Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators  
Monthly Meeting  
January 21, 2021 11:00 am – 12:30 pm 
WEBEX

MINUTES


Absent: Dugan Um, Mike Wetz

Alternates: Erin Hill (Aaron Baxter), Devon Steffon (Tianxing Chu), Son Nguyen (Michael Starek)

Guests: Provost Clarenda Phillips, John Dawson

Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker**: Clarenda Phillips, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, TAMU-CC (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A).
   
   I. Provost Phillips' presentation/discussion included:
      ▪ Transitioning to web/virtual teaching.
      ▪ Keeping student education a priority.
      ▪ Funds will be reallocated to support a new director for CCCR.
         ▪ This position will report Ahmed Mahdy.
         ▪ This position will be a fixed term faculty or staff employee.
         ▪ Position will be filled by national and internal search.
      ▪ CPIRA budget has been solidified and money will run through R&I.

   II. Questions/Continued Discussion
      ▪ The form for faculty to document impacts of COVID on their research is being developed.
      ▪ This form will be used during evaluations to help discussion between faculty and chairs to show impacts and opportunities during COVID.
      ▪ Form will be a part of their P&T packet.
      ▪ COVID impact form will also be developed for staff.
      ▪ Teaching style for Fall 2021 will be 50% blended, 25% in person, and 25% remote.
      ▪ Graduate enrollment is up especially in MBA program (~1500 students).
      ▪ Undergraduate enrollment is down.
         ▪ 40 new first year students enrolled Fall 2020.
         ▪ 80 new first year students enrolled January 2021.
      ▪ COVID vaccines are being given to 1A and 1B people.
         ▪ 100 vaccines were given on campus.
         ▪ TAMU-CC Health Services is managing paperwork for employees to receive the vaccine.
         ▪ COVID vaccine form will be sent out next week via email.
         ▪ Essential workers that are research staff, that may be exposed to COVID due to travel will be prioritized.

2. Meeting called to order by Mark at 11:34 am.
3. **Approve Meeting Agenda.**
   
   I. **MOTION:** All in favor.

4. **Approve October 2020 Meeting Minutes**
   
   I. **MOTION:** All in favor with one edit.

5. **CPIRA New Representatives**
   
   I. Daniel Newmire is the new COEHD rep with term through 2022, replaced Toyin Ajisafe.

6. **Alternates/Guests introduced.**
   
   I. Erin Hill (Aaron Baxter)
   II. Devon Steffon (Tianxing Chu),
   III. Son Nguyen (Michael Starek)

7. **Ex-Officio Faculty Senate Update(s)**
   
   I. Discussion(s)
      - Faculty Senate supported library’s Elsevier contract.
      - TAMU-CC mascot is offensive and racially insensitive, and the use of Iggy will be stopped immediately.
      - Faculty survey on impacts of COVID-data has not been made public.

8. **Ad-hoc Scholarly Librarian Update(s)**
   
   I. Open access funds are now available, $30K.
   II. Two articles have been published bringing the total available funds to $24,850.
   III. Library continues to negotiate agreements with Elsevier and Cambridge University Press.

9. **CPIRA Committee Updates**
   
   I. **Research Administration Development & Training**
      - CPIRA Research Forum may be postponed if it is conducted virtual.
   II. **Facilities**
      - Jeffrey is scheduling quarterly meetings with Dawson.
   III. **Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects**
      - Trent continues to update CPIRA website.
   IV. **Graduate Recruitment & Retention**
      - Committee developed Graduate Student Survey and received ~700 responses. Huge success.
      - Data is being worked up and will be presented at next council meeting tentatively.
   V. **Bylaws, Elections, Rules, & Procedures**
      - No update
   VI. **Roles and Responsibilities**
      - Committee is still waiting on R&R matrix from R&I to review changes.

10. **Other Business**
    
    I. **R&I Updates**
          - Opportunity to meet new R&I staff.
       - R&I Staff
          - Two grant positions have been filled.
          - RDO candidate accepted position.
    II. **Compliance Town Hall**
       - Town Hall is scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2021 (morning, Time TBD).
III. FY2021 Call Outs
   - Please encourage your colleagues to apply.
   - Town Hall is scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2021 (morning, Time TBD).
   - Will include IACUC and IRB staff.

IV. Digital Web Platforms
   - Suggestion to create a CPIRA taskforce to provide feedback on IT platforms approved by TAMU-CC to use.

V. FDP
   - Ruby M. is faculty representative on this committee. She attended a four-day meeting.
   - Federal effort to reduce burdens to PI's.

VI. Impact of COVID-19 Survey
   - CPIRA is working with R&I faculty survey.

VII. CPIRA Budget
   - Budget has been approved and will go through R&I

11. Guest Speaker: John Dawson, Associate Vice President for Operations, TAMU-CC (15-minute presentation).

I. Dr. Dawson’s presentation/discussion included:
   - Hot water supply was lost to campus due to a major break on Ocean Dr. Water has been restored.
   - Lighting on campus is being converted to LED.
   - Crosswalks are being installed on campus.
   - Transformers have been changed out due to a major unbalance of electricity on campus.
     - Please notify Dawson when you hook up new equipment to keep electricity balanced.

II. Continued Discussion/Questions
   - Is TAMU-CC building an animal biosafety 2 lab?
     - Yes, design is 90% finished.
     - BSL2 will be located in Science Lab 2.
     - Facilities is funding this BS2 lab.
   - Has the NRC been updated?
     - Not yet. Buildings are on a schedule for upgrades.
   - Water fixtures in building are being changed out. Will reduce energy by 20-30%.
   - Electrical updates will be completed at night. Tentative date for completion is November 2021.
   - Bipolar ionization process has been added to AC units.
   - Discussion about recent power outages not being communicated with researchers resulting in equipment going down and losing samples.
   - Suggestion, create a facilities website communicating improvements that have been done and schedules.

12. Adjourn: 12:35 p.m.
   - MOTION: All in favor.