**Council of Principal Investigators (CPI)**

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Microsoft Teams

Members in attendance: Jean Bopassa, Gregory Collins, Katherine Dondanville, Asma Khan, Georgia McCann, Sara Mithani, Susannah Nicholson, Marzieh Salehi, Susan Weintraub, Tara Wright

Members Absent: Armen Akopian, David Libich, Casey Straud

Substitutes: Glenn Toney (for Lynette Daws)

The focus of the meeting was to discuss ideas for future activities of the CPI and consider topics and guests for the next year. It is important for the CPI to be proactive rather than reactive as representatives of the research mission at UTHSCSA. The meeting was led by Dr. Dondanville (CPI chair-elect) since Dr. Libich was not able to attend.

1. *Minutes*. The minutes of the April 2023 CPI meeting were approved.

2. Numerous topics and ideas for CPI activities were covered, summarized below.

 *Frequency*. Is there a schedule or list of key areas and points of contact for regular CPI meetings or are topics selected based on what isn't working well? There are benefits to having institutional representation at regular intervals, but flexibility is also needed to address new/emergency issues.

 *VPR's Office*. Periodic updates from the Office of the Vice President for Research (VPR) are needed. Discussion ensued about the role of the institutional VPR (Dr. Jennifer Potter) versus the Vice Dean for Research in the School of Medicine (Dr. Manzoor Bhat, interim).

 *Future meetings*. Suggested guests/topics for future meetings include (not in priority order): Andrea Marks (Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer), Dr. Jennifer Potter (VPR), Human Resources, Office of Sponsored Programs (pre- and post-award), Human Resources, Dr. Joe Schmelz (Associate Vice President for Research Administration; to provide updates about data management and sharing at the HSC), Facilities, Information Management Services (IMS), library (waiting until a new director is appointed), tech commercialization, parking.

 *Salaries*. (a) Concerns were expressed about the lack of an institution-wide policy or system to assess fairness and equality of faculty salaries. Compensation varies widely across departments. Most basic science departments do not have the resources to provide any substantive increases. (b) Paying for mandated increases in graduate student and post-doctoral fellow stipends is difficult for many mentors—especially in the middle of a funding cycle. At institutions where faculty receive a percentage of the indirect costs on their grants there are buffers to handle unplanned expenses such as stipend increases. A solution at the HSC would be to create a program in which mentors could apply for stipend assistance from, for example, the VPR's Office.

3. *June 2023 meeting*. Dr. Robert (Rob) Hromas (Dean of the Long School of Medicine) will be the guest at the June 2023 meeting. Dr. Hromas usually asks meeting attendees to first tell him ("in one sentence") what isn't working and then subsequently to succinctly say what is working. CPI members were advised to think about what they'll say ahead of time so they can be prepared when it's their turn to speak.

There was no new business, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.