MINUTES

Attendees: Jim Lee, Carmen Osier, Sarah Scott, Trent Thigpen, Tianxing Chu, Theresa Garcia, Dorina Murgulet, Toyin Ajisafe, Jordan Greer, Gina Glanc; Riccardo Mozzachiodi, Nandi Daru, Phyllis Robertson, Dugan Um, Brien Nicolau, Brandi Reese, Jud Curtis, Heather DeGrande, Erin Hill, Mike Wetz, James Rizzo, Michael Starek, Gina Concannon, Mark Besonen

Absent: Gina Glanc, Nandi Daru

Alternates: Faye Bruun (Phyllis Robertson)

Guests: Norma Lozano

Quorum present

1. Guest Speaker: Norma Lozano, HR Immigration Coordinator, TAMUCC (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A)
   - Ms. Lozano gave a PowerPoint presentation about immigration policies and regulations.
   - Presentation included types of nonimmigrant employment status.
     - E3 Australian Visas, F1 Student Employees and New Grads, H1B Specialty Occupation, J1 Researchers Scholars, O1 Alien of Extraordinary Ability, and TN Canadian and Mexican Professionals.
     - Included an overview of system immigration regulations, Labor certification processes, 2nd Preference Immigrant Petition (EB2), National Interest Waiver.
   - Questions and Discussion:
     - Promising sponsor immigration in the position offer letter to foreign faculty is not included. Reason, if administration changes, they may have different view on the foreign faculty member.
     - Are visas being denied to international students? Yes, it is the US government’s decision.
     - Is there support of staff positions? Yes, but more justification is needed for these positions.
   - Presentation was emailed to each council member.

Meeting called to order by Sarah at 11:41 am.

2. Agenda was approved
   - MOTION: First-Carmen, Second-Terri, All in favor.

3. January 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved
   - MOTION: First-Toyin, Second-Jordan, All in favor.

4. Welcome new Vice Chair, Mark Besonen

5. Alternates introduced.
   - Faye Bruun (Phyllis Robertson)

6. Senate Updates
   - HEAF (Higher Education Assistant Funds) are available.
• Funds can be used for equipment, software, anything with a lifetime of 5 years.
• $135K available.

7. R&I Social
• Erin and Criselda working on details.
• Tentative date 3/19/2020, D’Canter’s, 5-7 pm.

8. Ex-Officio Senate Updates
• Senate has not met yet.
• EC meetings moved to Thursday so updates can be given to Senate.
• A proposal on spousal hires is in the works.
• Graduate tuition is still a high priority in Senate and CPIRA.

9. CPIRA Committee Updates
• Research Administration Development & Training
  • CPIRA Forum Thursday, October 22, 2020, 5-7 pm.
  • Discussion of why CPIRA Reps were not at the Research Café.
    • Email calendar invitations/reminders would be helpful. Jim will relay this
      suggestion to R&I.
• Roles & Responsibilities
  • This committee will be removed from CPIRA agenda.
• Facilities
  • Gail is stepping down as Chair.
  • James Rizzo has accepted the Chair position.
  • Gina Concannon has accepted to join this committee.
• Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects
  • Trent has met with Colleen.
  • Microsoft Teams will be piloted during Research Week.
  • Discussion: Resources and effectiveness of CPIRA making lists of research issues/topics to
    take to College/Dept. Deans.
  • Suggestion to add Research Admins to Microsoft Teams for R&I and PI communications.
• Graduate Recruitment & Retention
  • Graduate Fellowship Voucher Program Plan has been announced.
  • Five vouchers for three years.
  • Sarah went over Dean McCaleb’s answers to the questions CPIRA sent her about the
    voucher program.
  • More questions surfaced so Sarah will collect another set of questions to send to Dean
    McCaleb about the voucher program.
  • Mike will set up a committee meeting.
• Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures
  • PI Census data has been received.
  • Three seats are open, Brien, Phyllis, and Riccardo.
• Open Access
  • Waiting to hear if R&I will be able to sustain this service.
  • Available funds started at $15K, and additional funds were added.
• Research Liaison
  • No update.
10. Other Business

- R&I Updates
  - Services for Maggie Salinas are on 2/23/2020.
  - College Research Plans
    - Plans have been submitted.
  - Foreign Influence on Research
    - A&M updated their policy.
    - TAMUCC will be sending an announcement soon.
    - Please familiarize yourself with this issue.
  - Compliance Coordinator Position
    - Matthew Gaynor is leaving.
    - Position announcement is out.
    - Sarah and Riccardo are on the Search Committee, not as CPIRA members though.

- **MOTION: Extend meeting 10 minutes. First-Riccardo, Second-Brien, All in favor.**
  - Summer Grants Fellows deadline for application is tomorrow.
  - Hanover Services
    - Six CPIRA Reps are aware of these services on campus.
    - They provide proposal and marketing services.
    - CPIRA suggests R&I post services on their website.
    - Deans and Directors have been informed about Hanover services.
    - Dan is including this service information in his new faculty presentations.

- IACUC/IRB
  - Lengthy discussion about current IACUC and IRB issues affecting Capstone classes on campus and other courses offered.
  - Discussion included environmental health and safety issues and the disconnect with research.

- CPIRA Budget
  - Budget request memo has been submitted to R&I and Provost.

11. Adjourn: 12:44 pm.

- **MOTION: First-Carmen, Second-Brien, All in favor.**