

## Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 11, 2021

12:30pm-2:00pm – Zoom Meeting

Members Present	Members Unable to Attend	Others Present
Tamika Gilreath, HLKN Ben Herman, TLAC Sandra Acosta, EPSY Marielle Engelen, HLKN Joanne Olson, TLAC Steven Riechman, HLKN Kay Wijekumar, TLAC David Wright, HLKN		Rafael Lara-Alecio, EPSY (University CPI Rep.) Timothy Elliott, EPSY (University CPI Rep.) Jeff Liew, CERD Pre Award Julie Svetlik, 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 / Review of Meeting Minutes	Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2021 were approved. Minutes will be posted at this link: <a href="https://mycehd.tamu.edu/faculty/research-office/council-of-principal-investigators/">https://mycehd.tamu.edu/faculty/research-office/council-of-principal-investigators/</a>	Members are reminded that the minutes will be listed on the College CPI website. Visit the website for an electronic copy of the bylaws and the updated list of CPI members.
II. Updates from the Associate Dean of Research	Dr. Jeffrey Liew, Associate Dean of Research, discussed COVID testing updates and research relevant to COVID. Dr. Liew mentioned the news that TAMU has exceeded the \$1 billion mark in annual research expenditures and is the first university in Texas to do so. He thanked the CEHD faculty for their part in this achievement. The article can be found here: <a href="https://today.tamu.edu/2021/02/10/first-in-texas-am-research-tops-1-billion-mark/">https://today.tamu.edu/2021/02/10/first-in-texas-am-research-tops-1-billion-mark/</a>	If you are interested in being a reviewer for the X-Grants program, let Dr. Liew know and he will put your name forward.  Reminder to reach out to the program officers with different funding agencies to discuss your research questions, ideas, and build a relationship.

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	<p>The DOR will be launching their NIH R01 Bootcamp to mentor faculty in the coming months, so faculty should be on the lookout for more information on this.</p> <p>The VPR's office needs volunteers to help review X-Grants one-pagers. Dr. Liew mentioned that, for first time in the X-Grants' program history, they have more social behavior research reviewers than from engineering. If you are interested let Dr. Liew know and he will put your name forward.</p> <p>A question was posed regarding IES funding opportunities. The program description often appears to focus on deficiencies. Would IES be open to proposals regarding the resiliency and where students are exceeding in the metrics? Dr. Liew and other faculty agreed that IES would like to see different approaches, and they always recommend contacting the program officers at funding agencies to discuss, see what the interest would be, and to build a relationship with them.</p>	
<p>III. Introduction and Updates from Senior Research Development Officer</p>	<p>Dr. Gilreath had the pleasure of introducing Julie Svetlik, the new Senior Research Development Officer in CERD Pre-Award.</p> <p>The purview of this role will include:  Performing various strategic activities aimed at increasing external funding levels; assisting faculty with competitive intelligence; forecasting sponsor programs; evaluating faculties' strengths and matching them up with funding areas and sponsors that align with their research goals; performing targeted funding searches based on what directions a researcher would like to move in; assisting faculty with finding collaborators, in and outside our college; looking at opportunities for our college to participate in or lead large center-level proposals in the future; proofreading proposal and project materials.</p> <p>Julie's first goal this year: connect with faculty and learn about their research.</p>	<p>Please reach out to Julie Svetlik at <a href="mailto:jsvetlik@tamu.edu">jsvetlik@tamu.edu</a> to discuss any research ideas or for help locating funding opportunities or collaborators. See a more extensive list of services in the Comments column.</p> <p>The CERD RDO's will be placed on the agenda in some upcoming departmental meetings soon.</p> <p>Catapult Grants – if you completed a Catapult project in the past, please fill out the survey in the link that Julie Svetlik sent out.</p>

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	<p>Julie and the two other CERD Research Development Officers will be joining some of the upcoming departmental meetings for an introduction to the faculty.</p> <p>Updates on the Catapult Program: the 2021 awards have been announced and project setup initiated. There were 13 awards total. Julie would also like to get feedback from PI's of completed projects. She has sent a follow-up survey link out to get feedback and develop a meaningful report on the return of investment for that program.</p>	
IV. Updates from CERD Pre-Award	<p>Ann Savell provided updates for the CERD Pre-Award activities. December saw a slight slowdown in proposals for certain departments, but picked up again in January and February. Reporting shows that FY21 is already the third-highest year in terms of dollars in awards for CEHD.</p> <p>CERD has been in discussions with SRS about timeliness on proposals and the goal of getting draft versions of all proposal documents to SRS at least five days prior to the deadline. The goal is to help minimize struggles for the PI in that last stage of the proposal development so they can focus solely on final edits of their technical documents. With that, CERD plans to begin copying SRS into proposal status emails at that five day mark to increase the proposal administrator's visibility into the status of the proposal components as the deadline approaches. For any concerns or to provide feedback on how the process is working for you so far, please feel free to reach out to one of our research development officers or to our shared inbox at <a href="mailto:cehdpreaward@tamu.edu">cehdpreaward@tamu.edu</a>.</p>	<p>CERD and SRS are continuing to look at the proposal development process together to see where improvements can be made to help with wrap-up as the deadline approaches. Always feel free to provide any concerns or feedback on how the pre-award process is working for you. You can reach out to one of our research development officers or to our shared inbox at <a href="mailto:cehdpreaward@tamu.edu">cehdpreaward@tamu.edu</a>.</p>
V. Updates from University CPI	<p>Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio provided an update from the University Council of Principal Investigators.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>To view the most recent meeting materials, visit: <a href="https://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/2020-2021-general-meeting-schedule">https://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/2020-2021-general-meeting-schedule</a></p>

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	<p>different members, colleges, stations, offices such as IRB, Maestro, graduate and undergraduate research programs, etc.</p> <p>Dr. Lara-Alecio started by mentioning CERD Preaward’s strong level of support and thanked them as well as SRS.            Congratulations to all the people that are working hard and helped TAMU achieve the \$1 billion landmark. CEHD carries a big weight in that, and we need to continue to find different ways to let people know how different our college is and what our contributions are. The benefits our college provides to Texas alone help us meet our land-grant institution responsibilities.</p> <p>Dr. Lara-Alecio mentioned that changes/improvements are coming to Maestro, and that Maestro personnel are willing to come to our meetings or set up one on one meetings to go over this information. Dr. Elliott seconded this suggestion.</p> <p>The University CPI meeting minutes are linked to on our CEHD CPI page.</p>	<p>Please attend the monthly University CPI Meetings; reach out to Dr. Lara-Alecio (a-lara@tamu.edu) or Dr. Tim Elliot (telliott@tamu.edu), and they will arrange it.</p> <p>We will plan to have Maestro personnel attend our next CEHD CPI meeting and provide a tutorial. Once recorded, we can house it on the CERD website and also disseminate to the college as needed.</p>
<p>VI. Update from CERD Post-Award</p>	<p>Clayton Holle provided an update from CERD post-award. With all the new awards received in our college, CERD Post-award has remained busy.</p> <p>Staff changes: Business Coordinator III Adriana Burnett is moving to the Dean’s office, so CERD Post-Award is doing a search now for her replacement. This may result in shifts in their office, but they should be up to full staff in a few weeks.</p> <p>Updates on action items from the last CPI meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns with the COVID-related signature line and auto-responses on SRS administrator emails – SRS has changed their COVID-related signature line after CERD discussed the concerns with it.</li> <li>• Confusion over account setup structure on certain projects. Accounts were being setup with a new grant account number</li> </ul>	<p>Clayton should see an initial view of the new financial report soon.</p>

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	<p>every year. The problems this was causing was discussed with SRS, and SRS has decided to turn over that ruling. We should get one account per grant going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial reporting and Options to program different versions of the financial reports - The PIs were looking for an on-demand financial report. As of this date, SRS is close to that. SRS's A/R is now taking over those reports rather than the project administrators. It should be much easier to plug into sponsor reports. Clayton should see an initial view of that report soon. It may be a few more months before they can provide them on-demand.</li> <li>• Dr. Wijekumar commented that SRS did an amazing job fixing her accounts/reports. She is very appreciative of Clayton's efforts and his going to bat for them on this.</li> </ul>	
VII. Other Topics	<p>A question was posed on the possibility of CERD expanding their support services, and whether a position can be added for a technology person to support researchers.</p> <p>Dr. Liew explained that CERD PreAward plans to hire a new staff person to help with scientific writing, and more information will be forthcoming. He appreciates the need for technology support for researchers being brought up. The dean is aware and they have been discussing it.</p> <p>Dr. Gilreath mentioned that, given that we are in the midst of a pandemic, she feels we have gotten a good response and planning for the future.</p> <p>An HLKN faculty asked for further explanation on the difference between Jim Izat's role (Sr. RDO in HLKN) and Julie Svetlik's role (new Sr. RDO in CERD).</p> <p>Dr. Liew responded that Jim is housed in HLKN and therefore works almost exclusively with HLKN faculty. CERD Preaward serves the entire college. CERD Preaward does work closely with Jim and he joins</p>	Once the new Sr. RDO is settled in, a future goal will be to develop those relationships with Program Officers and federal entities.

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	<p>their meetings every week. Julie will be helping with strategic collaborations, potentially focusing more on large team proposals. Julie can edit/proofread/help develop research questions. Julie also collaborates with Jim.</p> <p>Dr. Liew stated that CERD Preaward hopes to get our college more involved in large team and/or center proposals.</p> <p>Dr. Lara-Alecio mentioned that a few years ago, Dr. Wijekumar and several others applied for large opportunities for five to ten years. However, we need to have the political support and have staff to regularly meet with program officers and university leadership on our behalf to help accomplish this.</p> <p>Dr. Gilreath added that hopefully, once our new Sr. RDO has time to get the lay of the land, we can start looking at that plan. Ideally, it's not individual investigators doing that legwork.</p> <p>Dr. Wijekumar agreed with Dr. Lara-Alecio and Dr. Gilreath, and added that most institutions beyond \$1 billion have lobbyists. Merely talking to PO's is not enough; we need to talk to legislators who have more influence on how policy is directed and what programs receive funding when budgets are approved. Some large grants also require that you have legislative support when applying.</p> <p>All agreed this is a great plan that the CERD Preaward office can start to move on soon.</p>	
VIII. Other Announcements/Updates	<p>The next CPI meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8th from 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm via zoom. All CEHD faculty are invited to attend, and can email <a href="mailto:asavell@tamu.edu">asavell@tamu.edu</a> for a link to the meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting will be Dr. Gilreath's last meeting as Chair. Dr. Benjamin Herman will take over as Chair in the next academic year. Dr. Wijekumar said "Thanks, Tamika - you have been outstanding!! Congratulations, Ben!"</p>	<p>As mentioned above, we will plan to have a brief Maestro training that day and record that segment for dissemination.</p> <p>Additional topic for the next meeting: creating a poll for what the goals for the next year should be.</p>