate Student Scholarship of 5K needs to be awarded to one student and not split?
 - Unsure, this does not go through Graduate Studies.

2. Meeting called to order by Mike at 11:33 am.

3. Approve Meeting Agenda

- **MOTION: All in favor. Heather will be moved up to talk about the COVID survey.**

4. Approve February 2022 Meeting Minutes.

- **MOTION: All in favor.**

5. Alternates/Guests introduced.

- Guest: Joshua Gonzalez, Director IT

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

1. Shared the March 11, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting minutes.
2. Efforts in student mental health, taking a holistic approach.
3. Discussion about how to make students better learners.
4. Discussion about the COE and COS Dean searches.
5. Discussion about mascot change and possibly Izzy can just change costumes.
6. Discussion how university is tackling student enrollment.
7. University now started a waitlist when classes fill.
8. Senate has much interest in the CPIRA IRB discussions.

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

1. OA funds: 5K available for the rest of this year.
2. Survey will be sent about OA policies.
3. Reminder/Request: if you have problems accessing journals, etc. please let the library know.

8. CPIRA Committee Updates

1. Research Administration Development & Training

- CPIRA Forum scheduled for 3/30/2022, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm.
- CPIRA was offered to showcase their research posters.
- Theme is 'Community Impact'.
- Joe Miller will be the Forum Moderator.
- Dan gave an overview of the Forum structure.
- Student Symposium: 4/8/2022, Dan asked CPIRA to volunteer to judge posters.
 - 100 posters have already been submitted. COSE has the most posters ~60 posters.

2. Facilities

- Pat is the new Committee Chair.
- Committee is prioritizing action items.
- RO maintenance issues have been addressed. Not sure if it has been fixed.
- Continued discussion about the PENS chemistry lab(s) in need of a generator.
 - This issue is being discussed by upper administration!
- Pat suggested having a formal CPIRA Facility Form to document facility issues with a paper trail.
- Chris Calibra let the university.

3. Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects

- Committee is researching alternate channels to communicate research on campus.
- 4. Graduate Recruitment & Retention
 - Continued Discussion: The low pay to graduate students and lack of tuition support and stipends which renders TAMUCC not competitive compared to other institutions.
 - Committee will develop a student survey to address this issue and compare GA and RA salaries among other R2 and R1 universities. Report will be compiled.
- 5. Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures
 - Committee is working on an election SOP.
 - COSE seat open and will be filled soon.
- 6. Roles and Responsibilities
 - Still reviewing/revising the new matrix.

9. Other Business

1. R&I Updates
 1. R&I Staff
 - AVP for Research
 - Three (3) candidates interviewed.
 - OSRA Director
 - One candidate interviewed on Monday.
 - COS Dean
 - Three candidates will be interviewed next week.
 - COE Dean
 - Committee is narrowing down the 90 applicants.
 2. Compliance
 - Compliance Q/A Meeting is 4/14/2022, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm via Zoom.
 - Submit questions to the Dropbox folder by 4/8/2022.

***Motion to extend meeting 5 minutes- approved**

3. Impact of COVID-19 Survey
 - Survey and IRB is complete, and Heather will send the QR code to Mike to send out.
 - Survey will be sent out from both, CPIRA and Senate Faculty.
4. Student Research Image Contest
 - Sharmeen has extended the deadline for submission.
5. April Council Meeting Guest
 - Jaclynn Mahlmann

10. Adjourn: 12:35 pm.

- **MOTION: All in favor.**