

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

11:30am-1:00pm – Zoom Online Meeting

Members Present	Members Absent	Others Present
Marc Goodrich, TLAC Zohreh Eslami, EPSY Luis Ponjuan, EAHR Bugrahan Yalvac, TLAC Deanna Kennedy, KNSM Karen Rambo-Hernandez, TLAC Rick Kreider, KNSM	Sandra Acosta, EPSY Hector Rivera, EPSY Daniel Bowen, EAHR	Jim Fluckey, SEHD ADR Ann Savell, SEHD REO Kory Douglas, SEHD REO Keshia Henry, SEHD REO Amy Jurica, REO Clayton Holle, SEHD Research Finance Paul Hernandez, University CPI Representative

Agenda

I. Review of Meeting Minutes

- Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meetings of November 14, 2023 and February 13, 2023 meetings were approved. Minutes will be posted at this link: <https://reo.tamu.edu/sehd-cpi/>

II. Updates from Interim Associate Dean for Research

- Dr. James Fluckey provided research space updates for SEHD. The Reynolds Building will hold the first environmental chamber on campus, which will create a lot of interdisciplinary research opportunities. It should be up and running by the 1st of the year, with access mediated through the Huffines Institute. Additionally, a major lab will be created on the second floor, providing shared lab space for SEHD. With the entire college growing, they are trying to accommodate everyone.
- He appreciates the input provided by SEHD CPI members on the Research Space Allocation Document. It should be ratified this month. If you have space allocation needs, please reach out to Dr. Fluckey to discuss possibilities.
- The REO budget now has some discretionary funds set aside for research interest groups. If you would like to discuss ideas, please come talk to Dr. Fluckey.

III. Updates from REO (SEHD Research Enterprise & Outreach)

- Dr. Kory Douglas provided updates on the SEHD internal funding opportunities managed by REO.
 - We are finishing up the R3 competition now. Three proposals were selected, and the PIs were just notified: KNSM, EPSY, TLAC.

- The Catapult and TEGP competition is finished and awarded. REO is working with Research Finance to get the accounts set up.
 - The InfoReady platform, which was adopted this year for our internal funding opportunities and some other workflow processes, worked really well.
- Ann Savell said that REO visits with the SEHD Centers & Institutes (C&Is) are going on currently. The new Associate VPR for C&I Management implemented an annual evaluation starting last year in addition to the 5-year review C&Is undergo. We have created a process to use InfoReady for this annual evaluation and will receive feedback from the C&I Directors.
- Ann had earlier run a survey to CPI members regarding options for the annual CPI Reception and thanked those that had participated. The results showed everyone agreed it was an important face-to-face event to continue, but next year it should occur near the end of the academic year to coincide with the last meeting and cover agenda items. Responses showed it would be best to schedule it on-campus between 11:00-1:00 on Mondays, with SEHD leadership invited.
- As awareness among our faculty has continued to grow about the services REO is now providing (e.g., the expert proposal reviews provided by Dr. Kory Douglas and Dr. Kesha Henry), engagement is increasing. Dr. Kesha Henry began offering a 3 credit hour grant writing course for PhD students this semester. It's going well, with some faculty and postdocs sitting in on the course. It will be offered again this Fall with Dr. Kory Douglas as instructor. The flyer for the course will be available soon.
- Ann noted that the Research Development Officers on the REO team will be attending a conference for Research Development Professionals at the end of April.
- Ann introduced the [IDC Calculator](#) that has been built for REO's website, requested by Jill Hobbs, the SEHD Assistant Dean for Finance. It received good feedback from CPI members, who appreciated the transparency this provides for our PIs.
 - Dr. Ponjuan stated that this is very powerful and demystifying where the funds go and shows what the PI's are bringing back to the organization. This also incentivizes people to submit proposals if they can get the PI IDC Return.

Action Item: The CPI members recommended REO add a pdf to this page with more information on what each category means and provide some examples showing what the PI incentive portion of IDC Returns can be used for.

IV. Updates from SEHD Research Finance

- Clayton Holle gave the following updates from his team:
 - Catapult and TEGP accounts are being set up, award pending IRB determination.
 - He will be sending out an email to faculty regarding payroll for summertime.
 - They now have a full team with their recently hired new hire: Makenna Kotrla.

V. Updates from University CPI

- Dr. Paul Hernandez noted the monthly University CPI meeting will occur tomorrow. He and Dr. Lara-Alecio always forward all items from the CPI when input is needed from our researcher community.
- He invites everyone to visit the CPI newsletter.

VI. Proposed Seed Funding for Interest Groups/Multidisciplinary Teams

- Dr. Goodrich said the Dean is creating a fund to provide support for the creation of multidisciplinary teams, allow them to pay for meeting spaces or speakers, and have a coordinated, structured effort to bring people together. The best examples of successful interest groups (such as the early childhood interest group, the muscular skeletal interest group) are the ones that have had seed funding.
- We are still finalizing the guidelines for this application process, but it will include an application form, justification, and plans for the funds.
- It is an open application window, with project periods being based on the application date. The project period will last 12 months, with the option to apply for two more renewals (up to \$30,000 over three years).
- Reporting/deliverables will include a progress report and final report.
- The eligibility will require that the lead PI of the group be tenure/tenure track so as not to conflict with contract/effort requirements, but the team can be open to anyone.
- **Action item:** Based on the discussions with the CPI, the following additions/clarifications will be considered for inclusion in the guidelines:
 - Add clarification to the eligibility section that, while the lead PI must be T/TT, the group itself is open to anyone, and all are encouraged to participate.
 - Add clarity to the Purpose/Goal section and include good examples of what we are hoping to see the fund used for.
 - Determine if funds can roll over after 12 months if a renewal is obtained.
 - Consider if there should be a Continuation funding instead of or in addition to Renewal funding, with the Continuation funding having more/expanded deliverables attached to it.
 - Add guidance to ensure the applicants are not overlapping with other/existing centers but have explored working with them to achieve goals.
 - Consider if this fund can be used for initiatives by existing centers that may need reinvestment.

VII. SRS PI Guidebook

- Dr. Goodrich let the CPI members know that TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) has produced a [PI Guidebook](#), which is now available on their website. The REO office, co-sponsored by the CPI, will post copies on its website so it is available to all our faculty researchers.

VIII. Inclusion of PhD position on EHD CPI

- An SEHD student submitted to the CPI suggestion box that there was interest in having a PhD student representative on the council.
- The council discussed the suggestion and noted that graduate students do not meet the eligibility criteria to serve as a representative. Member pointed out that most content in the CPI meetings would not be relevant for graduate students and that only one student has expressed interest in this since the CPI inception.
- It was agreed upon that, in the next academic year, the CPI will have one meeting open to graduate students, with the logistics for this meeting being decided on in the first CPI meeting of the Fall 2024 semester. If there is graduate student attendance to the arranged meeting, the CPI can gauge interest in the continuance of such a meeting annually to provide a platform to engage with CPI about research topics and concerns. Topics relevant to graduate student research can be concentrated in this single meeting.

IX. End of Year Report for the Dean

- Dr. Goodrich is working on the SEHD CPI end of year report for the Dean.
- So far, the report will cover the following recommendations generated from CPI subcommittees:
 - Obtain data/information on what other universities are doing to incentivize faculty collaborations and interdisciplinary research
 - Is there a GA in the Dean's office to support this?
 - CPI could provide a model of what the GA is looking for?
 - Need College-level structure to encourage and reward interdisciplinary research
 - The seed funding will help with this.
 - Doing everything we can to help ensure this happens.
 - Potential benefits from interdisciplinary work (participating, leading) in annual review process?
 - Ensuring junior faculty get credit for work developing and submitting proposals, even if those are not funded.
 - Structure around seed funding for interest groups
 - Clearly stated goals and benchmarks
 - E.g., invited speakers and opportunities for collaboration
 - Dr. Lara's report on sustainability and commercialization
 - Ideas about targeted proposals, supporting junior faculty
- If members have any other suggestions on items or recommendations from the CPI, reach out to Marc Goodrich or Ann Savell.

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