

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

11:30am-1:00pm – Zoom Online Meeting

| Members Present | Members Absent | Others Present |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Marc Goodrich, TLAC Daniel Bowen, EAHR Luis Ponjuan, EAHR Sandra Acosta, EPSY Zohreh Eslami, EPSY Deanna Kennedy, KNSM Rick Kreider, KNSM Hector Rivera, EPSY Karen Rambo-Hernandez, TLAC | Bugrahan Yalvac, TLAC | Jim Fluckey, Associate Dean for Research Ann Savell, SEHD REO Kesha Henry, SEHD REO Kory Douglas, SEHD REO Clayton Holle, SERD Post Award Paul Hernandez, University CPI Representative Rafael Lara-Alecio, University CPI Representative |

Agenda

I. Introduction of Members

- Dr. Goodrich opened the meeting. New and returning members introduced themselves.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes

- Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of April 4, 2023 were approved. Minutes will be posted at this link: <https://reo.tamu.edu/sehd-cpi/>

III. Updates from Interim Associate Dean for Research – Dr. James Fluckey

- Ahead of this meeting, Dr. Fluckey shared a revised version of the Guidelines for Assigning Research Space in SEHD [see attached document]. Most content is consistent with other colleges/schools across campus. The major change from the original SEHD document is the addition of an appeals process.
- The document is due to be revised in March of 2024, and Dr. Fluckey would like the CPI to review it and provide any suggestions ahead of his presenting it to the FAC.
- **Action needed:** Dr. Fluckey requested that he receive it back from the CPI in a vetted form by the Thanksgiving break. Comments from the CPI should be sent to Marc Goodrich, who will combine and forward them to Dr. Fluckey.

IV. ERC Vision – Dr. James Fluckey

- Dr. Fluckey asked the members to review the materials available and provide their input on potential changes in direction for the Education Research Center (ERC).
- [Google drive](#) with material on the ERC available for CPI review.

- [Survey on CPI Recommendations](#) (to be completed after the meeting)
- **Action needed:** add discussion to agenda for next meetings.

V. Updates from SEHD Research Enterprise & Outreach (REO) – Ann Savell

- The SEHD Fall Reception for Incoming and Outgoing CPI members is scheduled for 11/2/23 at Nap Flats.
- The REO website is live. An announcement is forthcoming on the new mission of the REO office.
- A new internal proposal submission software called [InfoReady](#) is now being implemented by REO. This document submission/workflow tool is available for any program in SEHD to use. The VPR's office, OGAPS, AgriLife, and others are already utilizing InfoReady.
- The deadline for the SEHD Catapult Seed Grant Program is November 17th, and REO has involved in many meetings with our researchers planning to submit proposals.
- The REO office has workshops coming up specifically for SEHD researchers on granting writing for NIH and DoED.
- The REO office has conducted four MINT sessions so far (in person and on zoom), reaching thirty-three participants so far. We are working on how to convey the importance of being onboarded with these tools and what SEHD can accomplish with reporting if all our faculty have updated profiles in scholars@TAMU in particular.

VI. Updates from SEHD Research Finance – Clayton Holle

- Clayton Holle said that, with the TAMU Interim President's update on the path forward, implications on Finance and HR reporting structures are still up in the air, but it will not affect the services to our faculty.
- A&M's main finance is looking at a new system to replace Concur called Chrome River. It is meant to be more user-friendly and has a consistent look across its app and web platforms. Discussions are still early and a final decision has not been made.

VII. Updates from University CPI – Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio/Dr. Paul Hernandez

- President Welsh has gathered feedback from various groups on campus, and he presented the results last week. The University CPI could use a better picture of research from the TAMU perspective. There are continued discussions related to this.
- They asked that our faculty please be sure that they are on the list and are receiving the newsletter from the TAMU CPI, because it lists multiple opportunities related to trainings and information from specific agencies (e.g., NSF, NIH).
- If anyone would like to address any specific issues affecting the research community in our SEHD, please contact Rafael Lara-Alecio or Paul Hernandez, and they will take it forward to the university CPI.

VIII. SEHD Junior Faculty Initiative – Podcasts – Dr. Marc Goodrich

- Last year’s CPI initiative for the creation of a podcast ran into cost concerns from MarCom. The goal was the podcast was to address mentorship and collaboration needs for new and future faculty and would contain interviews with our successful faculty on their journeys and mentorship experiences. In order to make the podcast idea more appealing and valuable, we had the idea of including episodes showcasing our centers, institutes, and labs. While MarCom liked this idea, they felt this new idea should be quality, editable video segments rather than podcast content. MarCom will therefore take on this project, for which we are thankful. However, this leaves the goal of creating episodic mentorship opportunities for junior faculty and students unanswered.
- Do we want to revisit this idea of doing an initial round of podcasts with Dr. Acosta?
 - Dr. Acosta mentioned the roadblock ended up being the funding and time. If we can determine what kind of budget the Dean will allocate for this, we can get a sense of what we can accomplish with that.
 - Content will be driven by the interview questions. The interview script would be looked at by the council. The episodes would be about 20 minutes and each episode would follow the same script so listeners can anticipate what questions would be asked of each guest.
 - Discussion was had on whether most faculty have a greater need of content on finding research funding and whether it should address gaps in knowledge for new faculty instead.
 - The recommendation of the council was to send out a survey for new faculty about what content was needed and have that drive the format of the podcast.
- **Action needed:** Ann will send out a survey to the new faculty and find out what the budget will be.

IX. Establish CPI Priorities and Issues to be Addressed 2023/2024 – Dr. Marc Goodrich

At the beginning of each year, the CPI establishes the goals and priorities for the upcoming year. Based on the subcommittees of last year, the goals are:

- Establish critical research topics/problems for teams to address/obtain funding
 - The goal of the CPI should be examining what we can do to foster more collaborative work. A concern is that all our departments have different strength areas, not all of which are fundable. For this council, how do we intersect the funded research with the existing areas of scholarship that are larger than the fundable areas.
 - Concurrently with this CPI goal, the VPR and our Dean is asking for the departments to examine the synergies among their researchers and determine/develop existing themes.
- Creating Research Communities subcommittee from 22-23
 - The idea of “wellness” as a research interest group was put forward last year.

- Investments & Relations with Federal Agencies subcommittee from 22-23
 - Identify key topics that align with funding agency priorities
- Interdisciplinary Grants & Research Committees subcommittee from 22-23
 - This group will follow up with University CPI about the need for a program showing junior faculty their return on investment for working on grants.
- The [Scholars@TAMU](#) database was discussed as a resource to see what research is going on. However, we need our faculty to opt in to be included in this picture.

X. Election of Vice Chair

- One year term, and the year following you become a chair.

Dr. Karen Rambo-Hernandez was nominated, it was seconded, and approved by all. No other candidates were put forward.

Minutes and Suggestion Box for topics are available on the [SEHD CPI website](#).

2023-2024 Meetings will occur 11:30am – 1:00pm on the following dates:

Tuesday, November 14th, 2023

Tuesday, February 13th, 2024

Tuesday, April 9th, 2024