

Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators
Monthly Meeting
September 21, 2023, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

MINUTES

Attendees: Jordan Greer, Erin Hill, Tianxing Chu, Ruby Mehrubeoglu, Shannon Doolan-Fitzsimmons, Devon Steffan, Trent Thigpen, Joseph Mollick, Patrick Crowley, Carmen Osier, Feiqin Xie, Faye Bruun, DeAnna Crites, Matthew Streich, Jennifer Epley Sanders, Patricia Spaniol-Mathews (Pat), Tye Payne, Heather DeGrande, James Gibeaut, Olga Gil Barrientos, Yajuan Lin, Mark Olson, Debra Plowman, Michael Starek, Tammy Walker-Smith

Absent: Jian Sheng

Alternates: Michelle Hollenbaugh (Alexa Hight), Hang Yin (Xinping Hu)

Guests:

Quorum present

1. Jennifer presented herself as the new CPIRA Chair, and Faye as Vice Chair who assisted with Zoom. She thanked Ruby for her role as immediate past Chair and presented and welcomed the guest speaker Dr. Mahdy.
2. **Guest Speaker(s):** *Dr. Ahmed Mahdy, Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, (20-minute presentation, 10-minute Q/A).*
 1. Dr. Mahdy thanked CPIRA for its service.
 - Discussion about research enterprise.
 - Opened up for CPIRA discussion.
 - NCURA will be at the university for 3 days. The visit started yesterday and will end tomorrow.
 - Will provide a report with feedback and recommendations for us to consider and see how we can improve.
 - Will be meeting with different committees.
 - Is there a timeline for the feedback?
 - Exit interview tomorrow.
 - Likely 2-3 weeks for the report to come out.
 - Is there an obligation to act on their final recommendations?
 - No, it's a peer review.
 - Experts with more than 50 years of experience total. We respect their recommendations, and the plan is to implement them as much as we can.
 - How will the findings be distributed to stakeholders?
 - Will share with CPIRA leadership. It will reach out to the appropriate people.
 - Not a problem to share it online.
 - Facilities updates
 - Infrastructure is getting old.
 - Some buildings cannot support a generator. Need to upgrade the power grid itself.

- Update on the downtown building
 - Old JC Penney building, it will be used for archives, part of the library, extension of HRI, extension to Lone Star UAS program and other research related activities.
 - The presence of TAMUCC in downtown is part of the vision of having Corpus Christi as a University town.
- Advancing our research status: How to get there?
 - 2 main factors:
 - a) federal and private funding versus the State
 - b) graduate programs
 - Texas University Funds (TUF)
 - Passed legislative
 - \$3.9 billion endowments in the TUF
 - Max 7% per legislative session
 - Approx. 220 million per year
- Why have certain services, such as travel, moved to College Station?
 - System policies, but most of them are related to efficiency.
 - Aware of the issues, trying to see if the change is achieving the original goal.
 - Not aware of other areas that will be outsourced.
- Establishment with John LaRue of Improvement Department/Committee
 - Have internal groups like NCURA.
 - Use our internal expertise.
- Will the Distinguished Speaker Series come back?
 - It was very expensive.
 - Sometimes limited to a particular area instead of spreading it around different topics.

Meeting called to order by Jennifer at 11:35 am.

3. New members introduced themselves.

- Tammy Walker-Smith (CONHS)
- Yajuan Lin (COS)
- Mark Olson (COS)
- James Gibeaut (HRI)

Alternates/Guests Introduced themselves.

- Hang Yin alternate for Xiping Hu
- Michelle Hollenbaugh alternate for Alexa Hight per Senate Ex-Officio

4. Agenda was approved

- **MOTION: First-Ruby, Second-Jordan, All in favor.**

5. August 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved with one edit.

- I. Add Tianxing to attendee list.
 - II. All minutes approved
 - III. 1 abstain (Heather DeGrande)
- **MOTION: First-Shannon, Second-Yajuan, All in favor**

6. Ex-Officio Faculty Senate Update(s) (Michelle Hollenbaugh)

- I. Andy Piker is serving as interim ombudsman. Taking applications for that position.
- II. Senate Bill 17.
Limited DEI offices on campuses in Texas. Need to know the impacts of Senate Bill 17 that it doesn't impact academic freedom, classes, and research.
- III. Working on split of SAMC from COLA. Working on changing their Constitution, maybe more senators to represent them.
- IV. Asked to get information regarding where Service Excellence is needed: On the Faculty Senate website, there is an anonymous link where you can share any issues.
- V. Michelle will share DEI statement email from System with CPIRA.

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

- I. R&I and Library will be holding a workshop about how to find funding opportunities using Pivot-RP on Friday, November 16, at 10:00 am in UC Marlin.
- II. Open Access Publication Fund is accepting applications: 9/1/2023 – start OA funds, 15K from Library & 15K from R&I. Waiting for confirmation for the office of the Provost. Hoping for a 45K total for FY24.

8. CPIRA Committee Updates

- I. Research Administration Development & Training (Carmen Osier)
 - i. CPIRA Forum in April during R&I week.
 - ii. Probably looking for additional members.
- II. Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects (Xinping Hu)
 - i. Xinping is attending the FDP virtual conference.
 - ii. Committee is working on collecting research compliance cases for the NCURA peer review.
- III. Facilities (Patricia Spaniol-Mathews)
 - i. Look at renting or leasing a generator. Solution is costly.
 - ii. NRC is going to have a computer lab for students.
- IV. Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures (Tianxing Chu)
 - i. Possibility: Amend the bylaws in terms of the number of PIs needed. Need to see how many PIs each unit has. Will discuss with EC.
- V. Graduate Recruitment & Retention
 - i. Committee needs a new Chair.
- VI. Roles and Responsibilities (DeAnna Crites)
 - i. Tye Payne will join this committee.
 - ii. Change committee name to Service Excellence?
 - iii. Possibility: Make this committee a changeable committee that can change with needs.

9. Other Business

- a. Provost Updates
 - Continue to prioritize faculty to support their research.

- Continue to have a good working relationship with the College Deans.
 - Financial support for graduate students is still on her radar. Ongoing conversations with Dr. McCaleb.
 - Goal to increase adjunct pay.
 - Noted not to over promise.
 - Once CPIRA Chair gets more information and details, she will share it with CPIRA.
- b. R&I Updates
- NCURA site visit September 20-22, 2023
 - CPIRA encourages attendance and participation with NCURA.
 - Invitations for PIs and Co-PIs were randomly selected.
- c. RA posting for COHNS, COEHD, COLA
- Position is still open.
- d. Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Faculty Representative
- Xinping Hu is the new FDP representative.
 - It is really valuable to get direct information from the federal agencies and organizations or units, as it relates to research.
- e. Endnote
- The license has expired, and the University did not renew it.
 - Did not get sufficient advance notice for transition to switch over.
 - Zotero is the substitute software.
 - Some Colleges were more aware of changes earlier than others.
- f. Open Share
- Zoom
 - Is it going away? Will follow up.
 - Are there other software programs shifting like Blackboard?
 - Partial research and partial community project (Debra Plowman)
 - Shared document.
 - Need help recruiting.
 - 3 planned math workshops for parents/caregivers, and math teachers to support middle school students to be more confident in math.
 - Researching poverty simulation (Heather DeGrande)
 - The program simulates a day the life of somebody in poverty.
 - Expanding it to the rest of the campus community. Asking for faculty participation.
 - November 1 with morning and afternoon sessions.
 - Primary contact is Heather DeGrande.
 - Hispanic Heritage Month
 - Plenty of events ongoing.
 - Great research presented in a wide variety of formats, and modalities.
 - Plaque was given to Ruby Mehrubeoglu for her dedication and hard work as CPIRA Chair (2022-2023).

10. Adjourn: 12:24 pm.

- MOTION: All in favor.