CPI

Council of Principal Investigators - College of Education & Human Development

Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 17, 2020
1:30pm-3:00pm – Zoom Meeting

Members Present	Members Unable to Attend	Others Present
Tamika Gilreath, HLKN Jamilia Blake, EPSY David Wright, HLKN Sandra Acosta, EPSY Marielle Engelen, HLKN Ben Herman, TLAC Mary Alfred, EAHR Christine Stanley, EAHR Joanne Olson, TLAC Kay Wijekumar, TLAC	Steven Riechman, HLKN	Rafael Lara-Alecio, EPSY (University CPI Rep.) Jeff Liew, CERD Pre Award Ann Savell, CERD Pre Award Jason Foley, CERD Pre Award Clayton Holle, CERD Post Award
Agenda Item	**Comments**	**Recommendations/Actions/Follow-up**
I. Welcome / Introduction of Members		
II. Election of Vice Chair	The list of which members will still sit on CPI next year was reviewed. Dr. Gilreath provided an overview of the expected roles of the Vice Chair. Kay Wijekumar nominated Ben Herman of TLAC. Sandra Acosta seconded. Approved by all. Dr. Ben Herman named Vice Chair for 2020-2021.	Dr. Ben Herman named Vice Chair for 2020-2021.
III. Updates from the Associate Dean of Research	Dr. Jeffrey Liew, new Associate Dean of Research as of July, 2020, presented a slide showing the number of proposal submissions, expenditures, and indirect costs. Expenditures have increased, while indirects received has gone down, but not significantly.	Inform Dr. Liew of any delays in approvals so he can assist in resolving them.

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	If anyone is having trouble getting their human participant control plan or IRBs approved recently, Dr. Liew may be able to help resolve those delays. Reminder that any faculty traveling for mission-essential research need approval from the Dean's office or VPR. Dr. Liew sent out the procedures via email 9/16/20. Dr. Liew has started a series of Coffee Chats hosted by the CERD office, and co-sponsored with the college CPI. The planned topics and schedule were discussed. Other upcoming events were discussed. Dr. Blake asked: How long does the approval process for opening labs take on average? Dr. Liew responded: The entire process typically takes about a month or so. At the VPR level, it can take as quickly as two weeks. Depending on how complex protocols are, it may take longer and require revisions. We've had about eight successfully go through so far, so we have precedent now. Dr. Liew provided an update on the search for the Senior Research Development Officer position. It is now posted and we are in the process of hiring.	
IV. Updates from CERD Post-Award	Clayton Holle said the Post-Award team is working remotely, except for one individual there on Tuesdays and Thursdays. No issues have arisen with this change. They are working on fall payroll; let them know of any course buyouts coming up. A new purchasing web form is now being used. Dr. Wijekumar suggested the new purchasing web form be added to the CERD	Dr. Liew & Dr. Gilreath can work with CERD Post Award to get some background on this and then bring these concerns to SRS to be addressed.

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	website. Clayton confirmed it is added on mycehd: https://it-lf-ecmf.tamu.edu/Forms/PostAwardRequest. They will look into adding it to cerd.tamu.edu. Dr. Wijekumar stated the faculty are unhappy with SRS non-responsiveness and are not fond of SRS's COVID-related email signature line regarding delays. Additionally, there are concerns with the budgets being under separate accounts for each year. There was much agreement about these being valid concerns, and if it comes from CPI, it may be addressed. It was suggested that Dr. Liew can work with Clayton to get some background and address this with SRS, and all agreed. Regarding awards and spending, he agrees with Dr. Liew that there has been no slowdown in grants. Continuations and amendments are still occurring. Work has not slowed down for the post award office.	
V. Updates from CERD Pre-Award	Ann Savell said the Pre Award team is also working remotely through the fall, and it has not resulted in any issues that they are aware of. They have seen no noticeable slowdown on proposals. Researchers should be sure to let Pre Award know well ahead of time when they plan to submit so Pre Award can keep working toward the five-day internal deadline. Dr. Engelen asked how Cayuse, the new system-to-system software used by SRS, is working. Ann gave some details about it, saying that while it has differences, it has many good features and many PI's have liked using it. Dr. Wijekumar gave good feedback on its use.	Work with Pre Award well ahead of your proposal to ensure internal deadlines are met as well as sponsor deadlines.
VI. Updates from University CPI	Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, the CEHD representative on the University CPI, provided updates from the University CPI meeting. The University CPI typically meets the second week of each month. The University CPI sends a monthly Newsletter and Meeting Updates to research members across the system, with information from the	Please attend the monthly University CPI Meetings; reach out to Dr. Lara-Alecio (a-lara@tamu.edu) or Dr. Tim Elliot (telliot@tamu.edu), and they will arrange it.

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	different members, colleges, stations, offices such as IRB, Maestro, graduate and undergraduate research programs, etc. Dr. Lara-Alecio also serves on sub-committees such as the TAMU Research Compliance Committee and the Export Control Designated Liaison Committee, which meet four times a year, and is notified of new policies, forms, and other compliance updates. If anyone is interested in attending the monthly University CPI meeting, let Dr. Lara-Alecio or Dr. Tim Elliot know. Dr. Lara-Alecio stated that, due to the COVID-19 topics taking over 90% of the University CPI's time, they have been unable to carry out previous agenda items, including white papers and initiatives such as Research, Personnel, Recruitment, Interdisciplinary Research, IDC, Space, and others. The three white papers and initiatives presented can be found under the April 10, 2019 meeting on the following link: https://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/2018-2019-general-meeting-schedule Dr. Lara-Alecio brought up the need to improve Interdisciplinary Collaboration. He pointed out that NSF, NIH, IES and other organizations like to see an interdisciplinary approach, and it increases opportunities for funding. We need to find ways to effectively involve junior faculty in these opportunities. When submitting proposals that only consist of full professors, those collaborators do not have to worry as much if the proposal is not recommended for funding. Junior faculty need to be included. In our field we bring real national problems to the table with good resources.	Senior faculty need to find ways to collaborate with junior faculty.
VII. Research Infrastructure needs for IT and Communication Report	Dr. Tamika Gilreath discussed the results from the Qualtrics survey Dr. Bloomfield had sent out in the spring. Forty-four responses were counted. The review was brief due to time constraints, and Dr. Gilreath will send it to everyone to continue reviewing.	Dr. Gilreath will send out the survey results to the CPI members for further review and future discussion.

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VIII. Establish CPI Priorities and Issues to be Addressed 2020/2021	Dr. Gilreath posed the question: What should be communicated to the administration about our needs and the needs for our PIs? Most responses dealt with IT services, continuing the concerns mentioned in the Qualtrics survey. Faculty often have to wait for IT to install or update software that they should be able to install themselves, and sometimes have to explain how to install it to the IT personnel when they come. Dr. Wright commented that faculty should have the administrator roles on their own laptops so they do not have to rely on IT for such simple tasks as updating Flash. These issues are sometimes urgent and cannot wait for the delay of involving IT. For example, they cannot wait twenty-four hours if they are in the middle of an experiment or have patients coming in. According to Dr. Blake, faculty can sign a separate agreement with IT for specialized software, and work out an agreement with the CEHD Communications office. With so many working virtually, this should be a priority. Better technical support is needed, despite anticipated budget cuts. Dr. Wijekumar agreed, stating that CEHD IT relied on university policy and does not budge. A suggestion was made that there should be clarification on what University IT vs CEHD policy is. Are there cases where IT personnel are following university rules because they aren't familiar with CEHD policies? Drs. Wright, Blake, Wijekumar, and Gilreath all agree this is a huge issue which could lead to faculty having to rely on non-TAMU devices. A suggestion was made that everyone should type what they think the priorities should be into the chat and CPI can delve through them. They should take into account that the priorities should be actionable, and not be too out-of-reach. They should also consider what the response has historically been when bringing the same topics forward.	CPI members should discuss priorities for this year with the faculty in their respective departments and send them to Dr. Gilreath. Dr. Gilreath will then put together a list of actionable items and how many PI's are affected.

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	Dr. Gilreath said she can put together a list of actionable items and how many PI's it affects. Suggestions on Priorities provided: Joanne Olson: 1) IT issues, 2) interface between CEHD and SRS, 3) budgeting. Jamilia Blake: In terms of priorities, she will talk further with EPSY faculty to gauge their interests/needs. However, she stated the IT/Communication survey clearly outlines a priority that needs to be attended to. Kay Wijekumar: Post award - budget, SRS, IRB; IT - purchasing, software, servers, laptops.	
IX. Other Topics	No additional topics were brought forward.	