Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators  
Monthly Meeting  
September 17, 2020 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
WEBEX

MINUTES


Absent: Dugan Um, Mike Wetz, Judd Curtis

Alternates: Devon Steffan (James Rizzo)

Guests:

Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker**: Ahmed Mahdy, Vice-President of Research & Innovation, TAMU-CC (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A).
   - Dr. Mahdy thanked CPIRA for their effort in supporting research.
   - Presentation included vision and goals of R&I.
     - Vision of unparalleled commitment to student’s success.
     - Situating TAMU-CC as the intellectual capital.
     - Building TAMU-CC’s research enterprise.
   - Discussion about COVID-19.
     - Thanked CBI in their role as the COVID Task Force for the City of Corpus Christi and Coastal Bend.
     - Thanked the Engineering Program with their support to the community in closing beaches and drone work.
   - Discussion about R&I Webinars and Workshops that were offered during the university shut down and their success.
   - Dr. Mahdy is working with system to get TAMU-CC’s voice heard in Washington DC. Most of the funds coming from DC are for student aid.
   - Encouraged CPIRA to continue interdisciplinary programs and student mentor programs.
   - Questions included: budget cuts, program cuts, and impacts to tenured and tenure track faculty. All of which are uncertain at this time.

2. **Meeting called to order by Mark at 11:34 am.**

3. Agenda was approved.
   - **MOTION: First-Heather, Second-Carmen, All in favor.**

4. August 2020 meeting minutes were approved with one edit.
   - **MOTION: First-Heather, Second-Carmen, All in favor.**

5. CPIRA new representatives
   - Aaron Baxter, CCS, term through 2023, replaced Brien Nicolau.
   - Joseph Mollick, COB, term through 2021, replaced Jim Lee.
   - Faye Bruun, COEHD, term through 2023, replaced Phyllis Robertson.
• Ruby Mehrubeoglu, COSE, term through 2023, replaced Riccardo Mozzachiodi.
• Alexa Hight, Ad-hoc Scholarly Communications Librarian, term through 2021.
• Dorina Murgulet, Ex-officio Faculty Senate, term through 2021.

6. Alternates/Guests introduced.
   • Devon Steffan alternate for James Rizzo.

7. CPIRA Vice-Chair
   • **VOTE:** All in favor of electing Michael Starek as the new CPIRA Vice-Chair?
     • Yes, All in favor

8. Ex-Officio Faculty Senate Updates
   • Faculty Senate had their first meeting.
   • Senate sent Post Doc document to CPIRA for comment. Document focused on Post Doc’s position and if they are able to have PI status.
   • Discussion about university budget and need for more transparency.
   • Discussion about Provost continuing to help fund PhD students.
   • Discussion about the campus announcement pertaining to no overarching merit pay will be given. However, pay increases can be done on a case by case situation.

9. CPIRA Committee Updates
   • *Research Administration Development & Training*
     • Carmen is the new Chair.
     • Forum moved to Spring 2021.
   • *Facilities*
     • Committee needs a new Chair.
     • EHS has an online form to request disinfectant supplies.
   • *Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects*
     • Trent is meeting regularly with Colleen.
     • Memo on Residual Balances sent to committee for their review.
     • Discussions on setting quarterly meetings with R&I to visit with CPIRA during Council meetings. Schedule has not yet been set.
     • Trent has the CPIRA website up-to-date.
   • *Graduate Recruitment & Retention*
     • Mike W. is committee Chair.
     • Committee is working with Karen McCaleb on a survey how COVID has impacted Graduate Student Research.
   • *Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures*
     • Committee needs a new Chair.
     • One seat open in COSE. A special election will take place before 10/2020 meeting.
     • Nandi and Joseph agreed to serve on this committee.
   • *Roles and Responsibilities*
     • Committee is waiting on R&R matrix from R&I to review changes.

10. Other Business
    • *R&I Lunch and Learn and Research Cafes*
      • Grant Writing Workshop with Lucy Deckard was held August 2020.
      • Send workshop suggestions to Colleen.
      • Fall 2020 schedule is not yet posted.
    • *FY21 Research Enhancement Fall Competition*
      • Mark asked CPIRA to encourage your colleagues to apply.
      • Most applications are from COSE and COLA.
• **Impact of COVID-19 on Research Productivity**
  - Full TAMU system survey report has not yet been released for public review.
  - Sarah is working with R&I on a campus survey to identify impacts of COVID on research.

• **R&I Staff**
  - Dan Reichers leaving R&I.

• **Policy on Residual Balances**
  - Discussion about how IDC is determined on the residual balance.

• **Compliance**
  - System has delayed compliance software purchase.
  - Rebecca is currently using REDCap as a temporary alternative.

• **PRA Procedure Review/Feedback**
  - Post Doc Research Associates issue—whether or not Post Docs can have PI status.
  - CPIRA recommends: Not to change the verbiage in the document. Recommendations were sent to R&I.

• **CPIRA Budget**
  - No update.

11. Adjourn: 12:30 p.m.

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