Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators
Monthly Meeting
February 18, 2021 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
WEBEX

MINUTES

Attendees: Mark Besonen, Sarah Scott, Trent Thigpen, Jordan Greer, Faye Bruun, Erin Hill, Gina Concannon, Nandi Daru, Carmen Osier, Dorina Murgulet, Ruby Mehrubeoglu, Judd Curtis, Theresa (Terrie) Garcia, Daniel Newmire, Jocelyn Gutierrez, Mike Wetz, Tianxing Chu

Absent: Dugan Um, Alexa Hight, Gina Glanc, Michael Starek, Joseph Mollick, Jeffrey Turner

Alternates: Erin Hill (Aaron Baxter), Christina Murphey (Heather DeGrande)

Guests: President Kelly Miller

Quorum present

1. **Guest Speaker: Kelly Miller, President/CEO, TAMU-CC (15-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A).**
   I. President Miller’s presentation/discussion included:
      ▪ Research Enterprise Updates
         ▪ Local community values TAMU-CC research.
         ▪ A new position will be added in International Compliance.
         ▪ Discussion about strengthening the Promotion & Tenure process with regards to research.
      ▪ Discussion about potential state budget cuts.
         ▪ Legislature is in session.
      ▪ Budget Think Tank
         ▪ Working to increase graduate support.
         ▪ Transparency on how/where money goes to on campus.
      ▪ Deferred Maintenance Plan
         ▪ Plan is to build needed labs.
         ▪ Plan will set aside money to keep building maintenance up.
      ▪ Strategic Plan
         ▪ Mid-March 2021 PC will review the plan.
         ▪ Plan is focusing on commercialization.
      ▪ CPIRA budget has been solidified and money will run through R&I.
   II. Questions/Continued Discussion
      ▪ Discussion about the role of CPIRA and if we report or fall under R&I.
         ▪ CPIRA is independent and was created to improve research on campus.
      ▪ Discussion about graduate student stipends.
      ▪ Discussion about staff equity is still ongoing.
      ▪ Discussion about CPIRA’s student survey conducted last Fall 2020.
         ▪ Student mental health is a major concern.
      ▪ Discussion about Assistant/Associate Deans for Research.
         ▪ If it is a college need, put this in your college strategic plan.

2. **Meeting called to order by Mark at 11:42 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. Alternates/Guests introduced.
   I. Erin Hill (Aaron Baxter)
   II. Christina Murphey (Heather DeGrande)

6. Ex-Officio Faculty Senate Update(s)
   I. Discussion(s)
      - Approved Enhancement Program

7. Ad-hoc Scholarly Librarian Update(s)
   I. No update
   II. Dean Rudowsky is our guest for March 2021.

8. CPIRA Committee Updates
   I. **Research Administration Development & Training**
      - CPIRA Research Forum and Research Week is postponed.
   II. **Facilities**
      - Jeffrey is scheduling quarterly meetings with Dawson.
   III. **Operations & Communications for Sponsored Projects**
      - Trent and Erin are working on CPIRA data infrastructure on Teams.
      - Trent continues to update CPIRA website.
   IV. **Graduate Recruitment & Retention**
      - 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.

9. Other Business
   I. **R&I Updates**
      - R&I Humanity Funding Webinar is cancelled for tomorrow and will be rescheduled.
      - R&I Staff
         - Two grant positions have been filled.
         - RDO position has been filled.
         - OSRA Director position is open.
      - RE Internal Funding deadline is March 10, 2021.
   II. **Compliance Town Hall**
      - Town Hall was Friday, February 12, 2021.
      - 39 participants.
   III. **FY2021 Call Outs**
      - Please encourage your colleagues to apply.
      - **Digital Web Platforms**
      - A Tech Pilot Program is currently testing Zoom as a potential platform for TAMU-CC to use.
   IV. **Impact of COVID-19 Survey**
      - Campus will remain in the current COVID safety guidelines for the remainder of the year.
   V. **Scientific Diving Safety & Maintenance**
- Office started charging for scientific diving services.
- Charges are not consistent.
- A special taskforce has been created in R&I to review the changes.

VI. Electrical Car Stations
- If you have a need for an electrical charging station, please email Trent.

VII. Intellectual Property
- Discussion about who has the rights to products and teaching material.
- Mark will discuss with Mahdy.

10. Adjourn: 12:14 p.m.

   • MOTION: All in favor.