

Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators
Monthly Meeting
February 15, 2024, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

MINUTES

Attendees: Faye Bruun, DeAnna Crites, Patrick Crowley, Heather DeGrande, Shannon Doolan-Fitzsimmons, Valarie Franco, Jim Gibeaut, Olga Gil Barrientos, Jordan Greer, Alexa Hight, Xiping Hu, Yajuan Lin, Ruby Mehrubeoglu, Joseph Mollick, Mark Olson, Carmen Osier, Tye Payne, Jian Sheng, Patricia Spaniol-Mathews (Pat), Mike Starek, Devon Steffan, Matt Streich, Trent Thigpen, Tammy Walker-Smith, Feiqin Xie

Absent: Tianxing Chu

Alternates: Collin Webster (for Debra Plowman)

Guests:

Quorum present

1. Guest Speaker(s): *VP Jaime Nodarse Barrera, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, (20-minute presentation, 10-minute Q/A).*

1. VP Barrera provided an overview of what Institutional Advancement (IA) does.
 - The goal of IA is to advance or enhance the institution by connecting with students, alumni, friends of the university, and employers to bring them benefits through their connection with the University and to bring benefits to the University itself.
 - Alumni engagement
Engage alumni to lead to fundraising opportunities.
 - Annual giving
—Small gifts <\$1,000. Participation means more than amount given.
—Islander Annual Fund, Faculty and Staff Giving, President’s Circle, Family Council
 - Development and Foundation
—Mid-major giving (\$10,000+)
—Funding priorities:
 - Capital Campaign
 - Unit Development Plans for Colleges, SAMC, SEAS, and two of our Institutes.
—Major gifts typically can take up to 5 years to pay off
—2 different endowments: system endowed fund and Texas A&M Corpus Christi Foundation (501c3 private foundation)
 - FY23 Giving—Raised over \$20 million.
 - FY24 Priorities
Capital Campaign—Funding priorities:
 - Student Success—Scholarships, students support, student emergency funds.
 - HRI—Match from external donor. Endowed Chairs, centers, and programs
 - Community Vibrancy—Naming opportunities.

The campaign meant to raise visibility and increase relationships, not only to raise funds.

- Graduate students
 - Student scholarships, in general, are our top funding priority.
 - Majority of Deans have identified graduate student support as their top or one of their top priorities in their College Development Plans. There are challenges for getting funding for graduate students.
- Work with CPIRA and faculty to identify prospective donors.

Q&A

- When faculty/staff are also alumni and donate, the donations default first to alumni and then to faculty and staff if the donor's preferences are unknown. But when the donation is for faculty/staff campaign that goes under faculty/staff.
- Billboards would take more than half of the entire budget, so a different approach is used to target prospective students. Different companies are used for social media ads. Paid social media searches are utilized, together with targeted social media searches. Alumni/donors receive monthly newsletters.
- Capital campaign is going well—have raised more than \$20 million thus far. Hoping by 2027 to have 75% of the targeted funds raised before going public.
- How do you determine in the capital campaign where the money goes?
 - Prospective donors are asked—they are a very niche group. Conversations with prospective donors allow understanding of what they are passionate about. If the gift is part of an estate, that is considered an unrestricted gift. The President gets to designate those.
- Can you confirm if COLA has identified graduate student support in its development plan?
 - Yes. The plan for COLA is being fully redeveloped because of the split with SAMC and the interim Dean status.
- Is the Art Building going to look like how architect has already designed it when it is built?
 - In theory yes, that is what the architect has drawn.
 - Pending cost and amount needed to be raised.

Meeting called to order by Faye at 11:45 am.

2. Alternates/Guests Introduced themselves.

- Fayed introduced Valarie Franco, new RA for COECS
- Collin Webster alternate for Debra Plowman

3. Agenda was approved.

- MOTION: First-Heather, Second-Matt, All in favor

4. January 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved.

- MOTION: First-Carmen, Second-Jim, All in favor

5. Ex-Officio Faculty Senate Update(s) (Alexa Hight)

- I. Last Friday Faculty Senate had three guest speakers:
 - The speakers from DLAI talked about Canvas transition. Next clinic is Feb. 28, 11:00-1:00 p.m. Island Hall, 3rd floor. Individual faculty will lose access to Blackboard on August 31st.
 - Dr. Donaldson gave updates on:
 - 1 The Office of Student Research and Innovation (OSRI)
 2. The summer Research Fellows Program
 3. The Symposium for Student Innovation, Research, and Creative Activities. Friday, April 26, 8:00-5:00 p.m. Registration closes March 1st. Need to have a faculty mentor. Several workshops until the end of April and open to everyone.
 4. The NCURA report is expected to be made public by Spring Break.
 5. SB 17 (Senate Bill 17 on DEI)—It excludes research.
- II. President Miller will be at the March Faculty Senate meeting.
- III. The College of Graduate Studies offers thesis and dissertation workshops.

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

- I. No updates.

7. CPIRA Committee Updates

- I. Research Administration Development & Training (Carmen Osier)
 - i. No updates.
- II. Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects (Xinping Hu)
 - i. No updates.
 - ii. Intellectual Property goes permanently to College Station.
 - iii. Xinping sent FDP report to CPIRA-Council.
- III. Facilities (Debra Plowman)
 - i. No three new generators yet, still waiting for the FEMA Grant money.
- IV. Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures (Tianxing Chu)
 - i. No updates.
 - ii. SAMC will have two representatives in CPIRA, and CCS has lost their representation. The numbers will be revisited every year to see how CPIRA is growing.
- V. Graduate Recruitment & Retention
 - i. No updates.
 - ii. Next meeting with Dr. McCaleb will be in March.
- VI. Roles and Responsibilities (DeAnna Crites)
 - i. The committee got a request to review the regulatory compliance tab on the roles and responsibilities matrix, and met with Dr. Donaldson, Kim Hawkenson and Rebecca Ballard.
 - ii. Rebecca is doing some edits to the matrix and is going to give recommendations—Committee will review and bring them back to Council.

8. Other Business

- a. R&I Updates
 - Compliance: NCURA updates

- The NCURA report will be possibly out in Spring Break.
 - Probably nothing will be redacted—there are no names associated with anything [beyond participants in interviews].
- b. Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) NSF equipment grants-approval process (related to limited submissions process)
 - Ruby and Faye will meet with Dr. Donaldson to make sure the selection criteria are updated—selection committees use the same criteria given to the applicants.
- c. External Faculty Fellowships and Awards
 - Includes AA and R&I—policy is not clear.
 - Problem mainly with COLA and SAMC—tabled it until the fall until SAMC have representation on CPIRA.
 - Affects Faculty Senate, too.
- d. RA for COLA, CONHS, COEHD
 - No updates.
 - No information about the Collaborative Community Research Center (CCRC).
- e. FDP updates
 - Already covered.
- f. Open Share
 - Guest speakers for the next months:
 - Dr. Hernández, Dean of the College of Science, in March
 - Dr. Ma, Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, in April
 - Dr. Donaldson, Associate Vice President for Research, in May.
 - Lab issues
 - Big problem with consolidating organic waste, acid waste, solvent consolidation storage [cost and logistics prohibitive].
 - Affects different departments on campus.
 - PIs do not have the funds from grants to cover the extra costs of new discarding policy.
 - Facility to store this waste is not safe and needs funding to update.
 - Email Scott Meares to let him know about this problem.

9. Adjourn: 12:25 pm.

MOTION: First-Ruby, Second-Tammy, All in favor