

Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators
Monthly Meeting
May 18, 2023, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Lone Star 142A

MINUTES

Attendees: Jordan Greer, Erin Hill, Tianxing Chu, Ruby Mehrubeoglu, Mike Wetz,, Heather DeGrande, Debra Plowman, Shannon Doolan-Fitzsimmons, Devon Steffan, Xinping Hu, Trent Thigpen, Jennifer Epley Sanders, Tye Payne, Joseph Mollick, Patrick Crowley, Jian Sheng, Carmen Osier, Feiqin Xie, Mohamed Ahmed

Absent: Alexa Hight, Patricia Spaniol-Mathews (Pat), Kyoung Eun (Kelly) Lee, Matthew Streich, Faye Bruun

Alternates : Gina Concannon (DeAnna Crites), Seneca (Michael Starek)

Guests:

Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker(s):** *Dr. LD Chen, Assoc Dean, Dir-School Eng & Cs & Professor College of Engineering, Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi, (20-minute presentation, 10-minute Q/A).*
 1. Dr. Chen talked with CPIRA about the use of ChatGPT in research.
 2. ChatGPT version 4.0 is the most current version and has orders of magnitude more variables/power.
 3. Discussion about ChatGPT use and its similarities to how calculators play a part in research, it's a tool.
 4. When using ChatGPT, your question is very important, and you need to know what to ask.
 5. Question: Will the university offer a class for students about artificial intelligence (AI) use?
 - a. Provost has this charge regarding students using AI in classes.
 6. Comment: ChatGPT 4.0 does a lot of hallucinating and comes up with wrong information.
 - a. This is the result of how you asked your question. Need to be specific and clear.
 7. Discussion about how we bring artificial intelligence into our community, so our technology gap does not grow in Corpus Christi.
 8. Discussion about the standards for citing the AI queries.
 9. Question: How can we mesh old school with new school technologies? Checking 200+ students work for AI use is not feasible.
 - a. Suggestion: ask your students to critique ChatGPTs response.
 10. Discussion about when not to use ChatGPT and when the use has gone too far.
 - a. Circumstance when a researcher relied on ChatGPT to write a code and the code did not work.
 11. Question: does the university have software available for faculty to check for AI use?
 - a. Not that anyone is aware of.
2. **Meeting called to order by Ruby at 11:36 am.**
3. **Alternates/Guests Introduced**
 - Gina Concannon (DeAnna Crites),
 - Seneca (Michael Starek)

4. Approve Meeting Agenda

- **MOTION: All in favor.**

5. Approve March 2023 Meeting Minutes.

- **MOTION: All in favor, with three edits.**

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

- New ex-officio member: Mohamed Ahmed.
- Mohamed will send the faculty senate anonymous link to council to leave any comments about university practices.
 - a. This feedback will be sent to upper administration to identify areas that need improvement with efficiency.

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

- Absent

8. CPIRA Committee Updates

- I. Research Administration Development & Training
 - i. No update.
- II. Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects
 - i. Committee is working on compiling the compliance issue list for the NCURA review in October 2023.
 1. IRB issues are continuing across colleges.
 2. Overview of the current commercialization issue regarding the unreasonable length of time taken for patents and the researcher losing his right to the patent.
- III. Facilities
 - i. Scott Meares sent an email to this committee and was shared with council containing details on the current facility upgrades, repairs, and generator status.
 - ii. Committee will check where AEDs are located on campus and if they are functional and maintenance logs are current.
- IV. Graduate Recruitment & Retention
 - i. Ruby met with Dean McCaleb about how many TAMU-CC students need support.
 - ii. Committee is still collecting the number of grad students that need support.
 - iii. Include all students, regardless if they have grant funding.
- V. Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures
 - i. Elections are underway.
 - ii. Committee requested PI census data from R&I but have not received it yet.
 - iii. COE and COS will be separate this year for elections.
 - iv. Draft code of conduct document is complete and sent to EC for review.
 1. Not all committee members are in consensus for the need of this document.
 - v. FY24 CPIRA Council meetings will be hybrid (zoom option) and held in HRI's conference room.
- VI. Roles and Responsibilities

- i. Updated matrix has been sent to CPIRA for review.

9. Other Business

1. R&I Updates
 - None
2. Compliance
 - Already discussed.
3. Fellowships
 - The university fellowship list, process, and policy were reviewed by select members.
 - Prestigious Fellowship list was not found in documents reviewed.
 - CPIRA is drafting a report of 'fellowship concerns'.
4. CPIRA Coordinator
 - Erin will draft a 'coordinator duties' document and send to CPIRA RA's and anyone else interested.
5. FDP
 - No faculty member is attending the FDP meeting this year, only Janet Donaldson.
6. Open Share
 - New: English Corpora Database is available.

10. Adjourn: 12:34p.

- **MOTION: All in favor.**